

# **Investigating gender-based violence (GBV) among men in Mwanza, Northern Tanzania**

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SVRI

21-25 Oct 2019

Cape Town

South Africa



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# Outline

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  - **Violence (Men to men)**
  - **Violence (Men to women-outside home)**
  - **Economic violence**
  - **Controlling behavior**
- Discussion
  - What are we learning?



# Introduction

- Paucity of IPV studies among men
- Current evidence
  - IMAGES study (life-time physical perpetration 17% - 45%)  
**(Fleming et al, 2015)**
  - Most studies used tools from women IPV studies
  - Men's perspectives in understanding risk factors



# Methods

In-depth  
Interviews  
(n=40)

Photo-voices  
(n=20)

Survey  
(n=600)

June-Oct 2019

Oct-Nov 2019

Mar-Dec 2020



# Methods



- 40 men purposively selected
  - Cross-section of age groups and occupation
- Interview guide
  - Men's life-time experiences and perpetration of violence
    - At home and **outside the home**
    - Physical violence/Sexual violence
    - Emotional abuse and controlling behavior
    - Economic abuse.
  - Men's social life



# Findings

## Violence (Outside home)

- What do men do to hurt, harm or humiliate other men in their community?
  - Physical violence
    - Fighting over money or property
    - Fighting over women
  - Psychological violence
    - Challenging the man's role as provider
    - If a partner was taken from him



# Findings

## Men to men (Reasons)

- Physical Violence
  - Fighting over women

*“Because he is the one recognized by the woman’s parents, not the man his partner was having an affair with. That’s why majority of people may decide to take any sharp instrument and stab the cheater to kill him, so that he never sees him again...or at least wound the man and leave him with a scar big enough to serve as a deterrent to his future children”*

(Man 9)



# Findings

## Men to men (Reasons)

- Psychological Violence
  - Challenging man's role as a provider

*“(Laughter) Another word that would hurt...when a family member calls you “kula lulala” meaning that your total existence depends on others. **You are good-for-nothing. You just eat and sleep.** Maybe he is a self-assured man who now, according to others, fully depends on his wife. Now, **he starts asking himself, “is my wife really providing for me?”**”*

(Man 1)



# Findings

## Men to men (Reasons)

- Psychological Violence
  - (If partner taken from him)

*“That also depends, he might choose not to tell him any words to hurt him, but decides **to hurt him by stealing his partner**. Because he knows that he will have destroyed you if he takes your partner. You won’t be able to stay with that women thereafter.*

(Man 22)

# Findings

## Violence (Outside home)

- What do men do to hurt, harm or humiliate **WOMEN** in their community?
  - **Physical violence**
    - When men are rejected
    - When other women meddle in men's relationships
  - **Sexual violence**
    - Transaction sex
  - **Psychological**
    - When rejected by women
    - When finally they have sex with long sought for woman



# Findings

## Men to women (Reasons)

- Physical (outside home)
  - When men feel rejected

*“Er ...but women are beaten in bars; they can be beaten by a man simply because of misunderstanding, he may have bought her some beers; and so when she refuses to go with him (or opts for another man) he just decides to beat her.”*

**(Man 5)**



# Findings

## Men to women (Reasons)

- Physical (outside home)
  - When women meddle in men's affairs

*“This woman was provoking his neighbor; “Aaah! I can see him change women everyday, today this one, the other day that one. This young boy is a womanizer. These guys will spread HIV to us; they will finish/kill our children.” That guy got angry (and banged her head on the gate)”*

(Man 16)



# Findings

## Men to women (Reasons)

- Sexual (outside home)
  - Women refusing to have certain sex transactionally

*“Two people meet on the streets and decide to go for drinks and accommodation (sex). When they retire to their rooms, a fight erupts. You later find out that one person is forcing another person to do that thing (anal sex)...which the other person isn't ready for. That's a challenge”*

(Man 22)



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# Findings

## Men to women (Reasons)

- Psychological (outside home)
  - When rejected

*“(Psychological abuse) takes many forms. One may touch a girl inappropriately, a sexual advance that the girl disapproves. The result: the man hurls insults at her, degrading her: “You look bad, you are not beautiful. Look at that face!”*

(Man 28)



