



HPTN

HIV Prevention
Trials Network



Gendered Perspectives on a Female-Directed Cash Transfer Program for HIV Prevention

HPTN 068

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Introduction

- Cash transfers (CTs) assessed for poverty, human capital & health including HIV.
- Continued interest to expand social protection programs.
- Need to recognise the impact of CTs on social relations
- HPTN068 provided CTs conditional to 80% school attendance
 - R100 (~USD 10) to the girl
 - R200 (~USD 20) to the parent/guardian

Aim: to understand how men perceive female-directed cash transfer programs; and their impact on their relations with cash recipients?

Methods

Study site: Rural Agincourt, Mpumalanga, South Africa

Study period: Between Sep 2012 –Sep 2015

Population: Males peers & romantic partners

Data collection:

- ✓ Focus Group Discussions (12) [male peers]
- ✓ In-depth interviews (20) [partners]

Data analysis: Transcripts, QC, double- coded, thematic analysis used to analyse data

Moral Behaviour

**“Stopped girls from
bad things”**
(male peers)



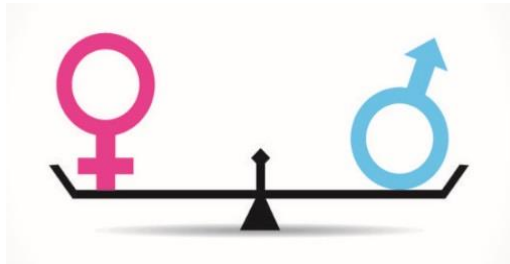
- Independent from men
- Moral behaviour
- Reduce transactional sex
- Multiple partnerships

“...they get helped because some of them involve themselves in relationships with multiple boyfriends just to get money; and since they started getting the money they reduced the number of boyfriends.” (FGD02)

Power Relations

“Now it’s 50/50”
(male peers)

- Power = money & decision making/ choices
- Debates on power relations
- Refused coerced sex
- Reversed gender roles



Feelings of Rejection

“They dump us”
(male peers)

- No mingling
- Break-up relationships
- Access to other men



“It’s her money... It helps her” (partners)

- Money useful for girls
- No interest on details on conditionality, amount & spending

“We never spoke about the money; I did not want to be involved [laughs]” (YWP002)

Ease Pressure

- No change in relationship-men providers
- Ease pressure to provide
- CT too little to be intimidating

“It did not take my role, it aided on my responsibility” (partners)

Perceptions About Trial Procedures

- HIV testing and knowledge are key benefits
 - ✓ YW aware of their HIV status
 - ✓ YW became cautious about engaging risky sexual behaviour
- Improved YW-partner communication about sex & HIV
- Negative about cash transfer program:
 - ✓ Exclusion of boys/ men, YW (control)

Discussion & Conclusion

- CTs perceived by both male peers and partners as favourable with only male peers reporting exclusion of males as negative.
- CTs perceived to influence power relations between male peers and YW **BUT** not by partners.
- Male peers emphasised the importance of HIV testing and information for both males and females in this context.

Conclusion:

- Males peers and partners support CTs to YW.

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The HPTN 068 Study Team
Study participants