

MAISHA
SURVEY OF MEN
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

INTRODUCTION

We are conducting research on an important issue related to health and healthy relationships. This research is being conducted by researchers from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Mwanza centre and the Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit (MITU) in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). We have been approved to conduct this research by the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medical ethics committee.

This form provides detailed information about the procedures to be implemented during the study period. After reading and talking about the information provided with the study staff, you will be able to decide whether you want to take part in this study. If you decide to take part, we will ask you to sign this consent form.

Please note that:

- Your decision to take part in this study is entirely voluntary. It is completely up to you to decide whether to take part in this project.
- You may decide not to take part, and not lose any of your rights or benefits such as that standard medical care you receive.
- If you decide to take part, you may drop out at any time, for any reason, without losing any rights or benefits.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to explore ways to improve relationships and health more generally. This study is part of a larger project called MAISHA. For MAISHA, we have been working with groups of women. Some of these groups of women have received training on gender issues using methods which allow active participation during training. We have interviewed women about their health and experiences in relationships. Now we are interested to learn about men's views about healthy relationships.

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

If you agree to participate in this study you will be asked to take part in an interview. A male researcher will visit you at an agreed location and conduct an interview with you. You will be asked a series of questions about yourself, your health and your personal experiences in relationships.

The interview will be conducted by a trained male interviewer at a place that is convenient for you. It will take between one and two hours to complete. Everything you tell us will be kept confidential. At any time during the interview you can refuse to answer questions or withdraw from the interview. You may also ask for a break if you are tired or something requires your immediate attention.

You are free to withdraw from the interview at any time.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

After we have completed the study and analyzed the information, we will inform you of the outcomes of the study through meeting(s) to be organized in Mwanza city. We will also inform local and national government of the findings.

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE KEPT PRIVATE?

All information collected in this study will remain confidential and will be kept securely in a locked location. Your name and contact details will not be recorded on the notes written during the discussions and will be kept separate from the information provided from the interviews. Only research team members can access it. Analysis will only be done using the study number and your identity will remain private and confidential, unless we are required by law to release the information. Reports about the study and results will be presented to the organizations that are working together for this study and at scientific meetings. Results of this study may also be published in scientific journals. All presentations and publications of the findings of this study will not include any information which allows you to be identified as one of the study participants. Within five years of study completion, all identifying information will be destroyed. You can, at any point, demand that we delete any data we collected from you during this study.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS, STRESS OF DISCOMFORT OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

We do not expect that you will experience any harm by taking part in this study. However, some of the questions may be sensitive and you may feel embarrassed to discuss them. You can refuse to answer questions. You can also stop the interview or withdraw from the study if you feel uncomfortable. If you have any problems as a result of being in the study then you should discuss this with one of the persons named below.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

This study may have no direct benefit to you. However, this research will help us to understand men's views about healthy relationship and to develop gender training programmes for both women and men. It is hoped that such programmes may bring positive changes to the health of relationships in this community. Your participation in this study will provide information which could help you and others in your community in the future.

ARE THERE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

There are no costs to you for participating in this study. Everyone who participates in the study will receive Tshs 8,000 after each interview. This is compensation for your time, inconvenience and other costs which may be related to your participation in the study.

LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to attend the interview around a week after signing this consent form. The interview will take between one and two hours to complete.

WHOM CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

We would like to answer all your questions. If you have any questions now, please ask us. If you have any questions later, you can also contact Dr Gerry Mshana Principal Investigator of this study at the National Institute for Medical Research) at the following address:

National Institute for Medical Research
P.O. Box 11936
Mwanza, Tanzania
Telephone: 028-250 0019
Mobile: Dr. Gerry Mshana:

If at any time you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant in this research study, you may contact Ms Joyce Ikingura at the address shown below:

Medical Research Coordinating Committee
National Institute for Medical research
P.O. Box 6953
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Telephone: 022-212 1400

AGREEMENT TO JOIN THE STUDY

I have read this form, or had it read and explained to me. I understand the information and was able to ask all my questions.

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study by signing below. If I cannot read and write, I agree that a witness will underwrite and sign on my behalf.

Participant is literate in Swahili

Participant is illiterate in Swahili

Participant name (**print**)

Participant signature/Thumbprint

Date

Name of study staff conducting
consent discussion (**print**)

Study Staff signature

Date

Witness name* (**print**)

Witness signature*

Date*

(*Needed only if participant cannot read and write)