

Using photo voices to understand how gender roles and practices influence intimate partner violence among women in Northwest Tanzania: Findings from the MAISHA study

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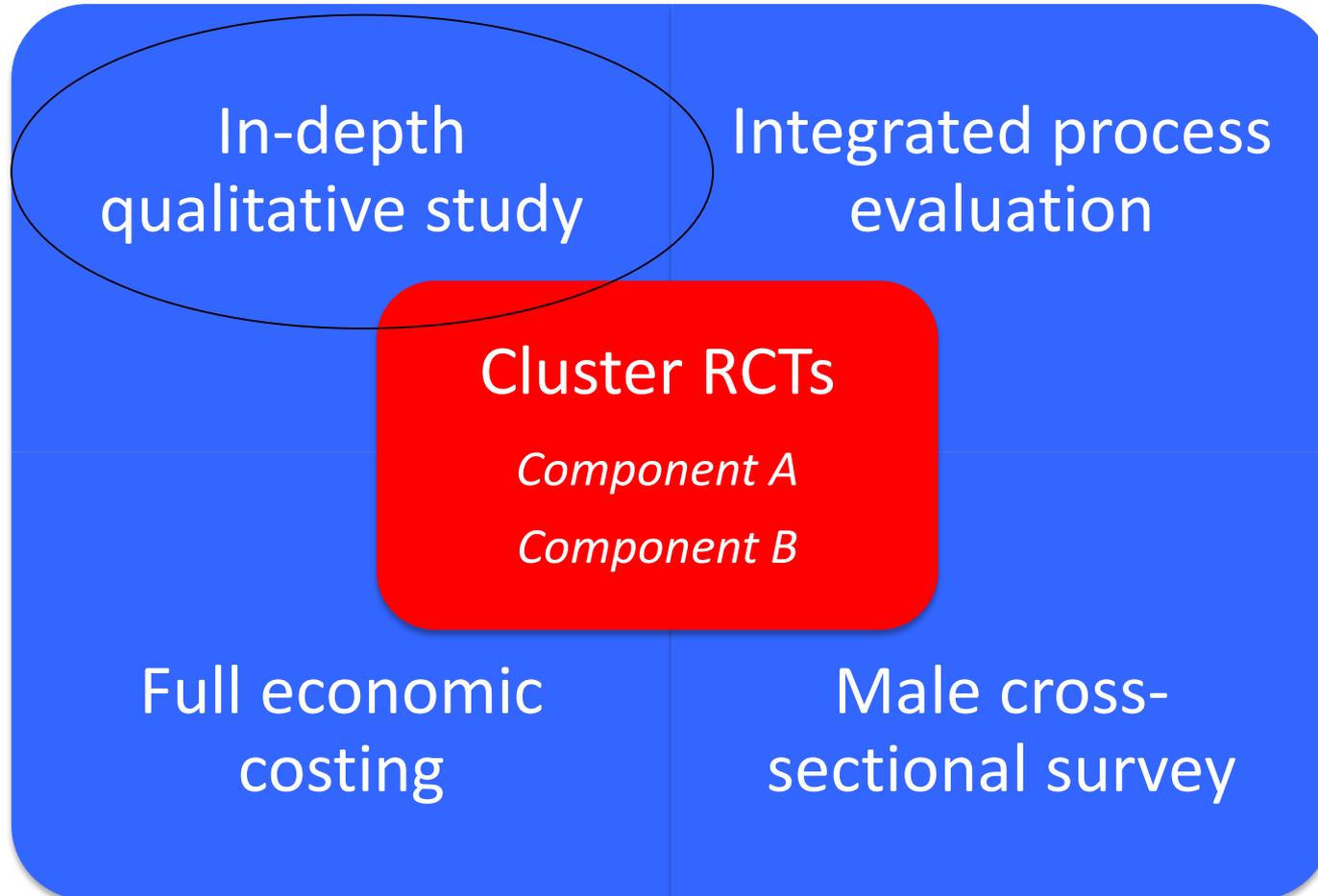


