

**AIM** To explore the contribution of sexuality education in gender violence prevention: A case study of **dance4life** Barbados

**01** What are young people's perceptions of gender violence?

**02** What are the challenges in the realisation of young people's SRHR?

**03** How do learners engage with the dance4life Barbados programme?

## METHODOLOGY

- **Decolonising feminist methodology**  
Rooted in Caribbean feminist theory.
- **Youth-centred participation methods**  
PhotoVoice and focus group workshops.
- **Comprehensive intersectional approach**  
Reading perspectives of violence with nuance.

Young People  
PhotoVoice,  
Focus Groups

Teachers  
Interviews

Key Informants  
Interviews

Public Discourse  
Events, Media

In Barbados, where **young voices** are heavily policed, Freirean **dialogic education** spaces for **critical thinking** are highly valued by learners. This **sex education** model is key to approaching **gender violence** prevention in small island states.

## FINDINGS

**Gender violence is a complex phenomenon** which intersects the daily realities of young Barbadians. Participant insights demonstrated the plurality of roles as victim, perpetrator and witness.

**'Everybody knows everybody':** Fear of gossip and the etiquette of silence police the narrow spaces for young people's SRHR. This has significant impact on their recognition and disclosure of gender violence.

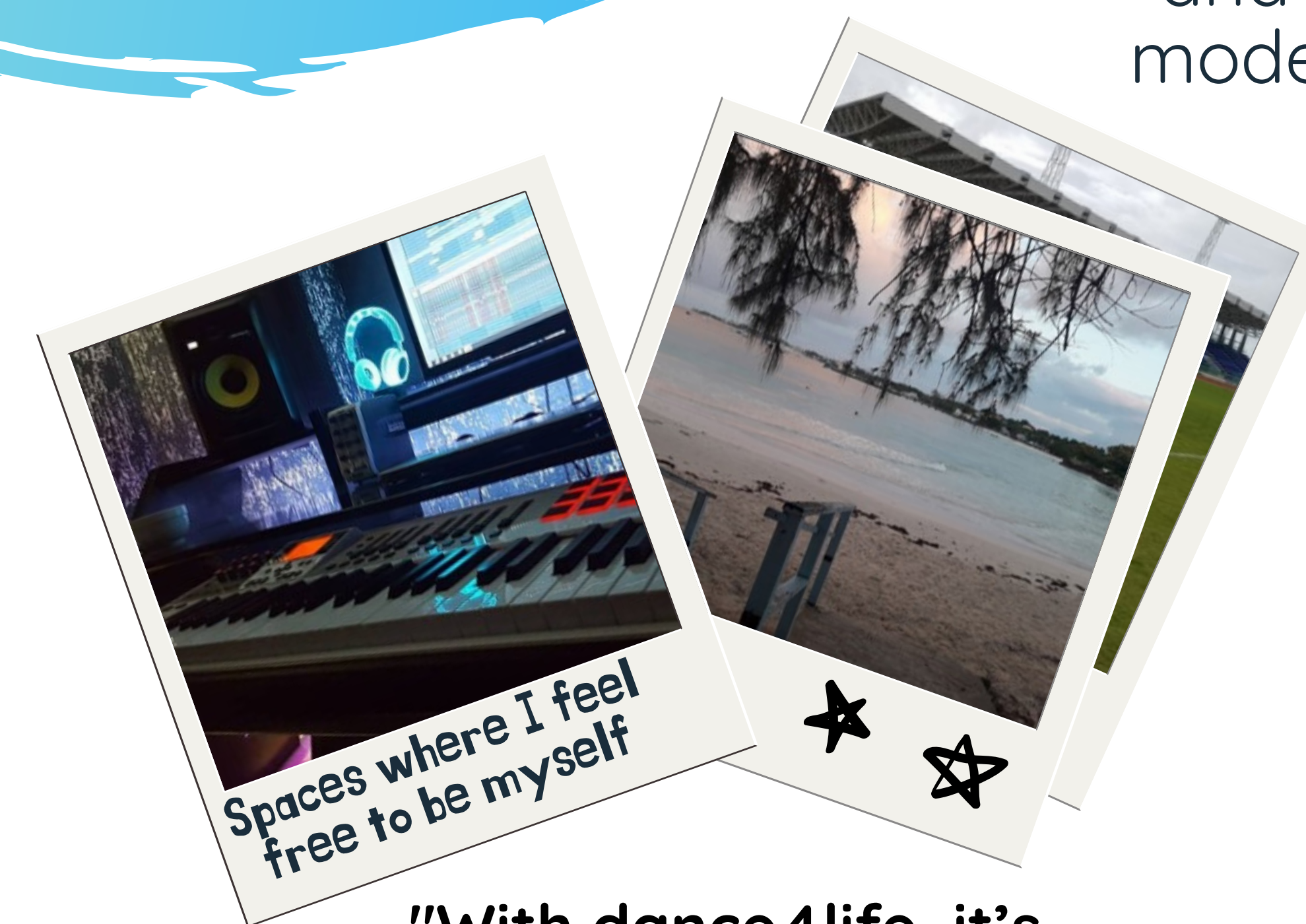
**Confidential dialogic education spaces** like dance4life are highly valued by participants as places to express themselves; discuss and debate gender violence and their wider SRHR.

## DISCUSSION

**PhotoVoice** is a creative way to amplify and engage young voices in discussions around gender violence in restricted spaces.

**Research as praxis?** In group discussions young participants demonstrated an increased awareness of gender constructs and inequalities.

**Applying findings to other 'island' spaces** with heightened social marginalisation, gender violence and restricted freedoms: can this dialogic education model work in isolated IDP/refugee settlements too?



"With dance4life, it's different, we can share, because you can express yourself."

Alternative triangulation model to **amplify young voices**



FIND OUT MORE

