



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

A FOCUS ON GENDER Collected Papers on Gender Using DHS Data



A FOCUS ON GENDER

COLLECTED PAPERS ON GENDER USING DHS DATA

August 2005

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was edited by Sunita Kishor of ORC Macro.

A Focus on Gender

Collected Papers on Gender Using DHS Data

**ORC Macro
Calverton, Maryland, USA**

August 2005

This report consists of a series of invited papers on the dynamics of gender in developing countries. The papers were prepared by researchers recognized for their work in the areas of demography, reproductive health, and gender. The analyses presented are based on data from the Demographic and Health Surveys program (MEASURE DHS). Funding was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.

The MEASURE DHS project, which is implemented by ORC Macro, is designed to collect, analyze, and disseminate data on fertility, family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS. Additional information about the MEASURE DHS project may be obtained from ORC Macro, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705 (telephone: 301-572-0200; fax: 301-572-0999; email: reports@orcmacro.com; internet: www.measuredhs.com).

Kishor, Sunita, Ed. 2005. *A Focus on Gender: Collected Papers on Gender Using DHS Data*. Calverton, Maryland, USA: ORC Macro.

Production Editor: Sidney H. Moore
Report Production: Justine Faulkenburg
Cover design: John Chang

CONTENTS

AUTHORS.....	vii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
<i>Sunita Kishor</i>	
1 Gender in the Demographic and Health Surveys	1
2 Highlights of the Papers Included in This Volume	7
TWO CONCEPTS OF FEMALE EMPOWERMENT: SOME LEADS FROM DHS DATA ON WOMEN'S STATUS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	
<i>Alaka Malwade Basu and Gayatri Brij Koolwal</i>	
1 Introduction.....	15
2 The Data.....	19
2.1 Empowerment as Self-indulgence.....	25
2.2 Empowerment as Responsibility.....	26
3 Women's Empowerment and Women's Health-Related Outcomes.....	28
3.1 Food Consumption.....	28
3.2 Anemia.....	33
3.3 Body Mass Index.....	34
3.4 Health Problems Suffered After the Last Birth	34
3.5 Reproductive Tract Problems.....	38
3.6 Sought Advice for Reproductive Tract Problems.....	38
4 Women's Empowerment and Children's Health-Related Outcomes.....	39
4.1 Antenatal Care	39
4.2 Place of Delivery of Last Birth.....	40
4.3 Survival Status of Last Child	40
4.4 Hemoglobin Level of Youngest Living Child.....	44
4.5 Immunization Status of Child.....	44
5 Discussion	49
References	51

WOMEN'S DECISIONMAKING AND CHILD HEALTH: FAMILIAL AND SOCIAL HIERARCHIES.....		55
<i>Sonalde Desai and Kiersten Johnson</i>		
1	Introduction.....	55
2	Empowerment: Agency and Structure	55
3	Women's Empowerment and Child Health	56
4	Women's Empowerment: Familial and Social Contexts	57
5	Data.....	59
6	Statistical Methods	61
6.1	Individual-Level Equation.....	61
6.2	Cluster-Level Equations	62
7	Results	62
8	Discussion	65
	References	67
VILLAGE IN THE CITY: AUTONOMY AND MATERNAL HEALTH-SEEKING AMONG SLUM POPULATIONS OF MUMBAI.....		69
<i>Zoë Matthews, Martyn Brookes, R. William Stones, and Mian Bazle Hossain</i>		
1	Introduction.....	69
2	Autonomy and Maternal Health Care Seeking.....	70
3	Two Mumbai Surveys with Comparable Information About Autonomy and Maternal Careseeking in Slums.....	71
4	Levels of Autonomy Among New Mothers in Mumbai	73
5	Relationship Between Autonomy and Autonomy Proxies Such as Education and Employment.....	77
6	Maternal Careseeking in Mumbai.....	79
7	Autonomy as a Correlate of Maternal Careseeking Behavior.....	81
8	Discussion	85
	References	89

