From choice, a world of possibilities

Men & Family Planning: Looking through Gender, Masculinity & Sexuality Lens

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IPPF’s work with men and boys

- Traditional family planning provider & women’s rights advocate – most clients are female
- Primarily “male involvement” perspective
- Expertise, experience and interest in this issue varies across the Federation
- Issue cuts across our strategic priorities: Adolescents/young people; AIDS; Abortion; Access; Advocacy
- **IPPF Policy on Men & SRH:**
  
  *IPPF believes that in order to address underlying power and gender imbalances, and their effects on health, it is essential to work with men and boys in promoting gender equality*
DFID supported research on Gender Equality & Men’s Sexual Health

Countries:
Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan

Objectives:
- To assess men’s knowledge and attitude to gender equality and SRH needs of women and men;
- To assess men’s health seeking behavior relating to SRH; and their vulnerabilities; and
- To explore service providers’ own perceptions about the SRH needs of men and women.
Respondents and tools:
- Structured questionnaires with married men (15 -54 years)
- Semi-structured questionnaires health service providers
- Focus group discussions with men and women (FGD guidelines)

Study location:
- Bangladesh (Jamalpur)
- India (Gwalior)
- Nepal (Sunsari)
- Pakistan (Faisalabad)

Sample size:
1475 married men (aged 15 -54) and 55 health service providers were interviewed
### Characteristics of men and boys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Nepal</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age (years)</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>40.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean years of schooling completed</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age at first marriage (years)</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean spousal age difference (years)</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% living in nuclear family</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender Equitable Men (GEM) Scale Items

- Masculinity and Sexuality
- Sexual & Reproductive health and infection prevention
- Gender roles and Violence
- Domestic life and child care
## Gender Equitable Men Scale results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Bangladesh %</th>
<th>India %</th>
<th>Nepal %</th>
<th>Pakistan %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low equity</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate equity</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High equity</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mean GEM Scale Score

P<0.05 (t-test)
% of men currently using family planning

India
Bangladesh
Nepal
Pakistan

Yes
## Current use of family planning methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Bangladesh %</th>
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<th>Pakistan %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low equity</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate equity</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High equity</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>52.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Men and boy’s attitudes about contraception

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Pakistan</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contraception is women’s business</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective condom use prevents pregnancy</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condoms reduce sexual pleasure</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sterilization reduces sexual pleasure</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source of contraceptive methods for men/boys

- District hospital
- Public health centre
- IPPF clinic
- Chemist
- Wives/Friends/Relatives
## STI and SRH problems and health seeking behaviour

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of men who had STI, abnormal discharge or sore/ulcer near penis in last 12 months</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of the above who have sought advice or treatment</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sexual health problems/concerns faced by men

Expressed anxieties: decreased sexual desire, not being able to satisfy partner, anxiety over shape of penis, worries about nocturnal emissions, reduced quantity of sperms and masturbation

Functionality related problems: premature ejaculation, impotence, pain during intercourse, erectile dysfunction, discharge from the genitals

Symptoms / infection: boils and wounds in the genital region, itching in genital region, swollen testicles, burning sensation in urination, syphilis and TB
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of fathers who often spent time with their children for different things</th>
<th>Bangladesh %</th>
<th>India %</th>
<th>Nepal %</th>
<th>Pakistan %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play with their children at home</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook or fix food for their children</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wash clothes for their children</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of fathers who want to have a bigger role in their child’s/children lives</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes

- Moderate/high level of equitable attitudes displayed by men and boys across all countries.
- Family planning use significantly associated with equitable norms among men.
- Significant knowledge gaps remain (e.g. SRH and HIV) and misinformation (e.g. on masturbation).
- Men/boys have wide range of SRH problems and anxieties.
- Barriers to access of services - attitudinal (e.g. service providers) and structural (e.g. opening times).
Recommendations

SRH Interventions:
- Comprehensive
- Challenge social norms re. masculinity
- Engage the private sector and traditional providers
- Service provider capacity building/training
- Enabling environment for men – beyond “female spaces”

Policy:
- Greater focus on men’s SRH needs (age specific), misinformation and lack of health seeking behaviour
- Supporting greater father/parent involvement
Recommendations

Further research:

- Addressing attitudinal barriers among men: safer sex seen as “unpleasurable” sex

- Reaching most vulnerable men and boys, particularly men who have sex with men/different sexual orientations

- Reaching unmarried males, particularly young men
Thank You!

A world where women, men and young people everywhere have control over their bodies …where gender and sexuality are no longer a source of inequality or stigma

Sexual Rights: An IPPF Declaration