

IMAGES Country Study Documentation

India

2014

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KEY OBJECTIVES

The primary objective was to assess the dimensions and determinants of men's knowledge, attitudes and behavior on issues related to gender equality, son preference and intimate partner violence. Men and women's behavior and attitudes were explored to offer a comparative understanding and insights for gender differentiated policies and programs to address gender equity. How women internalize male dominance and control in their lives and its effect on their own attitudes towards gender inequality and son preference were important aspects of this study. The study also offers a better understanding of women's internalization of societal norms of masculinity.

The overall objective of this study was to understand the dimensions, nature and determinants of Indian men's attitudes about son preference and intimate partner violence. The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Assess men's current behavior and attitudes on a wide range of issues as they relate to gender equality

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KEY OBJECTIVES

- Assess men's knowledge and attitudes towards son preference and intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Explore contributing factors that can be attributed to men's attitudes and behaviors related to IPV and son preference
- Explore factors that may explain variation in men's behaviors in their family lives and intimate and sexual relationships, including childhood experiences of violence, gender norms in family of origin, stress, migration, and unemployment, among others

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DATA COLLECTION

In a selected Primary Sampling Unit (PSU), a first step was to identify the area's boundaries by verifying the space using State Census Office maps and/or talking to knowledgeable members of the community. Listing teams were responsible for preparing a layout map of PSUs. During household listing operation the information on the number of eligible men/women in the structure, name of eligible men/women, address etc., was collected. Using this information the sampling frame was prepared. The house listing exercise was pivotal for this type of a survey as it provided the sample frame from which target respondents were to be chosen. Towards the listing exercise for 75 male PSUs, 15 teams consisting of one lister and one mapper were deployed in each state to complete the sampling activity in one month. In the case of the 26 female PSUs, 5 teams of one lister and one mapper were deployed in states for the same length of time. For the main survey in male PSUs, 5 teams consisting of four male interviews and one supervisor were deployed to each state. For the female PSUs, 4 teams were deployed with a small team size of two female interviewers and one supervisor.

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DATA COLLECTION

The teams worked under the overall supervision of a field executive. The lead professionals from ICRW were present in the field during the initiation of field work, to ensure that the initial problems were solved and the quality of data collection was maintained. The quality assurance team member of ICRW was present in the field for the entire duration of data collection. A total of 9,205 men and 3,158 women were covered in the study.

During the data collection and fieldwork, core team members from ICRW regularly visited the study sites to ensure interview quality and respondents' safety. In a few cases respondents refused to be a part of the survey for reasons like paucity of time or ill health. A data-entry program with in-built consistency and range checks was prepared in Census Survey and Processing System (CSPro) and was utilized for data entry. Data was double entered to ensure that it was free from data entry errors. After the completion of data entry, data was cleaned; this process involved the identification of missing data, range and distribution checks, and internal reliability and validity checks for important variables.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

We surveyed a total of 9,205 men and 3,158 women, aged 18-49 in the following seven states across India: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (counted as one, since they are contiguous states with cultural overlap), Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. These states were chosen because of their large size in terms of population, diverse demographic compositions and their varying sex ratio trends – an indicator of son preference.

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RESPONSE RATE

The total response rate for men and women was 92.9% and 95.6%, respectively.

States	Target					
	Men			Women		
	Actual	Inflated	Response Rate	Actual	Inflated	Response Rate
Uttar Pradesh	1500	1650	92.6	500	550	95.6
Rajasthan	1500	1650	91.8	500	550	91.2
Punjab & Haryana	1500	1650	89.9	500	550	97.8
Odisha	1500	1650	97.6	500	550	94.3
Madhya Pradesh	1500	1650	90.9	500	550	91.1
Maharashtra	1500	1650	94.8	500	550	95.5
Total	9000	9900	92.9	3000	3300	95.6

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WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Appropriate weights were developed taking into account the sampling design and the sample allocations made to different units at different levels of sampling. The study covered six states or state groups, and in each state both rural and urban areas with a specific sampling design described above. As the study covered male and females ages 18-49 years separately, weights were worked out separately for them at all the levels.

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MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

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QUALITY CONTROL

Quality control mechanisms were put in place in all phases of the study. The following measures were taken to ensure the quality of the data:

Interviewer manual: The interviewer manual contained details of the survey procedures, eligibility criteria, interviewing techniques and provided clarifications on individual questions and codes. The interviewer manual set the benchmark for different activities discussed above and was the reference document for fieldwork conduct that included behavioral conduct for investigators and supervisors, professional conduct, communication and reporting, respondent selection criteria, fieldwork monitoring protocols, instructions for recording responses and coding for questions.

