

Integrating Gender Into Family Planning and Reproductive Health Interventions

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**The Role of Gender in Population, Health, and
Environment Programs, Woodrow Wilson Center
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John Snow, Inc.



Outline

- What is Gender Integration
- A Study of the Effect of Integration
- A Policy Initiative to Promote Male Involvement

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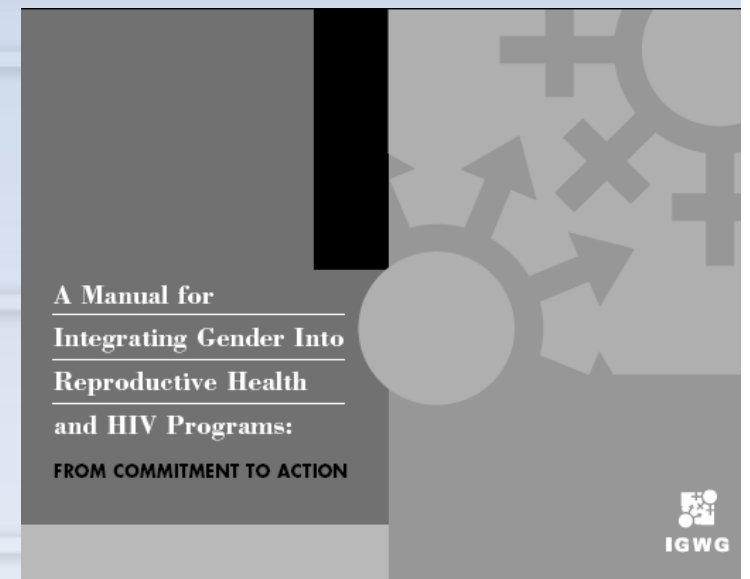
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Gender Integration

Strategies applied in program assessment, design, and evaluation take gender norms into account and compensate for gender based inequalities that create barriers to RH for men and women.

Gender Norms and Inequalities

- Gender-based Division of Labor
- Gender Norms and Roles
- Access to and Control over Resources
 - Economic
 - Political
 - Social
 - Information and Education
 - Time and Mobility
 - Internal
- Power and Decision-making



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Integrating Gender: So What? Methods

- Reviewed the literature
- Contacted 170 experts
- Reviewed around 400 RH interventions:
 - o RH programs
 - o Development programs with RH components
 - o Clinical trials
 - o Operations research studies

Boender, Carol, Diana Santana, Diana Santillán, Karen Hardee, Margaret E. Greene, and Sidney Schuler. 2005. “‘The So What Report’: Does Integrating a Gender Perspective Make a Difference to Reproductive Health Outcomes?” Interagency Gender Working Group Task Force Report.

Criteria for Inclusion

1. Measured RH outcomes:
 - Unintended pregnancy
 - Maternal morbidity/mortality
 - STIs/HIV/AIDS
 - Quality of care
2. Undergone systematic evaluation, qualitative or quantitative
3. Integrated gender

Three Types of Gender Integration

- Transforming gender relations to promote equity
- Accommodating gender differences
- Exploiting gender inequalities

25 Interventions Sought to Transform Gender Relations

- Unintended pregnancy (9)
- Maternal mortality/morbidity (3)
- STI/HIV/AIDS (10)
- QOC (3)
- Target groups
 - All included women
 - 14 included men
 - 4 focused on youth

Target Groups by Topic

Topic Group	Women	Women & men	Youth: female	Youth: female & male
FP (9)	1	6	1	1
MM&M (3)	1	2		
STI/HIV/ AIDS (10)	5	3	1	1
QOC (3)	3			

21 Countries Represented

LAC	ANE	Africa	N America
Bolivia	Egypt	Botswana	USA
Brazil (3)	Turkey	Senegal	
Guatemala (2)	India (4)	South Africa	
Honduras	Indonesia	Zambia	
Jamaica	Thailand		
Mexico (2)			
Peru (2)			

Interventions: FP

- TOT in Health and Environment (Mexico)
- Husbands and PAC (Egypt)
- Mayan lang. educators in Gender and FP (Guatemala)
- Reaching men through ag. extension (Honduras)
- Autodiagnosis through RepoSalud (Peru)
- Father's role in PP FP (Turkey)
- Stimulating dialogue through radio (Zambia)
- Better Life Options Program (youth) (India)
- Program for Adolescent Mothers (Jamaica)

Selected RH Outcomes Among 25 Interventions that Sought to Transform Gender Relations

