

Title

ADolescents GEndEr SurVey, REsponsible CoupLes EvaluatiOn, and Capacity Building Project in India (DEVELOP): A study protocol

Supplementary 1: Participant information sheet for Adolescents

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS- Quantitative survey of 16 to 19 year old adolescents

Title of study

Adolescents Gender Survey, Responsible Couples Evaluation, and Capacity Building Project in India

Short title: DEVELOP

We would like to invite you to take part in this research study by completing a private questionnaire.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what taking part will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask a member of staff if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this research is to understand the attitudes and beliefs of young people aged from 16 to 19 years of age about gender equality – in our study this means beliefs about how girls or women are treated and regarded in communities. This will help us to gather information to plan projects in the future to improve equality in communities in Maharashtra state, and also in other parts of India.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this study because of the following two reasons,

- You are in the right age group - 16 to 19 years
- You live in one of the villages from HMF's project field area in Maharashtra state of India

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to take part in the study you will be asked to read and understand this information sheet. If you would like to take part the survey will take place in your village at a local health centre/community hall/school. You will be told what day the survey research team will visit your village when you receive this information sheet.

The project staff will be at the data collection site for 1 day (called Data Station), and you are welcome to visit at any time that day..

You will be given a questionnaire to complete. You will be also given an envelope, which you will use to securely seal your completed questionnaire before placing it in a box as you leave the room. The questions on the survey are about your views and beliefs on gender -equality (equal treatments and rights for men and women). Please note that questionnaire has NO personal identifiable information such as name, age, home address, contact details. Please do not write any such information on the questionnaire. It will take about 20-30 minutes to complete the questionnaire. We will ask you to participate only once.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us at the data station in your village if you wish to take part. If you do not wish to take part simply dispose of this sheet and you will not be asked further.

Payment/Incentives

There is no financial benefit if you participate in this study.

Once you put your questionnaire envelope in the box given, you will be offered some reading material on gender equality. You can carry this with you.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

All questions in the questionnaire are widely used in gender related research activities with young people. However, if you get upset, you can withdraw your participation anytime. Additionally, if you need help or wish to speak to someone please discuss with a member of staff. You can also access HMF's counselling centre if you like. The contact details are given at the end of this document.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits if you take part in this study. You will be given a reading material to take home to know more about gender equality. Your participation will help us to understand gender related data in adolescent population to design projects in the future.

Data handling and confidentiality

We will not collect any information that can be used to identify you. The questionnaires will be kept secure in locked cabinets in the research office at HMF. The questionnaire data will be entered in computer system. The computer files will be used to conduct data analysis in India and UK. When your data is handled in the UK, it will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). This is one of the legislations in the UK, which will be followed in this study.

The collected data will be used to conduct data analysis, generate research papers, conduct workshops, conferences etc. After project completion, the data will be stored only in the UK. This data may be used for future research projects, and will be shared with other researchers at the University of Hull, UK and other partner institutes in the UK to generate research outputs. Such data sharing will follow UK data laws on privacy .

Data Protection Statement

There is no personal identifiable data collected in this survey. All research data in anonymised form will be stored at the University of Hull as explained in detail earlier. The data storage process will be GDPR complaint wherever applicable.

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw at any point of the study, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the study will not affect you in any way. You are able to withdraw your data at the time of completing questionnaire only. As there is no personal information collected at any stage during this study, once your questionnaire is submitted in an envelope, we will be no longer able to identify your questionnaire in order to withdraw your data.

How is the project being funded?

This study is being funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund (Internal Responsive Mode Pump Priming Grant) given to the University of Hull, by the Government of UK. The website of the University of Hull is <https://www.hull.ac.uk>

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be summarised to understand gender related knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in young people. All survey findings will be published in journals, conferences, workshops etc. There is no personal information collected in this study, so all collected data is

completely anonymised at the time of data collection in your village itself. The anonymised data may be made publically available for research purposes.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this study or your participation, please contact concerned person using the following contact details:

Ms Sandhya Rankhamb, Senior Research Co-ordinator, DEVELOP Project, Halo Medical Foundation, At Post Andur, Block Tuljapur, Dist Osmanabad, Maharashtra, India 413603.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this study or your participation, please contact concerned person using the following contact details: Ms Sandhya Rankhamb, Senior Research Co-ordinator, DEVELOP Project, Halo Medical Foundation, At Post Andur, Block Tuljapur, Dist Osmanabad, Maharashtra, India 413603.

