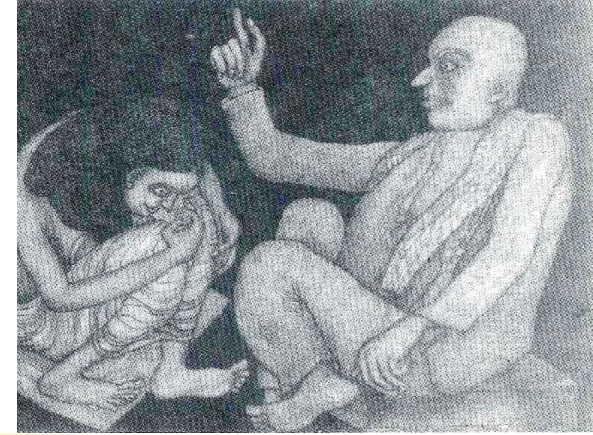


Correlates of Gender Inequitable Attitudes of Men in Bangladesh

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Background



- Attitudes regarding gender is highly inequitable in Bangladesh *(WHO, 2005; BDHS 2007)*
- Violence condoning attitudes at the individual, community and district levels contribute to high level of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Bangladesh *(Amin et al., 2013; Johnson & Das, 2008; Naved & Persson, 2010; VanderEnde et al., 2013)*

Background



- VAW is fundamentally linked to gender inequality and patriarchy as well as male ideals and expectations about what it means to be a good wife, which are reflected in attitudes (Yllo 1993; Yllo and Bograd 1988; Yllo 1983; Dobash and Dobash 1980).
- Undoubtedly, it is important to better understand the attitudes of men and their correlates for preventing VAWG

Study objectives were to explore:

- Attitudes of men regarding gender
- Correlates of gender inequitable attitudes of men in Bangladesh

The data and methods

- Population-based survey (Jan-Jun 2011)
- Study sites: Urban & Rural
- Study population: Men aged 18-49
- Total sample size: 2,400 (*1,254 in urban & 1,146 in rural site*)
- Multi-stage sampling scheme
- One eligible man/household (randomly selected)



- Face-to-face interviews using hand held computers (PDAs)
- Interviews conducted in private & in a non-judgmental manner
- Questionnaire stemmed from IMAGES & WHO but adapted for focusing on GBV & the Bangladesh context
- Data on background characteristics of men were collected (e.g., age, education employment status, marital status, etc)

Measurements and data analysis

An 8-item GEM scale was used for exploring male attitudes regarding gender.

A Woman's most important role is to take care of her family	Strongly agree 1	Agree 2	Disagree 3	Strongly disagree 4
Man need more sex than women do	Strongly agree 1	Agree 2	Disagree 3	Strongly disagree 4

Measurements and data analysis

- Distribution was explored of:
 - Responses to GEM scale by item
 - Men's socio-demographic characteristics, and
 - Potential covariates
- Factor analysis was performed to check whether the GEM scale items cling together and define a latent construct (i.e., gender attitudes in this case)
- The scores obtained for each individual from factor analysis was categorized into tertiles corresponding to least, moderate & most gender inequitable attitudes

Measurements and data analysis

- Likelihood ratio test was performed to check whether low to medium category is the mirror image of medium to high category of gender inequitable attitudes
- Finally, based on the result of this test *multinomial logistic regression analysis* was conducted for identifying the correlates of least to moderate and moderate to most gender inequitable attitudes of men

