Effect of a gender-synchronized family planning intervention on inequitable gender norms among husbands of married adolescent girls in a cluster randomized control trial in Niger


INTRODUCTION

• Four-arm cluster randomized control trial of the effects of receiving one year of the Reaching Married Adolescents in Niger (RMA) program to increase healthy birth spacing among married adolescent girls (age 13-19) and their husbands
• 48 villages in Dosso region (Logo, Doutchi, Dosso) randomly assigned (2 stages) to one of four arms:
  Arm 1: Household visits by community health worker
  Arm 2: Small group (gender-specific) sessions
  Arm 3: Household visits + small groups
  Arm 4: Control (4 villages from each district)
• This study: Assessed effects of RMA on perceived inequitable gender norms among husbands (secondary outcomes)

METHODS

• N=1,080 husbands

CONCLUSION

One year of exposure to the RMA Small Group intervention shows evidence of reducing inequitable gender norms among husbands married to adolescents in Niger

• Group-based interventions allow for perceptions of norms to change
• A low-cost, simple, scalable, and transferrable intervention with promising evidence
• One of a limited number of evaluations of social norm-focused interventions in low- and middle-income contexts showing direct effects on social norms
• Could be valuable model for shifting inequitable gender norms in similar settings.

Next Steps: Did these changes contribute to reductions in IPV and increases in contraceptive use?

This work was supported by Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health under Grant F31HD100019-01 and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation under Grant OPP1195210. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health. Neither funder was involved in the design of the study, the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data, or in writing the manuscript.