



Parenting for Respectability: Children's experiences of, and perspectives on, their relationship with their parents: a qualitative study in Wakiso District, Central Uganda

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Study Team



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Presentation Outline

1. Background and rationale
2. Methods
3. Results
4. Conclusions



Background



- Increasing evidence that harsh parenting and exposure to SGBV have negative developmental and health outcomes (Gershoff, 2002; WHO, 2007)
- Parenting programmes have the potential to modify these outcomes



Parenting for Respectability Programme

- A 16 sessions for the early prevention of SGBV and violence against children
- Targets both fathers and mothers and delivered by local facilitators
- Draws on parents' concern to maintain family respectability



3 stages in the development of PfR

1. designing and drafting of programme and manual
2. a formative evaluation with six groups to **test appropriateness, acceptability, feasibility**
3. a large scale pilot with before and after outcome evaluation



Research Questions

There is need to understand children's experiences, perspective of how they are parented

1. How do children describe their relationships with their parents before and after the intervention?
2. How do children describe their experience of being parented before and after the intervention?
3. How do children describe the relationships between their parents before and after the intervention?
4. What do children think parents need to be taught regarding how they should bring up children



Methods



- Baseline and end line data using semi-structured interviews in four different communities

- Data size: children (10-14 years old)
 - Baseline 15 girls & 14 boys
 - End line 13 girls & 12 boys

- Data were collected by three researchers
 - *Female researcher interviewed girls, male researcher interviewed boys*

- Audio recorded, transcribed and analysed using Atlas ti.



Results



- 1) Suggestions for parenting skills through the programme
- 2) Views on harsh parenting
- 3) Gender Socialisation
- 4) Parental Warmth
- 5) Awareness of parents relationships



Suggestions on what PfR should teach their parents



- Replacement of harsh discipline
- Improve parents relationships
- Reduce socially unacceptable behaviours
- Increased provision to secure a bright future

"I think parents need to be taught how to raise up their children, they should be encouraged to take the children to school and feed them such that they look good."



Harsh Parenting

- Contradictory views on use of corporal punishment
- Acknowledgement of harsh punishment on wellbeing
- Differences in parents punishment

"It is right, because it helps to bring up a child correctly. So that the child can not repeat the mistake."

- Appreciate parental use of alternative discipline, but justify corporal punishment for severe misbehaviour
- Report observing differences in parents punishment, with fathers more receptive alternative



Gendered Socialisation



- Boys less restricted to gender stereotypical roles than girls
- Level of communication with both father and mother
- Socialisation of emotion

R: Daddy doesn't listen to me and I don't listen to him.
F: How about Mummy?
R: I listen to mummy and she listens to me too.

".....fathers supports with home work...and likes sitting there and conversing with my younger siblings"

- Distribution of household chores
- Level of communication with both father and mother



Parental Warmth



- Transactional relationship based on provision, did not refer to affection
- Seeking positive reinforcement from parents by doing extra work

when I led the class. They said that, 'you have worked well!' and they gave me presents.

"These days, she rarely leaves home except when she is going some where. As compared to those days when she would leave home and instructs you on what to cook and when she comes she only eats and goes to sleep."

- Gendered differences between relationship with mother and father



Relationships



- Conflicting views on parental conflict
- Aware of parental relationship dynamics
- Power balance based on provision

Of course I don't feel good because I get worried. I just get worried with no reason. (Male, 14)

- Aware of parental relationship dynamics
- Power balance based on provision



Study limitations



- No follow-up data for some children interviewed
- No observation data for parent-child relationships



Conclusions

- Determination to conform to social norms
- Awareness of effects of violence on parent-child attachment
- Harsh punishment considered an important part of child rearing
- Understanding children's perspectives is useful parental interventions to reduce GBV and VAC



Thank you