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MAISHA Study Overview



Qualitative component: Objectives

Explores:

Structural, socio-cultural and individual factors associated with IPV

How the intervention impacts the lives of the participants and their families

Risk factors that contribute to women's vulnerability to violence and how the intervention may reduce these risks



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Qualitative component: Methods

In-depth interviews with participants

Focus group discussions with participants

Interviews with key informants

Photo voices with participants



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Photo voice Method

- A participatory research method
- Provides people with cameras to photograph their perceived health and work realities
- Allows participants to identify, represent and enhance their community through photographic techniques
- Used in combination with other methods (Interviews or group discussion)



Data collection

- 9 women were purposively selected for data collection
 - Provided with study information
- Consenting
 - Verbal & written consent
- Attended two-day training session
 - Theoretical- methodology and ethical issues
 - Practical- how to use camera, techniques of taking photos & consenting



Data collection: Photos

Women were given phones with cameras and requested to take photos for a week

- Daily lives of men & women
- Healthy relationships

Support visit by the research team

- Observe progress
- Resolving technical problems
- Reminding & encouraging

Collection of the cameras & downloading of the photos



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Data collection: Interviews

Selection of the photos for interviews

Conducting interviews based on selected photos

All interviews were conducted in Swahili (local language) and audio recorded

Analysis was conducted with support of NVIVO software



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Findings

Women were happy and positive about their participation in photo voice

“I liked the photo taking exercise...I understood the exercise of taking some photos and the issue of good and bad relationships between you and your partner and entrepreneurship...in fact I learned about so many things about my life through the photos I was taking”.

[[IDI_49_Jita_280915](#)]

Women reported within their community, roles are expected to be performed based on gender



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Findings

Women's roles



An image of a woman cleaning family clothes (domestic role)

Men's roles



An image of a man fishing in the Lake Victoria (income generation)



Findings

Women noted the difference between expected and actual roles performed by men & women

- Changes on actual roles performed by women (engaging in both domestic activities & income generations activities)

“Aah in these pictures I was aiming to show that as a housewife, it means that when you wake up in the morning you sweep the courtyard, after that you go to fetch water, after that you sit down and wash the utensils....it means those are the inside surroundings, and as a housewife you must fulfil them. And when I finish there then I take the bananas and go to do business”. [\[IDI 47 Sambaa 290915\]](#)



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Findings

Although women have taken some men's expected roles they are also expected to perform their expected roles

- Failure to do so results in to violence from their partners

“According to what we have been taught or inherited from our ancestors we know that this is my responsibility, so the father can not wash clothes even if you (woman) have other work, you are expected to wash clothes”. [[IDI 25 Haya 061015](#)]



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Findings

Women reported that some men have abandoned their roles (provision of the family needs) to the women



An image reflecting a woman and her children after her partner abandoned them [[IDI 47 Sambia 290915](#)]



Findings

Despite women engagement on men's roles still men are the main decision maker and owners of the family properties.

“He is not concerned with his wife; therefore he uses his income the way he wantsthe woman can't say anything, nothing to control him... therefore if the husband says 'today we eat dagaa [sardines]'.that is final”.

[\[IDI 41 Jita 290915\]](#)

Women reported their frustration on limited decision making and property ownership, which limits their economic independence and their ability to leave violent relationships



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Findings

Women were positive about participating in income generation roles (men's expected role)

Women reported their frustration on men's lack of support on expected roles of women

- They would wish to get support of men in their expected roles



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Findings

A man taking on some of the domestic roles was an ideal of a good relationship

“That is a love of its own kind and it is from few people. You could find that one is tired but ...she has to do these activities [domestic chores]

[\[IDI 43 Sukuma 071015\]](#)



A photo demonstrating a man helping his pregnant partner to wash family clothes

[\[IDI 43 Sukuma 071015\]](#)



Conclusion

The photo voice method allowed women to present their views about gender roles and relationships through pictures and subsequent interviews

Gender empowerment interventions need to support women to renegotiate roles and expectations in their relationships, and consider whether to implement complementary work with men



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