

Masculinities, Normalization of violence and HIV risk within marriage in India:

Exploring the linkage from a study among men from low socio-economic occupations

**Suvakanta N.
Swain, PhD
FHI360
India**

sswain@fhi360.org

Rationale

- Violence within marriage – highly under reported yet high in number (apx. 40%, NFHS-III)
- All most all studies suggest men as perpetrator
- Limited evidence in India that explores from men's perspective

The objective

- Explore the magnitude of self reported violent behavior among men
- To explore the association between self reported violent behavior and HIV risk within marriage
- The examine the linkages between masculinities and self reported violent behavior

Data and method

- Two state study
- Men form same socio-cultural, language and economic group
- Survey sample of 1258 married men
- Qualitative data from 14 in-depth interviews



Continued...

- Bi-variate analysis to examine 1) the extent of violent behavior reported by men ; 2) examine the association between violent behavior and HIV risk and 3) AOR to explore the linkage between masculinities and self reported violence like behavior
- Qualitative data to explain the dynamics of violent behavior and it's relationship with masculinities

Measures

- Any Violent behavior
 - Either pushed /punched/shoved/slapped during an argument in past one year
 - Have had any sex while wife was not in mood/said no for it in past one year
- HIV risk
 - Transactional sex in past one years
 - Inconsistent condom use in transactional sex
 - No condom use within marriage with the presence of transactional sex

Measures

- Composite variable of masculinities was constructed after adopting GEMs scale in local context
- 19 items were used from the original GEMs scale
- Highly inequitable = high hegemonic masculinities; medium inequitable = medium hegemonic masculinities and Low inequitable = low hegemonic masculinities

Profile of the men

- Young and **sexually active** group; mean age 29.6
- All are literate (mean years of education =12.5)
- Reported **early age at marriage**; (mean age at marriage is 24.3)
- From **low socio economic** profile; average monthly income is 7500 INR (136 USD)
- Majority are engaged in **unorganized sector**; only 13.3% are into regular salaried job

Men reporting violent behavior within marriage

- Any violent behavior □ 71%
- Either Physical violence □ 48%
- Either Sexual violence □ 23.2%
- Both physical and sexual violence □ 24%
(among who reported any violence)

Wish these were confession...

- “...yes, I did last week...**pushed** her to the
towards the kitchen platform...yes there was a
burning stove on platform..”
 - 32 year old motor car mechanic
- “...I don't usually bit hard...when things goes
out my mind, I **just slap**...no, more than
one...**four or five** may be.... ”
 - 39 year old taxi driver
- “...**whatever I get** in my hand at that time...”
 - 27 year old vegetable vendor

Cont..

- “...I just do it...**Its easy** even if she protests... I need not have to undress her completely ...as a man you must be knowing (laughs)...”
 - 38 year old street vendor
- “...push her hands away ...then **she understands...**”
 - 33 year old assistant in a pharmacy

HIV risk among men reported violent behavior within marriage

	Transactional sex	Inconsistent condom in transaction sex	No condom within marriage with the presence of transactional sex
No violence behavior (n=356)	9%	18% (N=32)	3% (N=356)
Any violence behavior (n=893)	24%	46% (N=214)	13.5% (N=893)
Both physical and sexual violent behavior (n=213)	29%	48% (N=61)	19.4% (N=213)

Adjusted effect(95% CI) of masculinities on violent behavior

High
masculinities

2.1(1.6-2.7)**

Any violence

* 2.2(1.7-2.9)**

Both physical
and sexual
violence

Comparison group : Low or Moderate masculinities

***P<.001,**P<.01

Adjusted for : Age, Education, Occupation, income, any non marital sex

Justifying Cruelty



Stress,
tension,
mental
disturbance


S

Entitlement/Ownership

physical
and sexual
Control

Reflection of manhood

- “...you come tired from day long work.. find your food is too cold ..or lot of salt in *daal* ...I just loose my temper...if a wife can't take **proper care** of husband what she is **good for**?...”
 - 28 year old grocery shop assistant
- “...If a man can't **correct** my wife's behavior then who will... if she does not listen I have to be **tough**...”
 - 34 year old government clerk
- “...no woman says openly **they need it**...but if you don't satisfy roughly ... they will think you are *chakka (gay)*...”
 - 31 year old daily wage construction worker



**WISH AN
END**