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study, you can contact the Halo Medical Foundation, India using the details below for further advice and information: Ms Shilpa Toro, Project Manager, DEVELOP Project, Halo Medical Foundation, At Post Andur, Block Tuljapur, Dist Osmanabad, Maharashtra, India 413603.

If you need any counselling support, then please contact

HMF Counselling Centre (Known as SAVALI Kendra), Ms Vasanti Mule, Halo Medical Foundation, At Post Andur, Block Tuljapur, Dist Osmanabad, Maharashtra, India 413603.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research

Note- Please note the phone numbers of outlined staff are not included in this supplementary (provided for this publication) due to security and privacy reasons.

Supplementary 2: Questionnaire survey of 16 to 19 year old adolescents DEVELOP Scale

Please write today's date	___/___/____ (DD/ MM/ YYYY)	
1. Age (permitted between 16 and 19 years only)	_____ years (current age)	
2. Sex (male/female)	If male tick (✓) this box.	If female tick (✓) this box.
3. Name of your village		
4. Name of your block and district	Block: _____ District: _____	
Please put tick (✓) in the given box to indicate your answer unless indicated otherwise		
5. Are you attending school or college?	Yes	No
6. Are you doing any paid work outside your family (within farm/factory/shop- externally employed)?	Yes	No
7. How many older living siblings do you have?	Brothers (write number)	Sisters (write number)
8. How many younger living siblings do you have? (write numbers)	Brothers (write number)	Sisters (write number)
9. How would you describe your parents' house structure?	Permanent (example: a roof made up of cement and steel slab)	
	Semi-permanent (example: a roof made up of metal sheets fixed to wooden/metal bars)	
	Temporary (example: a roof made up of wood or material from wood fixed by ropes/metal wires)	
10. Do your parents own a television set?	Yes	No
11. Do you own a mobile phone?	Yes	No
12. Do your parents own a mobile phone?	Yes	No

DEVELOP Scale (select only one answer for each question, Put (✓) in the chosen box)

A) Knowledge related to gender beliefs and gender based role allocation (9 questions)			
Questions	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
1. Only men or boys should work outside the house Example: on agricultural farm or other paid jobs			
2. Men need more care and support as they work harder than women			
3. The husband or father or brother (male person in the family) should decide to buy any major household items			
4. A man or brother or father (male person in the family) should have the final word about decisions at home			
5. A woman's role is taking care of her house and family members Example: Child care, cooking and looking after elderly people or other family members			
6. A woman should obey her husband in all matters and scenarios			
7. A good woman never questions her husband's opinions, even if she is not sure she agrees with them			
8. It is necessary to give dowry or other offerings at the time of marriage of a girl			
9. The only thing parents can really rely on in their old age is their sons			
B) Attitudes towards education resources and environment (6 questions)			
Questions	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
10. Girls cannot do well at school and overall in their life compared to boys			
11. Boys are naturally better at studies and perform better at school compared to girls			
12. Boys are naturally better than girls in all types of sports and activities			
13. If there is a limited amount of money at home to pay for education, it should be spent on sons first			
14. It is important that boys have more education than girls			
15. Since girls have to get married, they should not be sent for schools or higher education			
c) Behaviour related to violence (7 questions)			
Questions	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
16. Girls like to be teased by boys			
17. Girls provoke boys with short or fancy dresses			
18. It is a girl's fault if a boy or a male teacher harasses her in any form			
19. A woman or a girl should tolerate violence at home in order to keep her family together			
20. There are times when a woman or a girl deserves to be beaten			

by her husband or father or brother			
21. A man using violence against his wife, or a brother using violence against his sister or mother is a private matter that shouldn't be discussed outside the house			
22. If a girl rejects a boy, he should defend his reputation with force including physical if he has to			

Scoring system

- Those who agreed with a statement indicating support for gender inequality receive a score of 0.
- Those who partially agree receive a score of 1, and those who disagreed receive a score of 2 indicating support for gender equality.
- Total scores ranged from a low of **0** (highly gender inequitable) to a high of **44** (highly gender equitable).

Additional categories for the analysis include,

- 1) Those with low equality scores of 0-15,
- 2) Moderate equality scores of 16-30,
- 3) High equality scores of 31 and above.

