

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). Your use of this material constitutes acceptance of that license and the conditions of use of materials on this site.



Copyright 2006, The Johns Hopkins University and W. Henry Mosley. All rights reserved. Use of these materials permitted only in accordance with license rights granted. Materials provided "AS IS"; no representations or warranties provided. User assumes all responsibility for use, and all liability related thereto, and must independently review all materials for accuracy and efficacy. May contain materials owned by others. User is responsible for obtaining permissions for use from third parties as needed.



PFHS 380.665 Family Planning Policies and Programs

Gender Relations and Family Planning

W. Henry Mosley

A. An evolution in thinking about reproductive health (Drennan, et al., 1998)

More attention is being given to men and couples in reproductive health programs in recent years for a variety of reasons including:

- Growing concern about the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs
- Evidence of the ill effects of some men's risky sexual behavior on the health of women and children
- Survey findings that many men approve of family planning
- Greater recognition that in many cultures men make decisions that affect women's reproductive health as well as their own.
- Increasing awareness that gender – men's and women's differing social roles and power associated with these roles – affects sexual behavior, reproductive decision making and reproductive health in many different ways
- Demands from female health care clients that men become more involved and included in family planning and other reproductive health care

B. Men's family planning knowledge, attitudes and practices

C. Gender relations, couple communication and family planning practices

- Couple discord and unmet need
- Covert contraceptive practice

D. Case Studies

The case studies given here were selected from a large literature to give some recent practical illustrations of problems and issues that confront family planning service delivery programs in different countries, and how these are identified, analyzed and interpreted. You are encouraged to read all of the required case studies, however, for the class discussion, each group is required to read only one and be prepared to present the findings to the class.

The case assignments for each group are given on a separate Assignment Sheet.

Required Readings:

- Bawah, AA, Akweongo, P, Simmons, R, and Phillips, JF. Women's fears and men's anxieties: the impact of family planning on gender relations in Northern Ghana. *Studies in Family Planning* 30 (1): 54-66, 1999.
- Biddlecom, AE and Fapohunda BM. Covert contraceptive use: prevalence, motivations and consequences. *Studies in Family Planning* 29(4): 360-372, 1998.
- Pallitto, CC and O'Campo, P. The relationship between intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy in Colombia. *International Family Planning Perspectives* 30(4): 165-173, 2004.
- Ratcliff AA, Hill AG, Walraven G. Separate lives, different interests: male and female reproduction in the Gambia. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 78(5): 570-579, 2000.

Recommended Reference:

- Blanc, AK. The effect of power and sexual relationships on sexual and reproductive health: an examination of the evidence. *Studies in Family Planning* 32(3) 189-213, 2001.

Recommended:

- Bankole A. Desired fertility and fertility behavior among the Yoruba of Nigeria: a study of couple preferences and subsequent fertility. *Population Studies* 49 (2): 317-328, 1995.
- Bankole A, and Singh, S. Couple's fertility and contraceptive decision making in developing countries: Hearing the man's voice. *International Family Planning Perspectives* 24 (1): 15- , 1998.
- Bawah, AA. Spousal communication and family planning behavior in Navrongo: a longitudinal assessment. *Studies in Family Planning* 33: 185-194, 2002.
- Becker, S. Couples and reproductive health: A review of couple studies. *Studies in Family Planning* 27 (6): 291-306, 1996.
- Becker, S, and Robinson, JC. Reproductive health care services oriented to couples. *International journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 61 (3): 275-81, 1998.
- Becker, S. Measuring unmet need: Wives, husbands or couples. *International Family Planning Perspectives* 25 (4): 175-180, 1999.
- Castle, S, Konate, MK, A qualitative study of clandestine contraceptive use in urban Mali. *Studies in Family Planning* 30 (3): 231-248, 1999.
- Drennan, M. Reproductive Health: New Perspectives on Men's Participation. *Population Reports, Series J, No. 46*. Population Information Program, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. October, 1998



- Ezeh AC. The influence of spouses over each other's contraceptive attitudes in Ghana. *Studies in Family Planning* 24(3):163-173, 1993.
- Ezeh AC, Seroussi M and Raggars H. Men's fertility, contraceptive use and reproductive preferences. *DHS Comparative Studies No. 18*. Macro International, Calverton, MD, 1996.
- Greene, ME and Biddlecom, AE. Absent and problematic men: Demographic accounts of male reproductive roles. *Working Papers No. 103*, Policy Research Division, The Population Council, NY, 1997.
- Jejeebhoy, SJ. Convergence and divergence in spouses' perspectives on women's autonomy in rural India. *Studies in Family Planning* 33: 299-308, 2002.
- Mason, KO and Taj, AM. Differences between women's and men's reproductive goals in developing countries. *Population and Development Review* 13(4): 611-638, 1987.
- Mbizvo MT, and Adamchak DJ. Family planning knowledge, attitudes and practices of men in Zimbabwe. *Studies in Family Planning* 22 (1): 31-38, 1991.
- Varga, CA. How gender roles influence sexual and reproductive health among South African adolescents. *Studies in Family Planning* 34 (3): 160-172, 2003
- Wegner, MN, Landry, E., Wilkinson, D and Tzanis, J. Special Report. Men as partners in reproductive health. *International Family Planning Perspectives* 24 (1): 38-42, 1998.
- Wolfe B, Blanc AK, Ssekamatte-Ssebuliba J. The role of couple negotiation in unmet need for contraception and the decision to stop childbearing in Uganda. *Studies in Family Planning* 31 (2): 124-137, 2000.