Knowledge	+ Knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention	10
	+ Contraceptive knowledge	5
	+ Knowledge of warning signs	3
Behavior	+ FP use	6
	+ condom use	6
	+ skilled attendance at birth	4
Outcome	- STI	3

Selected Gender Outcomes In 25 Interventions that Sought to Transform Gender Relations

Attitudes	+ equitable gender attitudes/ awareness of rights	10
	+ self-confidence/esteem	5
Behavior	+ participation in leadership roles	4
	+ partner communication	4
	+ support from partners	3

Husbands and Post-Abortion Care in Egypt

Gender-related barriers to RH: Postabortion women face pressures from husbands and in-laws to become pregnant again soon after the abortion to prove fertility. Without an adequate recovery period, more likely to experience obstetrical complications

Strategy: When a consenting postabortion care patient was ready to be discharged from the hospital, physician spoke to husband privately about need to care for wife, return to fertility, etc.

Evaluation: Post-intervention control group design

Abdel-Tawab, Nahla, Dale Huntington, Ezzeldin Osman Hassan, Hala Youssef, and Laila Nawar. 1999. Effects of Husband Involvement on Postabortion Patients' Recovery and Use of Contraception in Egypt. In *Postabortion Care: Lessons from Operations Research*. Dale Huntington and Nancy J. Piet-Pelon, eds. The Population Council. Pp. 16-37.

Husbands and Post-Abortion Care in Egypt

RH outcomes (odds ratio):

Good physical recovery
of PA women associated
with husband counseling:

OR 1.3

Counseling had effect on
FP use in smaller
hospitals (better training)

OR 3.8

Gender outcomes (logistic regression):

Counseled husbands were:

- 1.5 times more likely to provide higher than average **instrumental** support to wives,
- 1.3 times more likely to provide **emotional** support
- 1.6 times more likely to provide **FP** support.

Conclusions

- Interventions to transform gender relations report positive RH outcomes
- Gender impact rarely measured; changes overwhelmingly positive
- There are more initiatives with demonstrated results in STIs/HIV prevention than in other health issue areas

Conclusions

- Many programs promoting gender equity also use community participation strategy
- Few RH programs promoting equity evaluated
- Isolating the effects of a gender perspective in programming is difficult

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Moving male involvement policy forward in Cambodia: A civil society advocacy initiative

Anne Jorgensen, Margaret E. Greene, Karen Hardee, Naomi Walston, and Mean Reatanak Sambath, **POLICY Project**



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IGWG

Why are male involvement policies important?

- Institutionalize male involvement Rather than leaving it to pilot programs
- Increase program consistency
- Broaden program approaches
- Facilitate multisectoral implementation



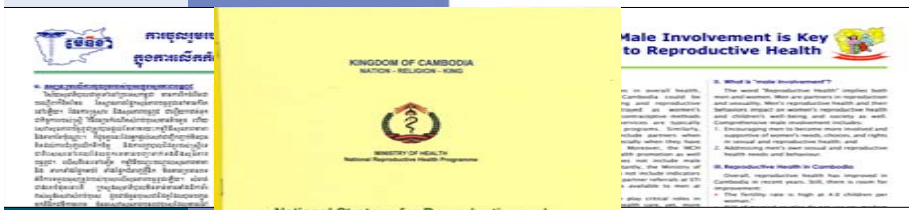
Important stakeholders

- Reproductive Health Promotion Working Group
 - 17 NGOs identify the issue
- International projects & donors
 - POLICY Project & UNFPA as partners
- Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG)
 - Supports global training and assistance
- Key ministerial representatives
 - Expands beyond health officials



Milestones

- 2003-2004: RHPWG formed, small grant awarded, series of advocacy and MI skill building workshops
 - ✓ Outcome: NGOs organized and ready for advocacy
- 2004-2005: RHPWG stakeholder meetings and policy roundtables
 - ✓ Outcome: broad support and senior policymaker endorsement
- 2005-2006: key informant study, workshop to draft guidelines, ongoing advocacy
 - ✓ Result: Male involvement guidelines referenced in national *Strategic Plan for RH in Cambodia 2006-2010*



Future Opportunities

- Next steps in Cambodia
 - Key RH implementing groups increase focus on male involvement
 - Systematic approach will need funding and focus
- Vetting male involvement guidelines in Mali
 - USAID | Health Policy Initiative



Future directions

- Stronger integration of gender in designing program interventions
- More rigorous evaluation of interventions that integrate gender