**WOMEN'S AUTONOMY, STATUS, AND NUTRITION IN ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA,
AND MALAWI 93**

Michelle J. Hindin

1	Introduction.....	93
1.1	Defining a “Resource-Constrained” Context.....	93
1.2	HIV and Nutritional Status	94
1.3	Women’s Autonomy and Anthropometry	94
2	Methodology	95
2.1	Sample	95
2.2	Dependent Variable	95
2.3	Independent Variables.....	95
2.4	Measures of Women’s Relative Status, Women’s Status in Society, and Decisionmaking Autonomy.....	96
2.5	Statistical Analyses.....	97
3	Results	98
3.1	Background Characteristics	98
3.2	Factors Associated with Decisionmaking Autonomy	102
4	Factors Associated with Chronic Energy Deficiency.....	107
4.1	Sociodemographic Characteristics and Women’s and Partner’s Characteristics	107
4.2	Women’s Relative Status, Women’s Status in Society, and Decisionmaking Autonomy.....	109
5	Multivariate Regression of Chronic Energy Deficiency	109
6	Discussion	113
	References	115

**CONDOM USE IN UGANDA AND ZIMBABWE: EXPLORING THE INFLUENCE OF
GENDERED ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND COUPLE-LEVEL DYNAMICS 117**

Zubia Mumtaz, Emma Slaymaker, and Sara Salway

1	Introduction.....	117
2	Gendered Access to Resources, Couple Dynamics, and Condom Use: A Conceptual Framework	118
3	Methodology and Data	122
3.1	Gendered Access to Resources	122
3.2	Gendered Couple Dynamics	123
3.3	Analysis Strategy	124

4	Findings.....	126
4.1	Levels and Differentials in Indicators of Gendered Access to Resources.....	126
4.2	Sexual Activity and Predictors of Condom use Among all Married Men and Women.....	128
5	Conclusions and Discussion.....	135
5.1	Male Versus Female Patterns.....	135
5.2	Importance of Couple Characteristics.....	136
5.3	Zimbabwe versus Uganda.....	138
5.4	Measuring Gendered Influences on Condom Use.....	138
	References	141
	WOMEN AT THE NEXUS OF POVERTY AND VIOLENCE: HOW UNIQUE IS THEIR DISADVANTAGE?	147
	<i>Sunita Kishor and Kiersten Johnson</i>	
1	A Review of What is Known About Women at the Nexus of Poverty and Violence.....	149
1.1	The Relationship of Poverty to Domestic Violence	149
1.2	Linkages Between Poverty, Domestic Violence, and Selected Reproductive Health Outcomes	150
2	Data, Definitions and Methodology.....	152
2.1	Data.....	152
2.2	Definitions.....	152
2.3	Methodology.....	155
3	Profiles of Women According to Their Experience of Spousal Violence.....	157
4	The Poverty-Violence Association: Is There Any?.....	159
5	Women at the Nexus of Violence and Poverty: Are They Unique in Their Disadvantage?	161
5.1	Do Women at the Nexus of Poverty and Violence Differ in Significant Ways from Other Women?	161
5.2	Do Women at the Nexus of Poverty and Violence Differ Significantly from Other Women in Terms of Selected Demographic and Reproductive Health Outcomes?.....	164
6	Summary and Conclusions.....	172
	References	175

AUTHORS

Alaka Malwade Basu, Cornell University, USA

Martyn Brookes, Westminster Primary Care Trust, UK

Sonalde Desai, University of Maryland, USA

Michelle J. Hindin, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA

Mian Bazle Hossain, Morgan State University, USA

Kiersten Johnson, ORC Macro, USA

Sunita Kishor, ORC Macro, USA

Gayatri Brij Koolwal, Cornell University, USA

Zoë Matthews, University of Southampton, UK

Zubia Mumtaz, David Thompson Health Region, AB, Canada

Sara Salway, University of Sheffield, UK

Emma Slaymaker, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

R. William Stones, University of Southampton, UK