

TH2.1: Who is a man? Understanding the local normative climate for transformative interventions in rural farming communities of Central Uganda

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Background

The concept of Local Normative Climate refers to how prevailing gender norms in a community interact with women's and men's sense of agency and capacity to take hold of opportunities in their lives (Petesch et al 2018).

Understanding local normative climate may include unpacking community's expectation of what is considered appropriate for a man to be and do in their society and the different masculinities (Badstue et al.,2020; Cislighi et al., 2020).

Masculinities form part of the normative context that impact individual level determinant of women empowerment, yet many studies in food system that pay little or no attention to it.

This study sought to examine local construction of what it means to be a man and how this may affects project that deliberately seek to reach, benefit and empower women.



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Methodology

Context

The study utilized a qualitative methodological approach in exploring the context specific construction of Masculinities along work done, mainly utilized FGDs for data collected along behaviors, work and roles as expected of men

Context

Study was situated within a NSA Project in Kiboga District whose major goal is improve household nutrition with a core objective of deliberate engagement of women in project intervention to enhance their nutrition and income status.

Participants

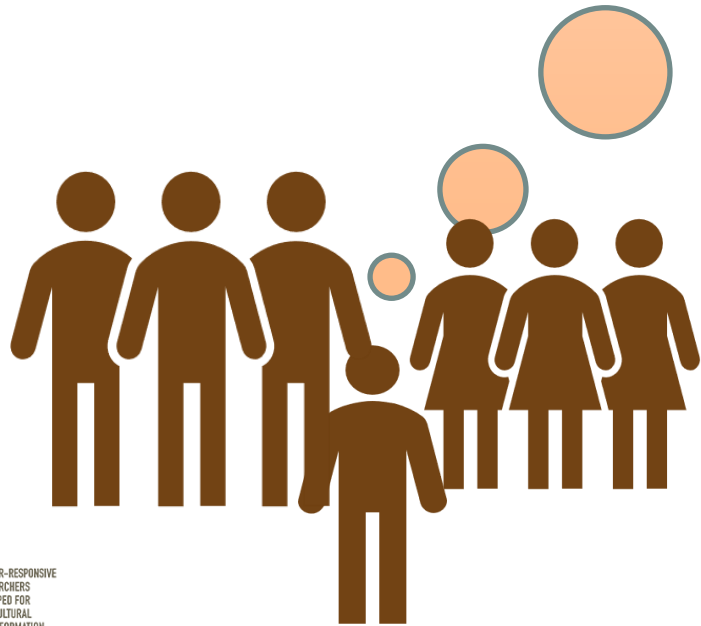
A total of 14 FGDs were conducted 1 (men only) 1(women only) 2 (youth women) 2(youth men), 2(old women) and 2(old men). with an intersection of youth in each category of gender to ascertain whether the community expectations and definition of a man differed across ages.

Analysis

Data was translated, transcribed and uploaded into ATLAS TI, where a code sheet was developed through read and re read process, transcripts code the transcripts, relevant codes were merged to underlying assumptions from the data set



Who is a man?.



Who is a man?

Older men

- ✓ Owner of the home
- ✓ Plans and controls use of HH income
- ✓ Financial provider for all HH needs
- ✓ Man doesn't do work in the domestic space
- ✓ Respect tied to household provisioning
- ✓ Religious grounding that guides day to day life
- ✓ Final decision maker
- ✓ Must have time to socialize with peers
- ✓ Live in harmony with wife

Young men

- ✓ Owner of the home
- ✓ Plans and controls use of HH income
- ✓ Financial provider for all HH needs
- ✓ Man doesn't do work in the domestic space
- ✓ Respect tied to household provisioning
- ✓ Must have cultural or religious grounding to guide day to day life
- ✓ Final decision maker, law maker
- ✓ Maker of the laws that guide the functioning of the home
- ✓ Must time time to socialize with peer
- ✓ Works for money



Who is a man?

17:134 ¶ 85 in Youth Men

“The first thing as man you are supposed to have

moneyif woman asks for anything if you have money everything becomes easy for you, a man should be having capacity and in case of anything you can handle.....For everything when you have money you can fulfill everything very well that is what is called a man.”

5:114 ¶ 559 in Old Man

.....specific activities meant for us men, you find
***the time I spend at home planting
and tending to Nakati,*** if people see you,
they can start saying that maybe I was bewitched, so you
also become ashamed.



Who is a man?

Young women

- ✓ Owner of the home
- ✓ Work for money
- ✓ Financial provider for HH needs
- ✓ Respect his wife
- ✓ Decision maker
- ✓ Man doesn't do work in the domestic space
- ✓ Socializes with his peers
- ✓ Allow his wife acquire employment

Older women

- ✓ Owner of the home
- ✓ Works for money
- ✓ Financial provider for all HH needs
- ✓ Man doesn't do work in the domestic space
- ✓ Final decision maker

1:14 ¶ 78 in Old women

*“We know a man in a home is the head of the home and **everything that requires money in the home rotates around him** in so many ways like how everything works in the home, that’s who they call a “responsible man.....”*



Who is a man?

Stated by both men and women groups

Work

- ✓ Man doesn't do work in the domestic space

Money

- ✓ Financial Provider for all HH needs
- ✓ Engages in work that pays

Ownership of the home

- ✓ Headship and leadership of the home

Household Decision making

- ✓ Final decision maker especially in both young and old, men groups and old women

Leisure time for men

- ✓ Socialising with his peers and important time for women but also men

Stated by either men or women

Money

- ✓ Plan and control of money

What guides their behavior

- ✓ Cognizant of their the need for a cultural or religious anchoring to guide



A fear of being disrespected

....men fear that if women join SAA groups they are not going to start earning some the money.

Men fear that if a woman gets money, she will not be easy to control.”

13:134 ¶ 228 in Youth men

Abandonment of their HH provisioning role

“Currently men have turned out to be serious conmen **they will not provide necessary basic needs and that will force the woman** to use all their little money that they will have earned until they fulfill the norm that women should not have any money on them.”

10:79 ¶ 157 in Old women



Conclusion and Implications

- ✓ What a man can do can be negotiated in different spaces it is good to explore such areas to enhance their participation in nutrition sensitive agriculture.
- ✓ The definitions of masculinities can be diverse even in a specific given context and we need to understand these diversities and how they impact on agriculture interventions





Acknowledgment