# Findings

## Men to women (Reasons)

- Psychological (outside home)
  - After having sex with a long sought for woman

*“...sleeping with a woman then publicize your conquest, even before the youth. You say, “Somebody’s girlfriend is totally useless. She thinks so highly of herself whereas she is nothing in bed, totally nothing”. Now this is not right although a lot of women experience it”*

(Man 11)

# Findings

## Controlling behavior

- **Controlling movement**
  - Very important
  - Difficult and unproductive
- **Controlling communication**
  - Difficult and unproductive (You many not know all the people that women are talking to)
  - Special circumstances



# Findings

## Controlling behavior

- Controlling women's movements

*“For a woman, I think there is no time like that, when you wouldn't wish to know her whereabouts. Ahh! It's imperative that you know where she is. Whether she is at home...at church, you have to know”*

(Man 27)



# Findings

## Controlling behavior

- Controlling movements: simply not possible

*“That’s how I do with my wife, she is completely free, she directs herself. Even when you try to control a woman too much, she is not controllable. **If she wants to have an affair, she can do it anytime and anywhere, even at your home. She can pretend to be bathing outside while at the same time she has admitted a man in there”***

(Man 9)



# Findings

## Controlling behavior

- Controlling communication (Difficult )

*“With wives contributing to the household’s income, it’s difficult to control your partner’s communication, even if you wanted to since **she could be communicating with her customers. She could also be communicating with relatives you have no idea about**”*

(Man 11)



# Findings

## Controlling behaviour

- Controlling communication (Unproductive)

*“My advice is to stop looking at women’s phones, and if she looks at yours you will definitely separate, For example someone can call you or text you but they have mistaken the number and it has therefore come to you...”*

(Man 8)

# Findings

## Controlling behavior

- When you should

*“May be her **behavior has changed**. She was behaving a certain way...suddenly she becomes obstinate...or dressing a certain way”*

(Man 11)

*“Er... I do follow up on her calls because it **once happened to me**, that is why I randomly seize her phone and stay with it the whole day to monitor it. However, I am yet to come up with anything”*

(Man 30)



# Findings

## Economic abuse

- Doesn't control partner's income; she can use however she pleases
- Doesn't control it but want to know how she spends her income
  - Majority
- **Definitely controls partner's income**
  - Some wondered whether this was possible



# Findings

## Economic abuse

- Doesn't control it but want to know how she spends her income

*“As for me, I don't want to control her in that way, but I need to know how much she gets, how it is expended, even if I don't use it on my own, but as long as children can use it.... It can even be used in the house, it is our expenditure, I mean you have to keep it open”*

(Man 10)



# Findings

## Economic abuse

- Definitely controls partner's income

*“If her income is not accountable, a fight or an argument is likely to ensue. If she declares every expenditure, you won't hear a fight. She would buy this and that...which I could confirm with my own eyes. **We shall surely fight if she doesn't give full account of what she earns.**”*

(Man 7)



# Findings

## Man's social environment

- Social groups (Help you financially)

*“The registered members are focused people who meet together in order to solve challenges in their community. The group is important to me. The group will visit you at the hospital if a member of your family falls sick; and provide you with whatever you need. If a member of the family dies, they will come through. Er...if you are celebrating something, just inform them, they will support you. **This group is the second parent to me, after my old man who is now advanced of age”***

(Man 10)



# Findings

## Man's social environment

- **Family and friends (help you with your relationship)**

*“Eeh, before you go to the ten-cell leader or the street chairperson you start at the **family level**, I mean **relatives**...that is, if you are morally oriented. You do that before consulting legal (formal) authorities”*

(Man 15)

*“No, they can't bring that agenda direct to the (social) group. They can't raise hands and...present the matter as “any other business or AOB” after the main agenda; although one could **personally tell you, as a close friend** after you are done with the meeting”*

(Man 30)



# Discussion

## What are we learning?

- Gender-related notions do not just feature in man-women abuse but also men-men violence.
  - Significance of this
- Economic abuse
  - There is clear appreciation of woman's contribution to the family
- Controlling behavior
  - Men are realizing that it's difficult to control women and wanting women to contribute at the same time.
- Social environment
  - Family and friends are critical in resolving marital problems



# Acknowledgement

## Sponsor

European Research Council Starting Grant

## Participants



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