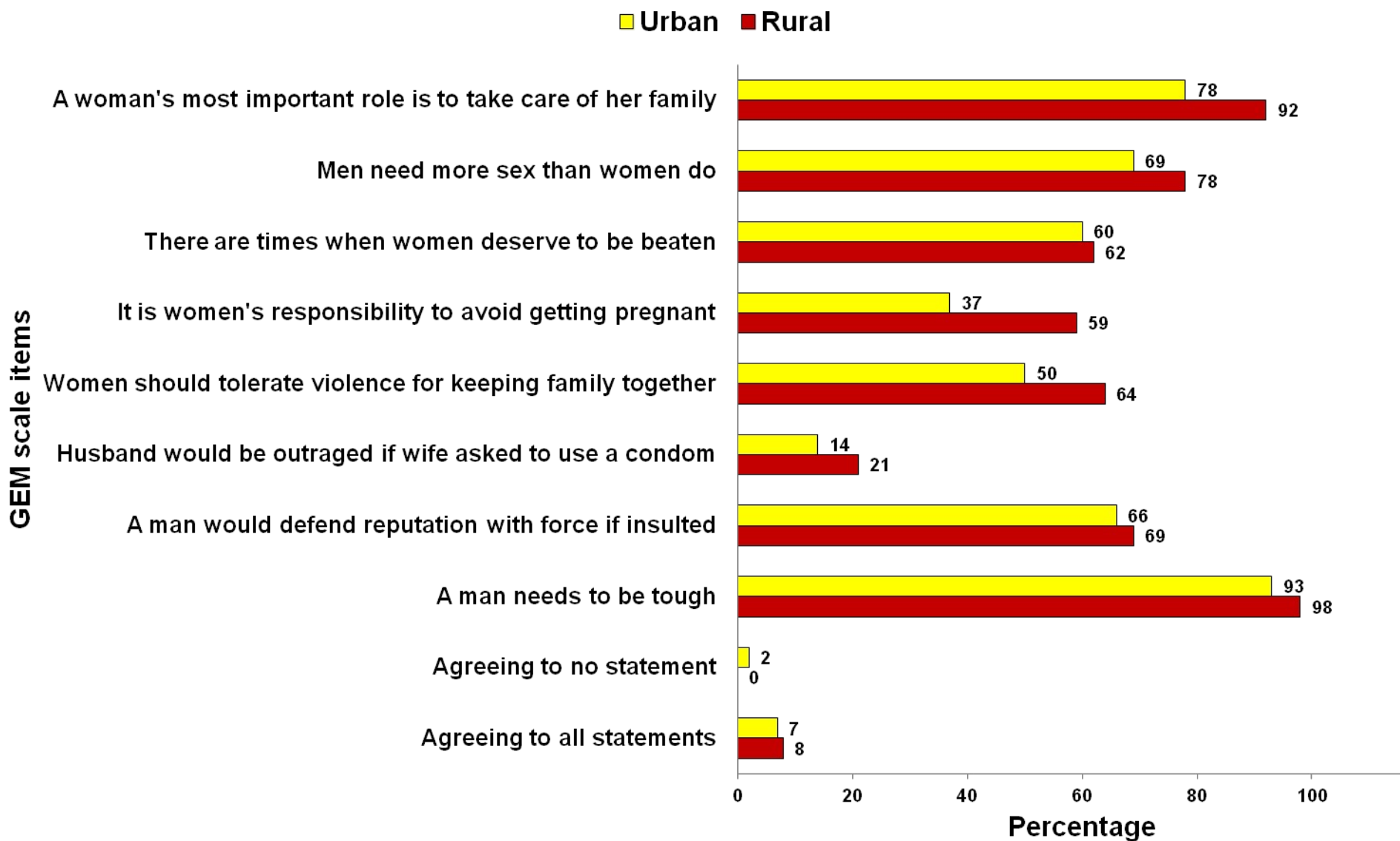
Background characteristics of men surveyed

Characteristics	Urban	Rural
Age, %		
18-24	31	24
25-34	36	29
35-49	33	47
Education, %		
None	10	20
Primary	18	33
Secondary or above	72	47

Background characteristics of men surveyed

Characteristics	Urban	Rural
How easy to find Tk. 100,000/\$1370 for treatment),%		
Very difficult	47	61
Somewhat difficult	31	27
Easy or very easy	23	12
Childhood exposure to abuse, %		
Physical abuse	21	16
Sexual abuse	37	21
Witnessing mother abuse by father	32	23

