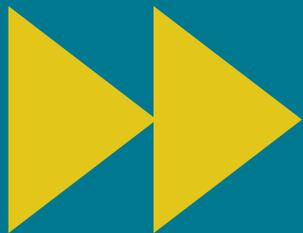


# *‘You must get your wallet torn’*

Achieving masculinities through transactional sex? A qualitative study from North-Western Tanzania



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# Introduction: Transactional Sex

*“Non-commercial, non-marital sexual relationships motivated by the implicit assumption that sex will be exchanged for material support or other benefits”*  
(Stoebenau et al., 2016, p.23)

# Introduction: Aims

- Gain clarity on men's behaviours within, and perspectives of, transactional sex
- Unpack homogenous view of the role of men and adolescent boys in transactional sex
- Strengthen initiatives working with men and boys to shift social norms and for greater gender equity

- Methods
- Results
  - Provision norm
  - Heightened sexuality norm
  - Questioning transactional sex
- Discussion

# Methods

- Focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews
- Transcripts translated verbatim from Kiswahili into English
- Thematic analysis and grounded analysis

	IDs	FGDs
Young men (14-24 years)	8	4
Adult men (>24 years)	12	4
Total	20	8

# Results: Masculinities and Transactional Sex

Provision

Heightened  
Sexuality

Men & adolescent boys':  
behaviours within and  
perspectives of transactional  
sex relationships

# Results: Performing and questioning the provider norm

- Providing gifts and other material support is an important part of ‘being a man’
- Men have to ‘work very hard’ to provide in relationships
- Men use the ‘gift method’ to ‘trick and trap’ girls, including those having a ‘money emergency’

# Results: Performing and questioning the provider norm

(IDI adult man)

*“That's when I start to remember that money, I get angry with these women I spent a lot of money on.”*

*“I trap her with a CD, then tomorrow you will find her with a big old man [...] he has brought her a smartphone. She abandons me and goes to the other.”*

(FGD adult men)

# Results: Performing and questioning the heightened sexuality norm

- Men express a bodily desire for sex: ‘**the body is harassing you**’
- Monogamy unlikely to satisfy men’s sexual desire
- Men gain ‘**swag**’ by boasting about the number and young age of their sexual partners

# Results: Performing and questioning the heightened sexuality norm

*“A girl might be passing [and men] might be talking [about her]. Then one might touch her [...] There are [men] who will hate it [...] but he cannot go and stop him [...] because the men will say ‘you are jealous’.”*

(IDI young man)

# Results: Questioning transactional sex

*“I see them as stupid fools who are spoiling children. An old man of 50 years cannot move with a child of 16 years. If you give birth to a child, what will he call you?”*

(FGD young men)

*“I think that somebody that gives out money to get sex [...] his muscles are small [...] when you don't have money, [sex] stops there.”*

(FGD young men)

# Discussion

- Transactional sex presents an opportunity for men to enact provider norms and heightened sexuality norms
  - Factors including age influence individuals' navigation of gendered expectations
  - Acknowledge multiple masculinities, and hierarchies of masculinities
  - Possibilities for highlighting positive alternatives

# Discussion

- Men's participation in and perspectives of transactional sex are influenced by reference groups of other men
  - Non-conforming individuals are sanctioned (outcompeted, ridiculed)
  - Must work with groups of men, promoting positive role models, and peer support

# Discussion

- Men who question transactional sex do not necessarily challenge harmful hegemonic masculine ideals
  - Gender transformative approaches are essential!

# Thank you