The data collection form and the scale is prepared using the following resources,

References

1. Achyut P., Bhatla N., Khandekar S., Maitra S. and Verma R.K. (2011). Building Support for Gender Equality among Young Adolescents in School: Findings from Mumbai, India. ICRW, New Delhi. Available at: <https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GEMS-Building-Support-for-Gender-Equality-Adolescents.pdf> [accessed on 16 January 2019].
2. Nanda G. Compendium of Gender Scales. Washington, DC: FHI 360/C-Change 2011. Available at: https://www.c-changeprogram.org/content/gender-scales-compendium/pdfs/C-Change_Gender_Scales_Compendium.pdf [accessed on 16 January 2019].
3. Ahankari AS (2017). Maharashtra anaemia study: an investigation of factors associated with adolescent health and pregnancy-related outcomes in women from Maharashtra state, India (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom.

Supplementary 3: Participant information sheet for focus group discussion

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS- Qualitative focus group discussion with village level gender equality groups

Title of study

Adolescents Gender Survey, Responsible Couples Evaluation, and Capacity Building Project in India Short title: DEVELOP

I would like to invite you to participate in this project (known as DEVELOP). This project is conducted by the Halo Medical Foundation (HMF) based at Andur (Osmanabad district, Maharashtra), in collaboration with the SWISSAID, India and the University of Hull, UK. The project also benefits from additional researchers from India and UK, who have collaborated with the University of Hull, UK.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask a staff member of Halo Medical Foundation if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this focus group discussion is to understand your experiences of gender equality related work undertaken by village level gender equality groups in HMF's project field areas. The discussion will allow us to understand impact of this work, challenges, and also opportunities to plan projects in the future to improve equality in communities in Maharashtra state, and also in other parts of India.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this study because of the following two reasons,

- You are an active member on the village level gender equality group
- You live in one of the villages from HMF's project field area in Maharashtra state of India

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to take part in the study you will be asked to read and understand this participant information sheet, and then will be invited to attend a focus group discussion. This will be planned in your village at locally accessible place such as health centre/community hall/school. The assigned day for data collection in your village will be also informed to you verbally at the time offering this information sheet. You will have at least 24 hours to make a decision prior to the discussion. The discussion will be audio recorded. The recording will then be turned into a document for analysis work. This process is known as transcription and any material that could identify anyone will be removed during this process. Information about this is provided in this participant information sheet, and if you have any questions or concerns about the recording please feel free to talk to a member of staff.

On the day of the discussion/data collection, we will explain this project information to you verbally. The guidelines of the discussion will be informed at the start such as purpose of the discussion, need for audio recording, how your recording will be used, data analysis and dissemination plans. You will be given an opportunity to ask any questions. On the day of discussion, you will have about 5 minutes to decide whether you want to take part or not. If you do not want to participate then you are free to leave the discussion room. Maximum 10 participants will be allowed in the focus group discussion. We will ask you to participate only once. The focus group discussion will be conducted only once in your village.

Those who consent to participate will sign a common discussion attendance sheet. This discussion attendance sheet does not require you to write your names, and individuals are labelled based on their role in the discussion such as interviewer, participant etc. Interviewers will also sign on the same sheet. Once this written consent is completed, then the discussion will start. It is anticipated that discussion will be 60 to 90 minutes maximum. Researchers will allocate random numbers (1 to 10) to study participant so during the discussion participants can be addressed by their allocated number. As discussion will take place at village level, there is a possibility that you may know other participants, and they may unintentionally address you by name. If such name or names get audio recorded, then we will ensure that they are not reflected in the meeting notes (transcription) so will not be a part of research documents.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way.

Payment/Incentives

There is no financial benefit if you participate in this study. Your gender equality group will be given an appreciation letter to acknowledge their contribution in this research study.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no known risks. You can stop taking part at any point without giving a reason, and this includes if you get upset. Additionally, if you need help or wish to speak someone please discuss with a staff member of Halo Medical Foundation, and they will advise you further. You can also access HMF's counselling centre if you like. The contact details are given at the end of this document.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits if you take part in this study. Your participation will help us to understand impact of such village level group to design projects in the future. Findings from this study may help you with your ongoing village level work to improve gender equality.

Data handling and confidentiality

The audio files will be used to prepare meeting discussion notes in computer. Once the discussion is entered, it will be used for data analysis. Data on the whole focus group discussion will be used to conduct data analysis in India and UK. There will be 12 focus group discussions from 12 villages. When your data is handled in the UK, it will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). This is one of the legislations in the UK, which will be followed in this study.

