Masculinities, Normalization of violence and HIV risk within marriage in India:

*Exploring the linkage from a study among men from low socio-economic occupations*

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Rationale

• Violence within marriage – highly under reported yet high in number (apx. 40%, NFHS-III)

• Almost all studies suggest men as perpetrator

• Limited evidence in India that explores from men’s perceptive
The objective

- Explore the magnitude of self-reported violent behavior among men
- To explore the association between self-reported violent behavior and HIV risk within marriage
- Examine the linkages between masculinities and self-reported violent behavior
Data and method

• Two state study
• Men form same socio-cultural, language and economic group
• Survey sample of 1258 married men
• Qualitative data from 14 in-depth interviews
Continued...

• Bi-variate analysis to examine 1) the extent of violent behavior reported by men; 2) examine the association between violent behavior and HIV risk and 3) AOR to explore the linkage between masculinities and self reported violence like behavior

• Qualitative data to explain the dynamics of violent behavior and it’s relationship with masculinities
Measures

• Any Violent behavior
  - Either pushed /punched/shoved/slapped during an argument in past one year
  - Have had any sex while wife was not in mood/said no for it in past one year

• HIV risk
  - Transactional sex in past one years
  - Inconsistent condom use in transactional sex
  - No condom use within marriage with the presence of transactional sex
Measures

• Composite variable of masculinities was constructed after adopting GEMs scale in local context

• 19 items were used from the original GEMs scale

• Highly inequitable = high hegemonic masculinities; medium inequitable = medium hegemonic masculinities and Low inequitable = low hegemonic masculinities
Profile of the men

• Young and **sexually active** group; mean age 29.6
• All are literate (mean years of education = 12.5)
• Reported **early age at marriage**; (mean age at marriage is 24.3)
• From **low socio economic** profile; average monthly income is 7500 INR (136 USD)
• Majority are engaged in **unorganized sector**; only 13.3% are into regular salaried job
Men reporting violent behavior within marriage

- Any violent behavior \(\approx 71\%\)
- Either Physical violence \(\approx 48\%\)
- Either Sexual violence \(\approx 23.2\%\)
- Both physical and sexual violence \(\approx 24\%\) (among who reported any violence)
Wish these were confession...

• “…yes, I did last week…pushed her to the towards the kitchen platform…yes there was a burning stove on platform..”
  • 32 year old motor car mechanic

• “…I don’t usually bit hard…when things goes out my mind, I just slap…no, more than one…four or five may be…. ”
  • 39 year old taxi driver

• “…whatever I get in my hand at that time…”
  • 27 year old vegetable vendor
Cont..

• “...I just do it... *Its easy* even if she protests... I need not have to undress her completely ...as a man you must be knowing ( laughs)...”
  • 38 year old street vendor

• “…push her hands away ...then *she understands*…”
  • 33 year old assistant in a pharmacy
HIV risk among men reported violent behavior within marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Transactio nal sex</th>
<th>Inconsistent condom in transaction sex</th>
<th>No condom within marriage with the presence of transactional sex</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No violence behavior (n=356)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>18% (N=32)</td>
<td>3% (N=356)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any violence behavior (n=893)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>46% (N=214)</td>
<td>13.5% (N=893)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both physical and sexual violent behavior (n=213)</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>48% (N=61)</td>
<td>19.4% (N=213)</td>
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Adjusted effect (95% CI) of masculinities on violent behavior

Comparison group: Low or Moderate masculinities

***P < .001, **P < .01

Adjusted for: Age, Education, Occupation, income, any non marital sex
Justifying Cruelty

Stress, tension, mental disturbance

Entitlement/Ownership

physical and sexual Control
Reflection of manhood

• “...you come tired from day long work.. find your food is too cold ..or lot of salt in daal ...I just loose my temper...if a wife can’t take proper care of husband what she is good for?...”
  • 28 year old grocery shop assistant

• “...If a man can’t correct my wife’s behavior then who will... if she does not listen I have to be tough...”
  • 34 year old government clerk

• “...no woman says openly they need it...but if you don’t satisfy roughly ... they will think you are chakka (gay)...”
  • 31 year old daily wage construction worker
WISH AN END