Adaptation and application of IMAGE intervention model to reduce intimate partner violence in Tanzania

Sheila Harvey

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Background

Evidence on effective interventions to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV) is severely lacking.

The Intervention with Micro-finance for AIDS & Gender Equity (IMAGE) developed in rural South Africa.

Combines a group-based micro-finance intervention with a participatory gender and HIV training curriculum for loan participants.
Background

- A cluster randomised controlled trial showed a 55% reduction in past year levels of physical and/or sexual violence over a two-year period.

Pronyk et al, Lancet 2006
Research questions

- Is a combined micro-finance and gender training intervention effective in reducing IPV in other settings?
- Can a similar reduction in IPV be achieved by combining gender training for women with gender training for men?
- What are possible pathways to reduce IPV and how do the interventions feed into them?
- Is it cost-effective?
MAISHA

Adapt and apply IMAGE to reduce IPV in Mwanza City, Tanzania
Violence in Tanzania

- IPV is common in Tanzania
- Overall, 45% of women aged 15-49 yrs have ever experienced either physical or sexual violence
- Variation across Tanzania (Mwanza – 44%)
- 33% of women aged 15-49 yrs experienced physical violence in the previous 12 months (Mwanza – 42%)

*Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2010*
Primary research questions

- Is micro-finance combined with a participatory gender training package delivered to women effective in reducing IPV?

- Is a participatory gender training package delivered to women (not receiving micro-finance) and to their male partners effective in reducing IPV?
Interventions

- Participatory gender training package (10 sessions)
  - developed by EngenderHealth
  - based on the *Sisters for Life* curriculum developed by the IMAGE Project in South Africa

- Micro-finance loan scheme provided by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC Tanzania)
Primary outcome

- Women’s reported experience of IPV during the past 12 months at two years post-intervention
Secondary outcomes

- Household asset ownership
- Patterns of household communication, decision making & conflict resolution
- Sexual and reproductive health, including reported sexual behaviour and use of services
- Common mental disorders
Study design

- Mixed methods study comprising
  - cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT)
  - in-depth qualitative study
  - integrated process evaluation
  - full economic costing

- Cross-sectional survey of male partners
Cluster RCT design

**Component A**
- **Existing MF groups**
  - N=66
- **Continue with MF only**
  - N=33
- **MF + gender training**
  - N=33

**Component B**
- **New (non-MF) groups**
  - N=66
- **No intervention**
  - N=33
- **Gender training (incl men)**
  - N=33
Sample size

- The proposed design will give 80% power to detect between 30% and 50% reduction in the past 12 months exposure to violence
- Assumes past year prevalence of IPV of 30% and an average of 20 women per group
Cluster RCT design

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Cluster RCT design

Component A

Existing MF groups
N=66

Continue with MF only
N=33

MF + gender training
N=33
BRAC in Mwanza City

Seven branches located across Mwanza City

Three branches selected to take part in the trial:

Nyakato (n=74 groups)
Kirumba (n=72 groups)
Kilimahewa (n=74 groups)
Micro-finance group inclusion criteria

- 15 – 30 active members
- Less than 25% of women been members for less than one year
- Good attendance (repayment) record based on BRAC records
- Minimum of 70% active members consent to take part in the study
Cluster RCT design

**Component B**

New (non-MF) groups
N=66

- No intervention
  - N=33

- Gender training (incl men)
  - N=33
Inclusion criteria

- Age 20-50 years
- Not formally employed (i.e. self employed or currently not working)
- Resident in Mwanza City for at least 2 years
- Not a member of a formal micro-finance loan group
- Consent to take part in the study

66 groups of about 20 women per group
Baseline survey

Face-to-face interview (structured questionnaire):
1. About your household
2. About you and your partner
3. About your income
4. About you and your health
5. About your attitudes and social norms
6. About your relationship
7. About your childhood
8. About your community
Participatory randomisation procedure

- Groups randomised in blocks of six:
  - representative from each group attends open randomisation meeting
  - randomisation by ballot box (6 pieces of paper, 3 A and 3 B)
  - Flip of coin allocates either A or B to receive intervention

- Outcome meeting held in each group to inform members of the outcome
Cluster RCT design

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  - **Gender training (incl men)**
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Participatory gender training

- 10 sessions over 20 weeks
- Local venue agreed by the group
Female curriculum

1. Understanding gender

2. Act like a man, act like a woman

3. Healthy and Unhealthy relationships

4. Power and control in relationships

5. Negotiating men’s and women’s roles Inside and outside the home

6. Communicating assertively with your partner

7. Violence

8. Setting personal boundaries

9. Non-violent ways to resolve conflict

10. Empowering change and program closure
Male curriculum

1. Understanding Gender
2. Act like a man, act like a woman
3. Healthy and unhealthy relationships
4. Expressing emotions and dealing with anger
5. Negotiating men’s and women’s roles in and outside the home
6. Practicing good listening with your partner
7. Violence
8. Giving and accepting sexual consent
9. Non-violent ways to negotiate conflict
10. Empowering change and program closure
Follow-up

- Two years post delivery of the intervention
- Face-to-face interview (structured questionnaire)
Primary analyses

- **Existing MF groups**
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  - MF + gender training (N=33)

- **New (non-MF) groups**
  - N=66
  - No intervention (N=33)
  - Gender training (incl men) (N=33)
Primary analyses

Existing MF groups
N=66

Continue with MF only
N=33

MF + gender training
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New (non-MF) groups
N=66

No intervention
N=33

Gender training (incl men)
N=33
Primary analyses

Existing MF groups
N=66

- Continue with MF only
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- MF + gender training
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New (non-MF) groups
N=66

- No intervention
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- Gender training (incl men)
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Secondary analyses

Existing MF groups
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New (non-MF) groups
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Secondary analyses

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New (non-MF) groups
N=66

- No intervention
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- Gender training (incl men)
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Progress to date

- 66 micro-finance groups recruited
- Delivery intervention ongoing – complete by December 2015
- Non micro-finance groups (Component B) – pilot study ongoing
Prevalence of violence in Mwanza

- Data on 1022 women in micro-finance loan groups who completed a baseline survey
# Prevalence of violence in Mwanza

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Study participants
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