All collected data will be anonymised during the process of transcription to paper notes, and all data will be handled with confidentiality. Anonymisation means that yours and others names will be removed if they are audio recorded during the focus group discussion. This focus group method does not need to identify participants, so any personal identifiable data such as participant's name, address, contact details are not collected. The anonymised data in computer files will be stored with the University of Hull, UK for 5 years minimum. This will be used to conduct data analysis, generate research papers, conduct workshops, conferences etc. After project completion, the data will be stored only in the UK. This data may be used for future research projects, and will be shared with other researchers at the University of Hull, UK and other partner institutes in the UK to generate research outputs. Such data sharing will follow UK GDPR legislation, and other relevant regulations.

Data Protection Statement

We will not require any personal information during the focus group interview. Your signature will be required on the consent form. The consent form will not include your full name or any other details that could identify you. The consent forms will be securely stored at HMF. All research data from the discussions will be anonymous and stored on computer system at the University of Hull as explained in detail earlier. The data storage process will be GDPR compliant wherever applicable. If you have any questions or concerns about your signatures, data storage then please feel free to discuss with a member of staff.

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw at any point of the study, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the study will not affect you in any way. If you wish to withdraw you can leave the discussion room straight away without giving any reason. The discussion audio recording will initiate from the start of the session, so if you have shared your views/opinions/suggestions, then those will remain in the recording. It will not be possible for us to identify those specifically in order to eliminate them. It is important to note that your name will not be asked during the recording. All collected data will be anonymised during the process of transcription to paper notes.

How is the project being funded?

This study is being funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund (Internal Responsive Mode Pump Priming Grant) given to the University of Hull, by the Government of UK. The website of the University of Hull is <https://www.hull.ac.uk>

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be summarised to understand such village level gender equality group impact, challenges and opportunities. All focus group findings will be published in journals, conferences, workshops etc. There is no personal information such as your name, address, contact details collected in this study. All collected data such as audio recordings will be anonymised and such data may be made publically available for research and dissemination purposes.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this study or your participation, please contact concerned person using the following contact details: Ms Sandhya Rankhamb, Senior Research Co-ordinator, DEVELOP Project, Halo Medical Foundation, At Post Andur, Block Tuljapur, Dist Osmanabad, Maharashtra, India 413603.

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

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If you need any counselling support, then please contact

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Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research

Note- Please note the phone numbers of outlined staff are not included in this supplementary (provided for this publication) due to security and privacy reasons.

Supplementary 4: Focus group discussion topic guide

1. Can you please tell me about your village level gender equality group formation (*called NIRDHAR GAT in local language*)?

[Probing questions- How were you informed about the 'responsible couple' project? How the group members were approached? How the selection process was completed? Did you face challenges while developing this group? How you addressed those challenges?].

2. Can you please tell me about your trainings related to gender equality work?

[Probing questions- How were you informed about the trainings? How long was it? How many times you had such trainings? Who delivered such trainings? Were those village based or at HMF office or elsewhere? What did you learn? What did you like and dislike about the trainings?].

3. What do you mean by gender equality?

[Probing questions- Has your opinion changed about this, before and after your trainings? Where do you see your village considering its gender equality status? Are there any issues in your village because of inequalities? Why such inequalities exist?].

4. What work do you undertake in your village as a gender equality group (*called NIRDHAR GAT in local language*)?

[Probing questions- Do your trainings help you while working in the village? Do you face any challenges? How do you address them?].

5. Is your work making any difference?

[Probing questions- Is there any impact because your gender equality work? How do you measure such impact, if any? What about sustainability of such impact? What are immediate and long term challenges?].

6. What are main areas to ensure success of gender equality work in other villages in Maharashtra state, and in other parts of India?

[Probing questions- What additional trainings should be provided? Should there be any monetary benefits for such work? If yes, what about sustainability of such groups? How such group work can be improved/developed further?].

Supplementary 5: Focus group discussion consent form

Consent

1. I have received information on the outlined research project verbally and also through the project information sheet by interviewers/research project staff members.
2. I give consent for audio recording of the focus group discussion.
3. I am willingly participating in this discussion, and also aware that I can withdraw my participation and leave the discussion without providing any reason to do so.

Village No (should be between 1 to 12)	(write number only)
Block	(Tuljapur OR Lohara)
District	Osmanabad
Role	Signature or thumb impression
Qualitative Researcher 1	
Qualitative Researcher 2	
Senior research coordinator (if on-site/attends the discussion)	
Research project manager (if on-site/attends the discussion)	
Participant 1	
Participant 2	
Participant 3	
Participant 4	
Participant 5	
Participant 6	
Participant 7	
Participant 8	
Participant 9	
Participant 10	