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Gender power and women's ability to negotiate self-protection against HIV/AIDS in Dodoma Municipality, Tanzania

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***Abstract*---**The aim of the present study is to examine the impact of gender power on women's ability to negotiate condom use with their sexual partners in Dodoma Municipality in order to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. Multi-stage semi-purposive random sampling method was applied in obtaining 500 sample from Dodoma Municipality. Structured closed end interview schedule was used as a tool for primary data collection. Data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics for percentage distribution and Chi-square test and binary logistic regression model to find associations among categorical variables. The odds ratio shows that the age difference of the partner,7-9,6-4,0-3 years were (OR=1.350,95% CI: 0.782–2.329,p=0.000), (OR=3.572,95%CI:1.911–6.675,p=0.000)and (OR=2.691,95% CI: 1.302–5.558,p=0.000), times more likely to negotiate condom use as compared with 10+ years age difference (as ref= category 10+ yrs).Economically independent women are 1.313(95% CI: 0.802–2.151) times more likely to negotiate condom use with their partner. As far as experienced forced sex is concerned, it is most significant predator with p value 0.000. According to present study, educational attainment, age difference of the partner, economic dependency and experienced forced Sex which are most influencing factors. And those limiting women's ability to negotiate with their intimate sexual partner about condom use.

***Keywords*---**negotiation, gender power, HIV/AIDS, self-protection.

Introduction

HIV/AIDS is a major public health concern and cause of death in many parts of Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for an estimated 69 percent(23.5 million out of 34 million worldwide) of all people living with HIV (Global fact sheet,2012) and 70 percent of all AIDS deaths in 2011(UNAIDS, 2012). Even

though the continent is home to about 15.2 percent of the world's population and prevalence of HIV/AIDS disproportionate to its population(Current world populations ,2013). In Sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of the people living with HIV are women which constitutes 59% and when it is compared with men(28%) very high(UNFPA,2010).In sub-Saharan Africa ,young women aged 15-24 years are as much as 8 times more likely than men to be HIV positive(UNAIDS,2010).The vulnerability of HIV remains high among women and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa about 76% in the world(WHO,2007). Several factors concerned in the unequal prevalence of HIV and other sexual transmitted infections among the women in Africa, which including economic dependency as a result of inequitable material resource allocation and that elevating widespread female poverty and Gender systems that promote unequal distribution of sexual power (sexual violence and coercion) and sexual freedom and sexual satisfaction and limited educational opportunities to women (Martin SL & Curtis S, 2004). The patriarchal nature of African societies continues to shape women's sexual behaviour in the region. This in turn accounts for the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women in sub-Saharan Africa(Prata.L, et al,2006).

Condom use is the most appropriate intervention in sub-Saharan African countries to reduce the prevalence of HIV and other Sexual transmitted Infections(Alemu, D. H,et al ,2007). However, studies have shown that prevalence of condom use is lowest and inconsistent in sub -Saharan African countries (Lema, R.,et al , 2008).Several socio-economic and gender factors responsible with non-condom use among people in Sub- Saharan countries (Schoepf, B.G.,1998). A number of research reports emphasizing the importance of communication between sexual partners concerning condom use (Varga, C. 1997).In this situation women able to negotiate safer sex practices with their sexual partners is very important in reducing the prevalence of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and other Sexual transmitted infections (STI)(Noar S. M,2008). It is therefore important to understand the different factors which are influencing or driving women's negotiation process of condom use with their sexual partners. Hence the present study was begun with the following specific objectives. The aim of this present study is to examine the impact of gender power and other factors on women's ability to negotiate condom use with their sexual partners in Dodoma Urban in order to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Materials and Methods

Study area

Table 1
The Geographical sketch of Dodoma division

Division	Number of wards	Number of villages
Urban Division	17	7
Hombolo Division	5	16
Kikombo Division	3	7
Zuzu Division	5	12
Total	30	42

Dodoma municipality is the administrative capital of Tanzania and located in central part of the country. The municipality of Dodoma is subdivided into 4 Divisions which are further divided in to 30 Wards and 42 villages (The united Tanzanian website,2011) (Table1). The 17 wards of the Urban Division, has a total land area of 426 km2, has and a total population of 183,650 inhabitants. In the urban areas the main activities of the residents are commerce, urban farming, civil service employment and construction labour (General Report,2003).

