



The impact of Parenting for Respectability Programme on gendered discourses about Intimate Partner Violence in Uganda

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Overview



- Background / Context
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusion





Background/Context

Background



Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Violence against Children (VAC)

- Co-occurrence of IPV and VAC in Uganda
 - 36% of women experience physical IPV; 22% sexual violence
 - 59% girls and 68% boys experience physical violence
- Factors associated with both VAC and IPV:
 - Poor attachment and parental bonding
 - Inequitable gendered socialisation
 - Harsh parenting
 - Spousal conflict and disrespect
- Emerging evidence on the impact of parenting interventions on IPV
- Gender transformative approach to transform harmful gender roles, norms, and power imbalances



Study objective

- Part of larger cluster RCT study
- We analyse the gendered discourses on IPV in the context of the Parenting for Respectability Programme
- Our analysis focuses on gendered narratives to show manifestations of IPV



Amuru

Wakiso

Parenting for Respectability (PfR)



Key programme goals and content

- Fathers, mothers, and other male and female caregivers with children between 0 – 17 years old.
 - Focus on **parents' desire for good child behaviour** and the family's respectability
 - Deliberate **engagement and inclusion of fathers** starting with father-only and mother-only sessions
 - Build **parents' confidence to parent positively** and identify solutions through discussion and reflection
 - **Promotes healthy spousal relationships** through reflection on social norms and communication





Methods



Methods

- Qualitative study nested within a Cluster Randomised Control Trial 2021-2022
- 20 interviews and 8 focus group discussions [FGDs]

	Men	Women	Total
Interviews	10	10	20
FGDs	4	4	8



Participants characteristics



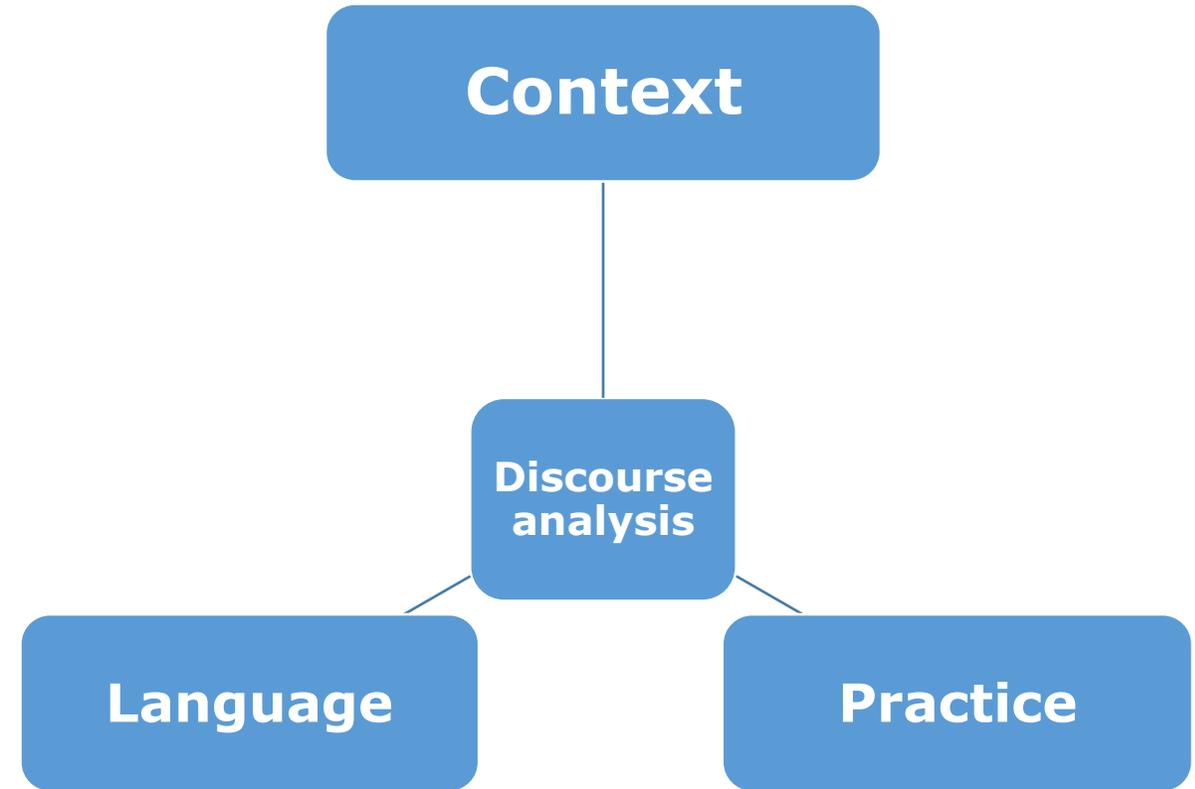
- Participants age range was 18 – 70 yrs. old
 - farmers
 - ex-soldiers/ abductees
 - Brick makers
 - small trade
 - unemployed
 - stay home-wives



