

Gender, Justice, and the Home

Time: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Activity Objective:

Identify day-to-day tasks that promote gender equality in the home.

Materials:

Prepared flipchart: Daily Activity River

Activity:

1. Explain that this activity will help each participant to think about what men can do in their homes on a day-to-day basis to share domestic responsibilities equally with their partners.
2. Ask participants to name typical household activities that take place on a day-to-day basis. Ask participants to start with the first activities of the day and move through to the last activity before going to sleep. Examples may include preparing meals, bathing and feeding children or the elderly, cleaning, gardening, gathering water, earning money, leisure activities, etc. Write these activities on the “daily activity river.”
3. Ask participants to identify which of these activities are usually men’s responsibilities. Mark these activities with a symbol or a drawing of a man. Now ask which of these activities are usually women’s responsibilities. Mark these activities with a symbol or a drawing of a woman. Ask participants:
 - What do you notice about who does what work in the home?
 - Is this in line with principles of gender equality?
 - How might this affect the reproductive lives of women? How might this affect a community’s ability to take care of those who are ill?
4. Ask each participant to think about what a fair and equal distribution of household activities would be. Ask the men what tasks they would be willing to take on to promote shared responsibility in the home. If the group is all or mostly female, ask which activities they think men might be amenable to sharing and explore strategies for negotiating those changes at the household level.
5. Ask participants to draw their day in the form of their own “daily river.” The river should capture the flow of activities throughout the day as the river twists and turns across the page. Ask participants to identify who is responsible for which activity in their own homes. Remind them to make clear which responsibilities are shared. Allow 20 minutes for this part of the activity.