Sampling procedure and size

Multi-stage semi-purposive random sampling method was applied in obtaining sample from Dodoma Municipality. The first stage involved in selection of Dodoma Urban division from four divisions of Dodoma municipality, in second stage purposively five wards were selected from Seventeen wards of in Dodoma Urban namely Majengo,kizato,Kilimani,Kiwanjacha mbege and Nzuguni and finally 100 sexually experienced women aged from 18 to 47 years were selected randomly from the above said each ward for the purpose of present study and those respondents were approached before they participate in the study. The final sample consisted of 500 women with age group of 18 to 47 years.

Data Collection Methods

In the present study a structured closed end Interview schedule was used as a tool for primary data collection and documentary review for secondary data. Pre - testing of the questionnaire was conducted for the purpose of checking the weakness and ambiguity of the questionnaire. Ten respondents were involved in testing the questionnaires in order to prove its validity and reliability.

Data analysis

Data were entered into Microsoft Excel 2003 spreadsheet and imported to SPSS 16.0.1 Window version for analysis. Data analysed including through descriptive statistics for percentage distribution and Chi-square test and binary logistic regression model were used to find associations between categorical variables. Odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence intervals were also calculated. All statistical tests were performed by using two-tailed tests at the 0.05 level of significance or significant at $p < 0.05$.

Ethics

The present study obtained ethical approval from regional medical officer, Dodoma region and permission from Municipal Director, Dodoma Municipality, Tanzania. The nature and purpose of the study were explained to the respondents and their respective parent/guardian/husband and verbal consent was taken from the respondents, who agreed to participate in this study. Confidentiality and privacy were assured to the respondents to maintain secrecy of their information.

Results

Sample Characteristics

Sample characteristics include the information about age group, marital status , educational attainment , age difference of the partner , economic dependency , experienced forced Sex and Negotiation of condom use (Table 2). A sample of 500 sexually experienced women from five wards of Dodoma urban division were selected for this study. The sample consists, the following characteristics such as, the majority of the respondents age group 28-37 years (42.8%) ,while remaining age groups are 18-27(39%) and 38-47(18.2%). More than half of the respondents (58.8%) are married and remaining unmarried. Most of the respondents having primary(55.6%) and secondary (25.0%)school education but very few of the respondents are illiterate(10.6%) and having higher education(8.8%).Regarding age difference of the partner,0-3 years elder (33.6%),4-6 years (37.8%) , 6-9 years (17.6%) and 10 +years (11%). As far as economic dependency on their sexual partners concerned, majority of them dependents (59.8%) and rest of them independent (40.2%). 7.8% of the respondents experienced forced sex and finally more than half (61.8%) of therespondents able to negotiate condom use with their sexual partners in their last sexual intercourse, but 38.2 % of the respondents fail to negotiate condom use with their sexual partners.

Relationship between ability of negotiation of condom use and Background variables

Table 3 shows the relationship between dependent variable and independent variables. Here independent variables are divided into two categories, background variables such as, education, marital status of the respondents and gender power variables included, the age difference between partners, economically dependency and forced sexual experience. The dependent variable is women's ability of negotiation of condom use with their sexual partners in last sexual intercourse ,coded 0 for negotiation and 1 is for non negotiation. It is from the perusal of the table 2, marital status of the woman and condom negotiation with her sexual partner were significantly associated with each other at 0.05 level (p=0.000) with X^2 (1,N=500)= 33.457 . The association between condom negotiation and education of the respondents highly significant with X^2 (3, N= 500) = 70.49 , P = 0.000.With regard the age difference of the partner , X^2 (3,N=500) = 34.428 , P = 0.000, these values manifesting the association that statistically extremely significant. Particularly the issue of economic dependence of the woman upon their co-partner and condom negotiation, X^2 (1,N=500) = 23.425,p = 0.000.It indicates the association is enormously significant. And finally Experienced forced Sex and condom negotiation were highly significantly associated with each other (X^2 (1, N= 500) = 42.984, p = .0.000).