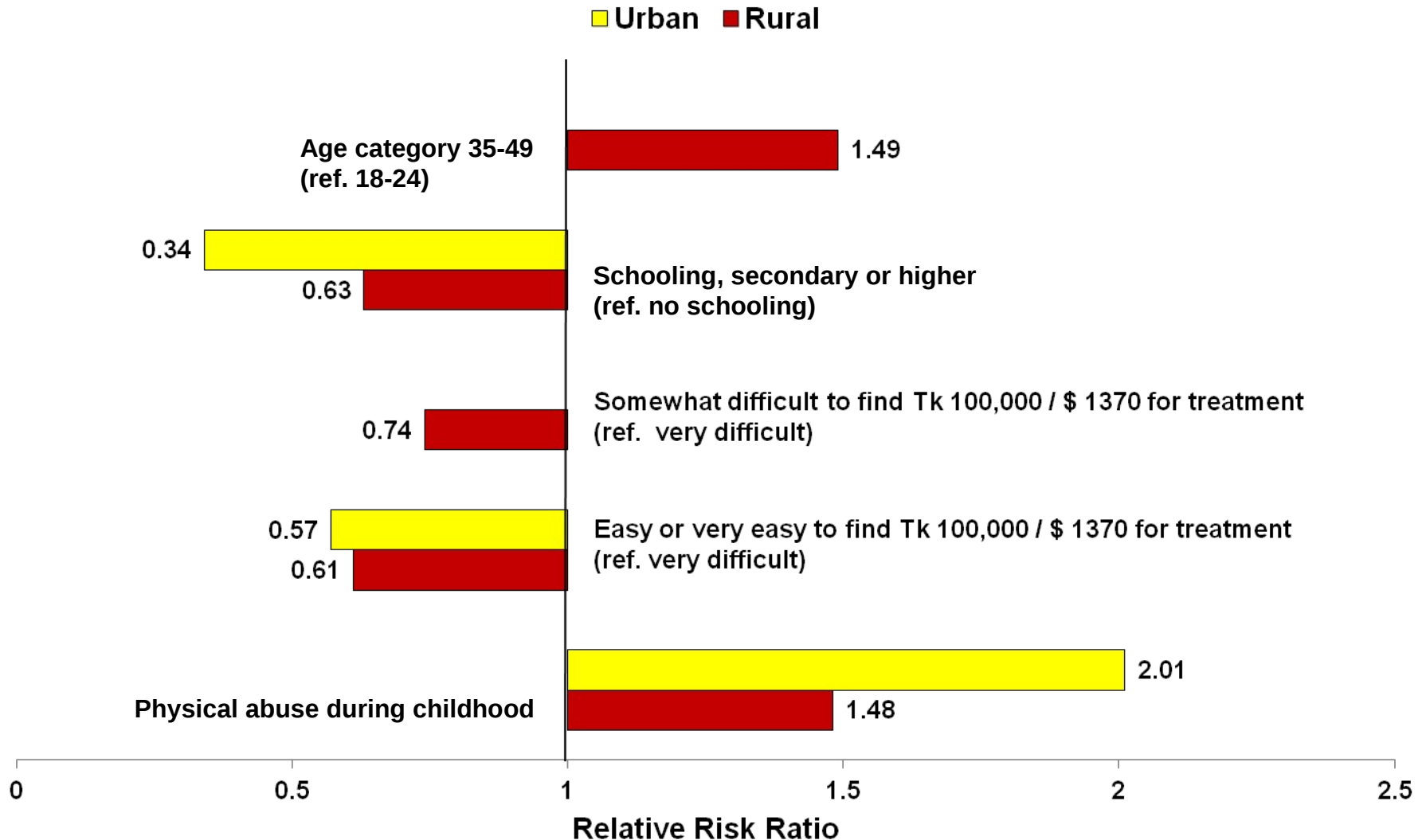
Men agreeing or strongly agreeing to items from Gender Equitable Men (GEM) Scale by site in Bangladesh, %