Scrutiny of questionnaires: All the filled in questionnaires were carefully scrutinized by field supervisors before leaving the village/ward. The supervisor was responsible for the scrutiny with special emphasis on logical checks and interrelations between responses to various questions in different sections.

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QUALITY CONTROL

The interviewers were sent back to the respondent for clarification, if required. Further, supervisors looking after the household survey made spotchecks and back-checks in 20% of the schedules completed by the interviewers in their team.

Refusals and non-response: To ensure quality field data collection the records of all non-response, refusals and incomplete interviews were documented. Teams often had to revisit PSUs to ensure the desired sample size. Regular monitoring: The field executives monitored the performance of the supervisors who in-turn maintained a performance sheet for the investigators on a daily basis. The field executive also visited the survey sites to observe quality of data being gathered and work of the supervisors. Random checks on 10% of completed interviews were conducted by field executives. Regular reports were sent to the project coordinator on the progress of the fieldwork, problems faced and to seek clarifications, if any. Field executives also organized debriefing and feedback sessions whenever required.

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QUALITY CONTROL

Involvement of researchers: The researchers were also involved during all phases of the fieldwork with regular interactions with investigators, supervisors and the field executives to have a detailed account of how the quality of data was being monitored. Regular feedback sessions with field teams were also conducted by researchers to gather insights on the actual field situation, share experiences and problems in data collection and solutions arrived at.

Quality monitors: In addition to the above, independent quality assurance monitors, reporting directly to ICRW, were recruited for monitoring the data. The role of monitors was to accompany the teams and review the listing and selection process, accompany the interviewers in some sections and review the filled in tools. They also supported teams during the consent process and provided feedback to teams on a daily basis. These monitors kept on rotating from one team to other throughout the survey.

8 INTERVIEWER TRAINING

A five-day rigorous training of trainers (ToT) conducted by ICRW was held in New Delhi where the core team members and field executives from all six study states attended. An extensive gender sensitization workshop by ICRW experts and UNFPA representatives was organized during the training in addition to sessions on genderbased violence, research ethics and field-related processes. After the ToT, state-level training was conducted for field teams in Punjab and Haryana to prepare the teams for field challenges, to anticipate and address similar situations in other selected states. After a three day listing training, the listing exercise was launched in the field at least 10 days ahead of the main survey training, in order to have a sampling frame ready by the time the main field teams were ready for fieldwork after their training. A six day main survey training was organized for the field teams for each state separately following the launch of the first field study. The data collection happened in phases to allow for the ICRW research and quality assurance team to be present in the trainings. The trainings comprised of classroom interactions, field practice and debriefing sessions.

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INTERVIEWER TRAINING

Steps were taken to make the classroom sessions interactive by encouraging questions, using visual aids such as black/white boards, audiovisual presentations as well as organizing mock/practice interviews. Investigators were selected based on minimum educational requirements (Bachelor's degree) and further screened for the final data collection after the training and observation of their work over the first few days of data collection.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

AC Nielsen India Pvt. Ltd. was selected for the implementation of the study through a competitive bidding process.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

The study protocol, sampling method, study tools were approved by ICRW's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The study teams including the researchers, field executives, interviewers and supervisors were made aware of the sensitivity of the topic being explored under the study and were encouraged to minimize discomfort to study participants. The ethical guidelines on studying sensitive issues were strictly followed throughout the data collection phase and analysis. To protect the rights of the respondents, we obtained their verbal consent to participate in the interviews after providing them important information regarding the purpose of the study, nature of information required, benefits of the study, assuring them of anonymity and confidentiality. To ensure that respondents understood what they were agreeing to, the consent form was prepared in vernacular language using simple and clear statements. Further, the interviewers were encouraged to respond to questions, if any, asked by the respondents and provide necessary clarifications.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

The consent form was read to the respondents and they were in turn asked to provide their verbal consent to participate in the interview. For those respondents who gave their consent for the interview, the interviewer signed and dated the consent form before the interview was started. Furthermore, privacy during the interview process was safeguarded to the extent possible. Care was taken to ensure that individual interviews took place in isolation whether inside the respondent's house or outside to maintain some level of privacy. This process was especially challenging in urban slum areas. However, interviewers and supervisors worked with community and family members to ensure the privacy for respondents.

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NOTES ON STUDY

In the present study conducted by ICRW in collaboration with UNFPA, ICRW further adapt the IMAGES methodology to more deeply understand masculinity's intrinsic relationship with son preference and intimate partner violence in seven Indian states.



IMAGES

International
Men and Gender
Equality Survey