

Images of Male and Female Roles

Time: 75 minutes

Activity Objective:

Examine how cultural messages about gender can affect human behavior in women and men.

Materials:

- Printed Images
- Post-It notes (three colors)

Activity:

1. Have prepared images of diverse aspects of reproductive health and family planning. (Examples can include initiating conversations about how many children to have, visiting an RH clinic, deciding on a FP method, paying for FP products and services, deciding whether/when to have sex). Hang the images on the wall. Have several different colors of Post-It notes available to participants.
2. Explain to the participants that we are going to examine the traditional roles of men and women in relation with reproductive health activities.
3. Explain that there are several colors of Post-It notes and that you are assigning one to represent men and another to represent women (if you have three colors, you can add a category that represents an activity they do together, both men and women).
4. Have the participants walk around and look at the images.
5. The participants should put a Post-It note of the appropriate color on each image in order to designate whether they think men or women primarily carry out this activity (or whether both men and women do it together).
6. When participants are done "voting" with their Post-It notes, have a group discussion in a place where everyone can see the images. Choose several examples where the group thinks the activity is clearly the man or woman's domain and several where the results are more mixed. Ask participants to explain why they have made this choice (especially in cases where there is not consensus). Explore the difference between sex and gender.
7. Ask participants to explain why constructive men's engagement (CME) is particularly important, based on the analysis that participants have just carried out.