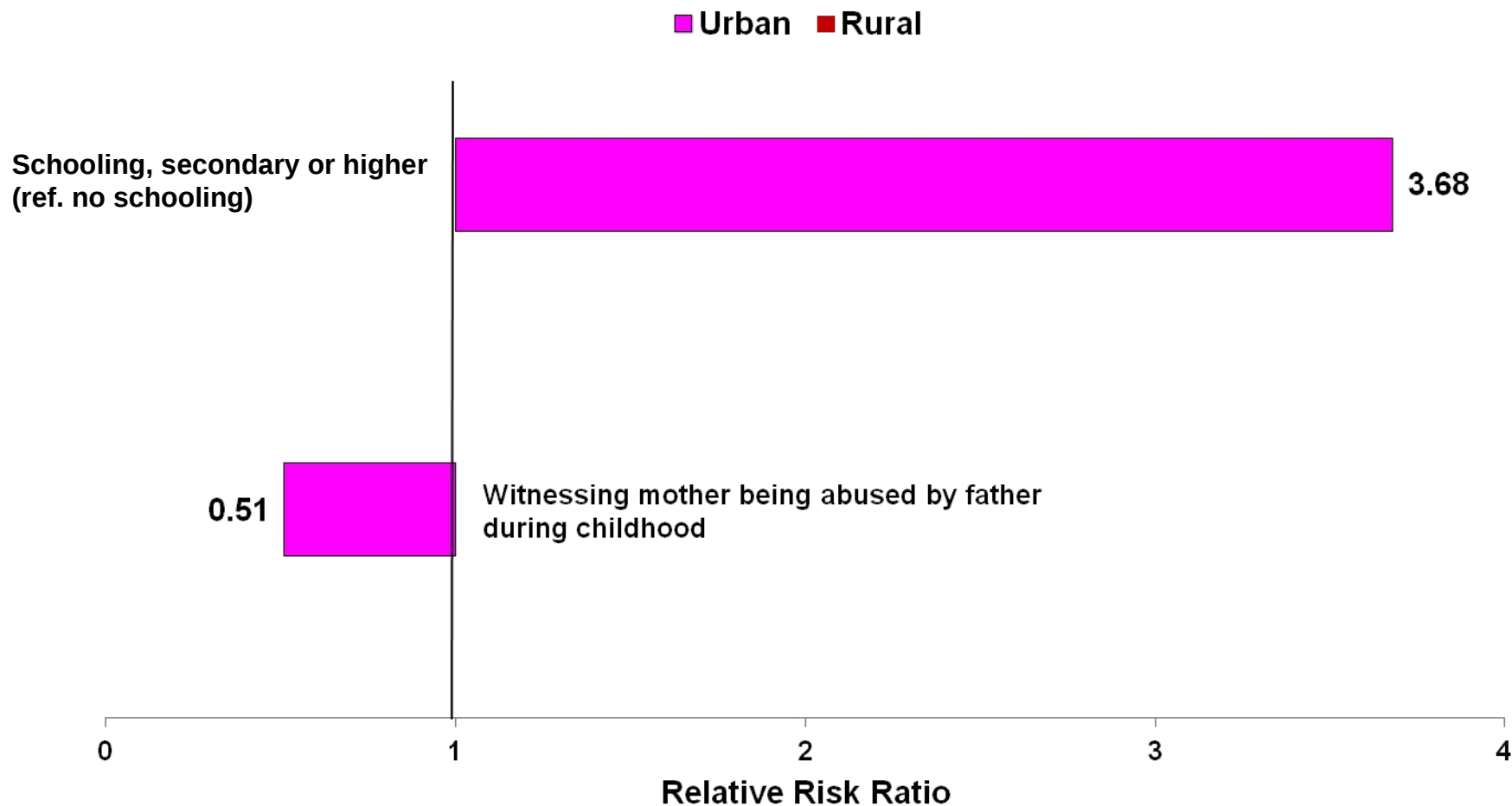
Distribution of men by gender inequitable attitudes, %

Men having least gender inequitable attitudes	14
Men having moderate inequitable attitudes	41
Men having most gender inequitable attitudes	45

Correlates of most gender inequitable attitudes of men compared to moderately inequitable attitudes in Bangladesh



Correlates of men's least inequitable gender attitudes compared to moderately inequitable attitudes in Bangladesh



Take home messages

- Despite some variations, gender inequitable attitudes are very common in Bangladesh. Men almost universally support at least one gender inequitable statement.
About 7-8% men agreed to all of these statements.
- Majority of the men were of the opinion that at times a woman deserves to be beaten and that a woman should tolerate violence for keeping family intact.

Take home messages

- Correlates of gender inequitable attitudes of men differ by residence and by levels of inequitable attitudes
- Secondary and higher education & highest socioeconomic status reduces the chances of a man having most gender inequitable attitudes, while physical abuse during childhood increases these chances in both the sites though to varying degrees
- Belonging to oldest age category increased the chances of a man being most gender inequitable compared to the youngest men in the rural site

Take home messages

- The chances of an urban man being least gender inequitable was lowered by 51% if he witnessed mother being abused by father
- Secondary and higher education increased the chances of an urban man being least gender equitable by 3 times
- In the rural site, no covariates entered in the model had any association with the outcome

Policy implications

- Male education needs to be promote up to secondary level and beyond
- Child maltreatment needs to be prevented for reducing the chances of a man to have highly gender inequitable attitudes
- Wife abuse needs to be addressed for increasing the chances of making men least gender inequitable
- BDHS and UHS offers data on gender attitudes in different pockets of Bangladesh. Targeting highly gender inequitable areas may be based on these data

Limitations of the study

- Cross-sectional data not allowing causal inference
- Crude measure of socioeconomic status
- The model may not be appropriate for exploring the chances of a man having least gender inequitable attitudes in the rural site

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