

Findings of research on VYA needs and risks. IMC Ethiopia

By Hailu Bekele

Health Program Manager

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Qualitative Findings



I. Significant Influences

Religion –

- Important determinant for SRH behaviors and norms;
- Every group mentioned the role of mosques, imams, and Islam in their daily lives,
- Provided information and knowledge, including expected behaviors between men and women

Parents/ Family –

- VYAs receive information from parents (and Imams)
- Older adolescents receive more information from parents and siblings
- Difficult to discuss body change and puberty- as adolescents were very shy

Other sources of influence (less significant)-

- IMC women centers
- Schools
- Media and village admin for host community

II. Male/ Female Relationships

(cultural restrictions prohibit direct questions about sexual relationships)

- Society is highly segregated by sex
- Boys and girls interact until age 10, and then highly restricted
- After puberty: “friendly relationships” between sexes, are only considered in the context of marriage
- Curiosity about exploring relationships between sexes, is seen as sign of readiness for marriage.

III. Education

- Viewed as a way out of poverty; provides stature in society.
- Most obtain Islamic education when young (10-13)
- Boys are more likely to attend school than girls.
- Most girls drop out at 15 for household chores/marriage
- Some boys drop out in order to get money for household, (through firewood selling or restaurant work)
- Parents determine attendance at school

IV. Risks (adolescent girls)

Early marriage

- Frequently raised in adolescent girls' FGD
- Major barrier to educational attainment
- Adults aware of health concerns/ risks

Sexual violence

- Noted to be one of the primary reasons for leaving Somalia
- Girls faced risks when walking alone, out of the camp, to water or firewood points, when moving around after dark

Female Genital Cutting

- Raised by this younger adolescent group
- It is a health concern among young women
- Adolescents want NGOs to work on FGC and early marriage.

Quantitative Findings

I. Demographics

Demography:

Sample of 404 (212 Girls and 192 Boys)

- 89% help care of other children in the house
- 80% have both parents alive
- 73% live with both parents.

II. Networks and Relationships

Peer & Romantic Relationship –

- Adolescents have at least ONE same-sex friend that is considered a close friend;
- Most reported no opposite sex close friends;
- Less than ½ felt appropriate to have opposite sex close friends,
- Only 16% said agreed that it was appropriate to have bodily contact with opposite sex adolescents

III. Puberty and SRH information

– Puberty

- 12% girls experienced menarche; 20% don't know about it
- 8% boys reported voice change; 20% don't know about it.

– Knowledge

- 87% learnt about body changes before occurring (96% females) – parents, siblings & peers are source of info
- 20% females learnt about pregnancy – parents & peers

– Comfort

- 96% are comfortable to become men/women
- 83% comfortable with body changes

– Preferred source of info – peers and parents

IV. Safety and Risk

5 critical risks identified

- Poverty
- Forced work
- Violence
- Not in School
- Marriage & Pregnancy

Girls expressed specific concerns about violence, early marriage and FGC

Thank you