



Fostering Husbands' Involvement & Support in Ethiopia

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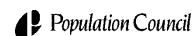
Population Council
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Emerging data on men in Ethiopia

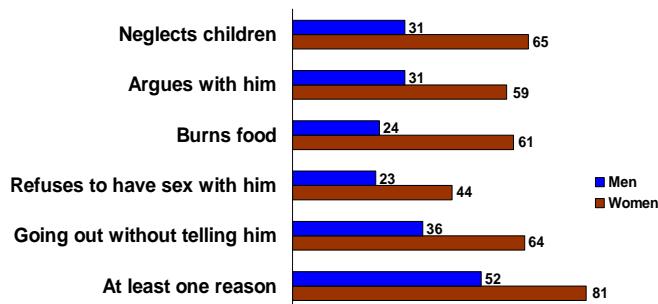
- Relatively little is known about Ethiopian men's sexual and reproductive health;
- Emerging evidence shows that there are high rates of domestic violence in Ethiopia:
 - In a study in Gondar, Amhara Region, 31% of women had been beaten in the past six months (Yigzaw, et al, 2004)
 - 29% of women in Butajirra Ethiopia had been beaten by their husbands in the last six months and 33% had been forced to have sex by their husbands (Gossaye, et al, 2005);
 - 81% of Ethiopian women say that a husband is justified in beating his wife (for at least one reason mentioned) (EDHS, 2005).



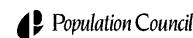


Acceptance of domestic violence among both Ethiopian men & women

Percentage of Ethiopians who believe wife beating is justified, by situation and sex of the respondent



Source: Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey, 2005



Background: Amhara Region

- Amhara Region is the second largest region in Ethiopia, with a population of over 19 million;
- 89 percent of Amhara is rural: over 16 million people;
- The region has the highest rate of early marriage & divorce in the country:
 - 46% of girls married by age 15;
 - 14% of women 15- 29 are divorced;
 - 40% of ever married women have been married more than once.

Source: DHS Ethiopia 2005





Program development

- Baseline survey among 1,412 men and 2,509 women in rural Amhara (analysis ongoing);
- Qualitative, in depth interviews among 32 men and women in Amhara, interviewed over three successive visits;
- Adaptation of curriculum;
- Recruitment and training of mentors;
- Formation of husbands' groups to meet for 3-4 months.

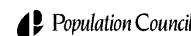


Preliminary results

- Socialization of boys encourages dominant attitudes and behavior;

When I was beaten up by another boy and cried, my parents used to tell me to beat the boy back and stop crying...If the boy was my age, I would not go home defeated... -Rural Male, age 27, married, no education, daily laborer

A man has to discipline his wife ...he has to make sure she is not going out to make some friends when he is away from home... -Rural Female, age 39, divorced, 5 children, primary school, daily laborer





'Addis Birhan' (New Light) program for Ethiopian men: Curriculum

Modules

1. Gender & sex;
2. Love & relationships;
3. Caring for oneself & the family;
4. Violence;
5. Alcohol;
6. HIV&AIDS and STIs and;
7. Sexual & reproductive health



Pictures are used as teaching aids, given the considerable number of illiterate respondents



Results from the first year

- Nearly 10,000 married men have participated in the groups;
- 55 percent of participants have no education; 31 percent have 1-4 years of schooling;

I never supported my wife with household chores before, but now there is nothing I leave for her. I do everything...for instance I never fetched water before but now I fetch water and share the tasks at home with my wife.

-Rural male, age 30, married, 2 children, no education, farmer

Now, there is a remarkable change in our relationship. He is taking care of our children. He washes them, changes their clothes and also feeds them...I want him to continue attending this program...

- Rural female, age 42, married, 7 children, no education, farmer





Men can change...

- There is considerable demand for Addis Birhan, even among rural men;
- With men as traditional decision makers, working directly with them is effective in fostering understanding, acceptance and tolerance in the household;
- A non-judgmental approach is critical, including emphasis on care-giving and health-seeking, rather than blaming;
- Emphasize on building boys'/men's communication skills in intimate relationships;
- Skills for parents to socialize boys in non-violent ways;
- Dedicated programs addressing boys socialization.



From violent to healthy intimate relationships

