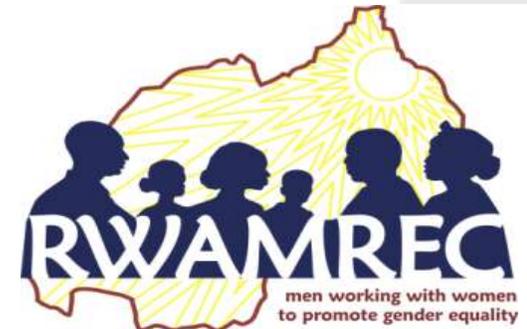


Exploratory analysis of relationship quality, its predictors & its association with intimate partner violence among rural couples in Rwanda

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WhatWorks

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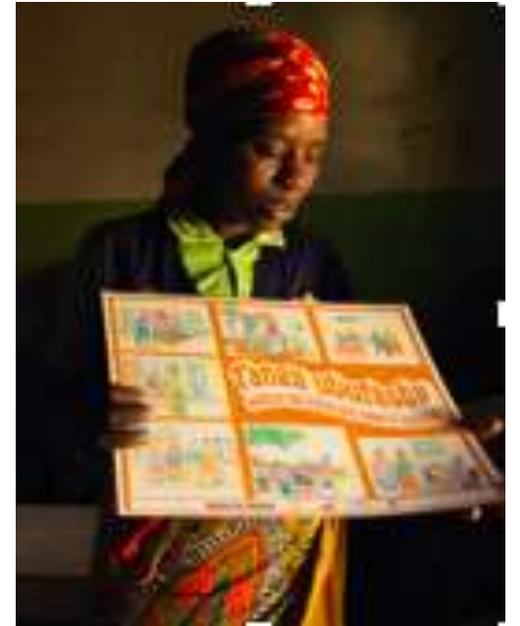
A Global Programme To Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

IPV & Relationship Quality

- ▶ Relationship quality is a precursor to healthy behavior for couples
(Conroy et al., 2016)
- ▶ IPV lowers relationship satisfaction and stability
- ▶ Few studies include men
- ▶ Studies conducted in North America, Europe
- ▶ Relationship could be cyclical for men

Data: Evaluation of Indashyikirwa

- ▶ IPV prevention programme funded by DFID Rwanda, implemented by CARE Rwanda, Rwanda Women's Network , Rwanda Men's Resource Centre from Aug 2014-Aug 2018
- ▶ Implemented in 7 districts in 3 provinces of rural Rwanda:
 - ▶ (1) Participatory training with couples (**couples curriculum**)
 - ▶ (2) Community-based **activism** with sub-set of trained couples
 - ▶ (3) Support to survivors of IPV through **women's safe spaces**
 - ▶ (4) Training and engagement of **opinion leaders**



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Methods

- ▶ Data from evaluation of couples curriculum
- ▶ Quantitative:
 - ▶ ACASI questionnaires with face-to-face option in Kinyarwanda
 - ▶ Waves: baseline, 12m midline
 - ▶ Sample: 1583 women, 1557 men
- ▶ Qualitative:
 - ▶ 3 intervention sectors
 - ▶ 28 interviews of men & women at baseline & midline



Relationship quality measure

- ▶ Five items
 - ▶ Relationship satisfaction
 - ▶ Well cared for
 - ▶ Respected partners
 - ▶ Trusted partners
 - ▶ Partners trusted them
- ▶ Cronbach alpha of 0.86

Factors associated with relationship quality among women



Factors associated with relationship quality among men

Physical and/or sexual IPV

-0.34



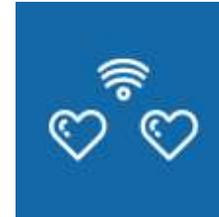
Conflict

-0.24



Couple Communication

0.14



Results: No effect

- ▶ Relationship duration
- ▶ Number of children
- ▶ SES
- ▶ Membership in treatment/control group

Qualitative findings: Consequences of IPV

- ▶ Negative impact on respect, love, stability
- ▶ Men were able to identify consequences after training

*There is nobody who was born to be beaten. **If you beat me, will that make me respect you?** For example, **a man comes home scolding you, in that case can the relationship be strong?** (FC02W)*

***Because of what I was doing [IPV] to her, she was not... even when I was sober, when I arrived at home and greeted her, she could not respond to me.** (MC04NM)*

Communication

- ▶ Establishing intimacy

*I talk to him and tell him “Me, **I wish to live with somebody who can cheerfully converse with me**, one who will not be busy when he arrives at home, who will allow ourselves to have a conversation, who **will ask me how I spent the day, how my work was and how I suffered...**” (FC01N)*

- ▶ Communication about sex

*The fact that whenever I want to have sexual intercourse, **she also has sexual desire to have sex with me because we prepare each other and as a result we do it and we enjoy it.** (MC05EE)*



Conflict

- ▶ Jealousy
- ▶ Household tasks
- ▶ Financial issues
- ▶ Men's alcohol use

I cannot allow that any young man visits us and stay at home for so long because I know that he dislikes that. So, when your husband dislikes something and that you do it, you are spoiling your relationship (FC02E)



Relationship quality: other factors

- ▶ Gestures of affection:
 - ▶ Verbal gestures
 - ▶ Buying things
- ▶ Spending quality time together
- ▶ Sharing household tasks

*If I have been working alone in the marsh land when she stayed at home, when I arrive at home, she tells me “**I bought some sorghum drink, but I kept some for you**” and for that we both have **deeper feelings for each other thanks to that good action** (MC01EE)*



Limitations

- ▶ Lacked standardized measure of relationship quality
- ▶ Participants not asked about impact of IPV on relationship quality, rather asked about impact of the intervention on relationship quality
- ▶ Social desirability bias

Strengths

- ▶ Social desirability bias mitigated through ACASI data collection, external field researchers
- ▶ No difference in IPV prevalence by interview via ACASI or face to face
- ▶ Includes data from men
- ▶ Most studies conducted in North America & Europe

Conclusion

- ▶ IPV negatively impacts relationship quality for men & women
- ▶ Role of shared power
 - ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Decision-making
 - ▶ Consent for sex
- ▶ Men were able to link IPV with lower relationship quality post-training
- ▶ Benefits-based approach in curriculum can improve relationship quality

Thank You!