Methods

Conceptual framing

- Discourse analysis to illustrate the complex interactions between couples and associated contextual factors, such as societal/cultural norms reinforcing IPV discourses
- Analyzed the narratives from participants and identified how language, behavior, attitudes, context, expose IPV in intimate relationships





Findings

Findings: 5 main discourses



- Inevitability of marital conflict
- Conventional respect for marital privacy
- Resistance to patriarchal control
- Egalitarian (non abusive relationships)
- Restoration of broken relationships



Inevitability of marital conflict

- intimate relationships negotiated according to asymmetrical gendered principles, spousal conflicts become inevitable
- entrenched gender inequalities, allow men to retain control of resources, and decision-making rendering women and children almost powerless
- as a result, an element of resignation sets in hindering the marginalised from challenging the system.

men were so much attached to traditions that a man is a man...whenever they would come home, they would just shout



Conventional respect for marital privacy

- a wall of silence structured the marital space and family privacy
- mechanism for maintaining marriages intact –compels couples to resign themselves to unfulfilling relationships
- conceding, dutiful obedience
- Silence from outside world

No, let me talk, this is my chance, (her lips curls up with a lopsided smile). When or where can I say this this again? I want people to know that he is not the upright man they all think he is when they see him around. By the way, he keeps coupling with women and dropping them. To him anything in a skirt is a woman..., (Amuru)



Resistance to patriarchal control

- men's and women's responses to IPV underpinned by gendered patriarchal principles
- conventions privilege men and doesn't demand accountability from them
- women stuck and unable to break free
- men downplay the gravity of relationship problems

He used to womanize. I would work hard then he comes with demands for my harvest, the animals. Even the dowry paid for my daughter, he took it all. So he brought another woman when I complained. I decided to go back to our home with all the children..



Desire for egalitarian non-violent relationships

- narratives about transformation following participation in program
- reclaiming humanity and dignity
- regaining voice and agency
- challenging male excesses

I know every home must have a head but the head should not do things that cause pain to others but should make decisions together and agree together.....the opposite is what has caused conflicts...

-I spent a lot of time without a wife and when I could get them, then their relationship was not good, they could not stay for long, they were very quarrel some; and so I thought that if I could stay with this wife after getting enough training we could relate better. [Wakiso, M - couple]



Restoration of broken relationships

- narratives around revival of broken relationships
- desire for marital harmony and need to model stable relationships
- re-examining one's role in marital conflict to supportive spouses investing in each other, contributing to the family economy and fully meeting each other's need.





Discussion and conclusion

Limitations

- Some interviewers were close to PfR – participated in observing delivery
- Small sample size, but depth and conceptual generalisability was possible



Conclusion



- Our analysis suggests that through PfR, spouses can be made aware that gender stereotyping and adherence to negative traditional norms of masculinity can be detrimental to building strong respectful marital relationships
- PfR has potential to help participants to explore and re-examine the different aspects of gendered expressions in intimate relationships





Global Parenting Initiative

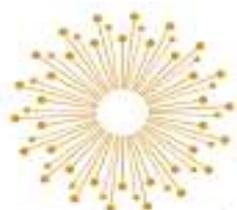
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