Table 4, summarizes the roles of the parameters in the process in binary logistic regression analysis .Women's ability to negotiate condom use with her partner in last sexual intercourse considered as a dependent variable and education, marital status, the age difference between the partners ,economically dependency and forced sexual experience as independent variables. The Wald

statistic and the corresponding significance level test, the significance of each of the covariate and dummy independent variables in the model are shown in the table 4. If the Wald statistic is significant (i.e., less than 0.05) then the parameter is significant in the model. Marital status, which contrasts 'married women' with 'unmarried women' has an exp(B) = 0.425, which means that a married woman 0 .425 times less likely to have negotiation of condom use with their partner than unmarried women. If it is calculated the inverse of exp(B) here as 1/0.425 = 2.35, it could be said that a unmarried woman is 1.46 times more likely to negotiate condom use than married woman. As far as educational attainment is concerned, it is observed that on the whole, it is highly significant (p=0.000). Secondary, primary and illiteracy women are (OR=1.068,95% CI: 0.552–2.065) ,4.26 (OR=0.216,95% CI: 0.095–0.488) and 7.57 (OR=0.132,95% CI: 0.028–0.637) times lower condom negotiation than higher education woman.

With regard to Age difference of the partner, highly significant predictor to the model with p value 0.000 corresponding to negotiation of condom use. The odds ratios show that age difference of the partner , 7-9,4-6,0-3 years were (OR=1.350,95% CI: 0.782–2.329), (OR=3.572,95% CI: 1.911–6.675)and (OR=2.691,95% CI: 1.302–5.558), times more likely to have a negotiation of condom use with their male sexual partner in last sexual intercourse , as compared with 10+ years age difference partner (as ref= category 10+ yrs). Hence, it would be conclude that there was a strong association between women's ability of negotiation of condom use and age difference of the partner and women's ability of negotiation decreases with partner increased age. Now, particularly concerning, variable of economically dependent (Independent ref) as a whole is insignificant factor with p value 0.279 corresponding to condom negotiation. The Exp(B) column shows the relative odds (odds ratio) indicates that economically independent women are 1.313(95% CI: 0.802–2.151) times as likely to negotiate condom use with their partner .As far as Experienced forced sex is concerned, it is most significant predator with p value 0.000. Experienced forced sex women, 0.065 times less likely to have negotiation of condom use with their partner than inexperienced forced sex women. If we calculate the inverse of exp(B) here as 1/0.065 = 15.38, hence inexperienced forced sex woman is 15.38 times more likely to negotiate condom use with their partner. This study provides information about the education characteristics, Women who had higher education were more likely to use condoms at their last sex encounter compared to those with lower level education women in study area. Previous studies also illustrated that Self-perceived ability to use condoms and level of formal education were all significantly associated. These findings suggest that that gender inequality and access to formal education, as opposed to lack of HIV/AIDS knowledge, prevent safer sexual practices in South Africa (Loggerenberg F,et al ,2012).Regarding education of the women, whose having secondary and higher education were two times more likely to use condom than those women never been to school during their last sexual intercourse. Education enhances women's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to make decisions and freedom of expression (Dominic B,2012).It is important to promote women's education beyond primary school as a requirement for behavioural change for safe sex. Education is also recognized in the literature as a means for change in gender relations (Lopez Claros A & Zahidi S,2012).

A married woman less likely to have negotiation of condom use with their partner than unmarried women and this assertion is supported by some other studies which were conducted in Tanzania. Condom use was lowest among women who were married and highest among women who were single. women who were single being almost four times more likely than women who were married to have used a condom at the last sexual intercourse. Fear of breaking the relationship coupled with religious stance that condom use is a sin, makes it difficult for such married couples to ask their partners to use condoms (Bauni EK & Jarabi BO, 2003).Therefore, low condom use in marriage was expected, given the close association between marriage and fertility and the fact that condom use is not even one of the popular fertility control methods in Tanzania. On the other hand, the increased condom use among unmarried and ever married women is likely due to perceived risk of contracting STIs including HIV and unintended pregnancies (NBS, 2011).

