



Annex: COFEM's TipSheet on Feminist Approaches to Building Knowledge and Evidence on GBV

Source:

COFEM's Feminist Pocketbook Tip Sheet #5:
[Feminist-approaches-to-building-knowledge-
and-evidence-on-GBV \(COFEM\)](#)

Summary of the Tip Sheet

Feminist research aspires to transform inequitable gender power dynamics and improve the safety and wellbeing of women and girls.

As such, it is action oriented and focuses on the individual, social, systemic and institutional changes necessary to achieve gender equality. While feminist research includes many types of approaches and methods, all feminist research shares the following core principles:

Feminist research methodologies acknowledge that the gender hierarchy between males and females shapes all aspects of our social world, and recognises that this hierarchy – a way of organizing society – disempowers women. Thus, feminist research on GBV focuses on the ways in which power, status and resources are distributed unequally between women and men and the effects of this inequality on GBV.

Feminist research builds evidence with women and girls with the aim of transforming the inequitable systems and structures of patriarchy that oppress women. Feminist approaches use research as a tool to move towards this goal and end women's experiences of GBV.

Feminist research recognises the ways in which the dynamics of gender inequality intersect with other social inequalities including ethnicity, religion, age, disability, class and race.

The following characteristics of feminist research help apply feminist principles into practice.

Enabling women's leadership and recognizing women as experts and co-producers of knowledge. This will often include partnering with local women's organizations.

Applying an intersectional framework that acknowledges multiple forms of oppression.

Challenging existing 'positivist' paradigms, for example the assumption that certain types of research approaches are 'objective' or 'value neutral'.

Creating and following a safety and ethics protocol, including referral practices, confidentiality, voluntary participation, transparency and accountability.

Identifying and transforming power dynamics in all research practices (between research team members, researchers and community members, partners, etc.)



We hope that completing this tool has supported both individual and collective reflections on feminist research principles. Ultimately such discussions can guide users to develop, co-create, conduct, analyze and report on GBV research in ways that are equitable, ethical and aligned with feminist approaches.

Additional resources to support you in actioning results:

[Applying a Feminist Lens to Grantmaking for Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls: Funding for Transformative Change \(COFEM 2021\)](#) See Commitment 4 on Feminist Research

[Decolonial feminist theory: Embracing the gendered colonial difference in management and organisation studies](#) (Manning, 2021 Gender, Work & Organization)

[Feminist Participatory Action Research as a Tool for Climate Justice](#) (Godden, Macnish, Chakma & Naidu, 2020, Gender and Development)

[Feminist Research on Violence against Women in Humanitarian and Development Settings: A Snapshot of Best Practices and Challenges](#) (Denbow and Watson, 2023, SVRI and COFEM)

[Feminist Research Framework](#) (International Women's Development Agenda, 2022, IWDA)

[Introduction: Feminist Values in Research](#) (Jenkins, Narayanaswamy, and Sweetman, 2019, Gender & Development)

[Jacketed Women: Qualitative Research Methodologies on Sexualities and Gender in Africa](#) (Bennett & Pereira Eds., 2013 UN University Press)

[Raising Voices Feminist Approach to Learning](#) (Raising Voices, 2023).