Conclusion

According to present study, educational attainment, age difference of the partner, economic dependency and experienced forced Sex, which are most influencing factors and those limiting women's ability to negotiate with their intimate sexual partner about condom use. These predators well connected to gender power or patriarchal values. African societies still in patriarchal nature which fuelling illiteracy, wide spread of women poverty and economic dependency, eventually creating fear among women to negotiate condom use with their intimate partner. Policy makers must pay their attention on woman autonomy or women empowerment which is possible by providing wide educational, employment opportunities and equitable economic resources which promotes confidence, economic independence and health seeking behaviour ,in order to achieve better communication on HIV/AIDS among men and women.

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Competing interests

The author has no competing interest to declare.

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Tables

Table 2
Socio -demographic characteristics of the respondents (N=500)

Variable	n %
Age group	
18-27	195(39.0)
28-37	214(42.8)
38-47	91(18.2)
Marital status	
Married	294(58.8)
Unmarried	206(41.2)
Educational attainment	
Never been to school	53(10.6)
Primary	278(55.6)
Secondary	125(25.0)
Higher education	44(8.8)
Age difference of the partner	

0-3Years	168(33.6)
4-6 years	189(37.8)
7-9 Years	88(17.6)
10+	55(11.0)
Economic dependency	
Independent	201(40.2)
Dependent	299(59.8)
Experienced forced Sex	
Yes	39(7.8)
No	461(92.2)
Negotiation of condom use	
Yes	309(61.8)
No	191(38.2)

Table 3
Relationship between sexual intercourse status and independent variables

Variable	Negotiation of condom use Yes	Negotiation of condom use No	X^2-Value	p-value
Marital status			33.457	0.000
Married	152(48.8%)	142(75.1%)		
Unmarried	159(51.1%)	47(24.8%)		
Educational attainment			70.491	0.000
Never been to school	27(8.7%)	26(13.6%)		
Primary	135(43.6%)	143(74.8%)		
Secondary	105(33.9%)	20(10.4%)		
Higher education	42(13.5%)	2(1.0%)		
Age difference of the partner			34.428	0.000
0-3 Years	124(40.1%)	44(23.0%)		
4-6 years	124 (40.1%)	65(30.0%)		
7-9 Years	35(11.3%)	53(27.7%)		
10+	26(8.4)	29(15.1%)		
Economic			23.425	0.000

dependency				
Independent	150(48.5%)	51(26.7%)		
Dependent	159(51.4%)	140(73.2%)		
Experienced forced Sex			42.984	0.000
Yes	5(1.6%)	34(17.8%)		
No	304(98.3%)	157(82.1%)		

Table 4
Binary Logistic Regression Analysis of negotiation of condom use and variables

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Marital status(Married)	-.855	.246	12.082	1	.001	.425	.263	.689
Age difference of the partner(Ref category = 10+ years)			19.850	3	.000			
7-9	.300	.278	1.161	1	.281	1.350	.782	2.329
4-6	1.273	.319	15.922	1	.000	3.572	1.911	6.675
0-3	.990	.370	7.149	1	.008	2.691	1.302	5.558
Educational attainment(Ref category Higher education)			34.421	3	.000			
Secondary	.066	.336	.038	1	.845	1.068	.552	2.065
Primary	-1.534	.417	13.542	1	.000	.216	.095	.488
Illiteracy	-2.022	.801	6.367	1	.012	.132	.028	.637

	Economic dependency (Ref category Independent)	.273	.252	1.174	1	.279	1.313	.802	2.151
	Experienced forced Sex(Ref category =Yes)	-2.734	.540	25.660	1	.000	.065	.023	.187
	Constant	2.112	.663	10.155	1	.001	8.262		

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: var2, var3, var4, var5, var9.