



Family Structure, Inter-Parental Relationships and Parenting Practices in Semi-Urban Central Uganda

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Presentation outline



- Background
- *Parenting for Respectability* Project
- Objective of the current study
- Study methods
- Results
 - Sample description
 - Family structure and patterns
 - Parental relationships
 - How inter-parental relationships relate to parenting practices
- Summary of key results



Background

- Poor parenting, particularly in the child's early years, is a risk factor for wide range of poor health and development outcomes:
 - exposure to forms of child maltreatment, including parental use of corporal punishment, child neglect, witnessing violence on others in the family, is associated with poor physical and mental health, and conduct problems in childhood, and later years in life
- Parenting programmes have been demonstrated to offer early prevention for these negative outcomes, especially in high income settings



Parenting for Respectability (PfR) Project 2014-2018

- Underlying principle is to draw on parent's existing motivation: concern for family respectability, largely achieved through children's good behaviour and respect for parents

- Is a 16 session programme for parents of children with physical maltreatment and associated processes associated with

- poor parent
- harsh parent
- differential social
- parental confidence

Stage 1: designing and drafting of programme and manual, and its formative evaluation with six groups

Stage 2: large scale pilot with a pre and post evaluation with 400 parents

- First part of programme delivered to six groups and then to mixed sex group by a trained facilitator



Programme content

Bonding and attachment:
3 sessions

Gender socialisation:
4 sessions

Introduction
and benefits
(to father)

Achieving good behaviour
and respect through
positive discipline:
3 sessions

Spousal relationships:
4 sessions

Closing ceremony and testimonies



Objective

- Report cross-sectional data from a baseline survey that was conducted for pre-and-post intervention evaluation of the *Parenting for Respectability* project
- how inter-parental relationships affect parenting practices (listening to child, harsh pun (slapping), and provision (of school fees))



Results

Tab 1: Respondents' characteristics (N=381)



Variable	Female	Male	Total
Sex	206 (54.7%)	175 (45.93%)	381
Responded As			
Single	140 (67.9%)	109 (43.7%)	249
Couple	66 (32%)	66 (37.7%)	132
Marital status			
Married	161 (78%)	161 (78%)	322
Single	12 (5.8%)	2 (1.1%)	14
Widowed	11 (5.3%)	0 (0%)	11
Divorced/separated	22 (10.6%)	12 (6.8%)	34
Education			
No School	9 (4.3%)	8 (4.5%)	17
Primary	133 (64.8%)	108 (61.7%)	241
Secondary+	63 (30.7%)	59 (33.7%)	112



Fig 1: Age distribution

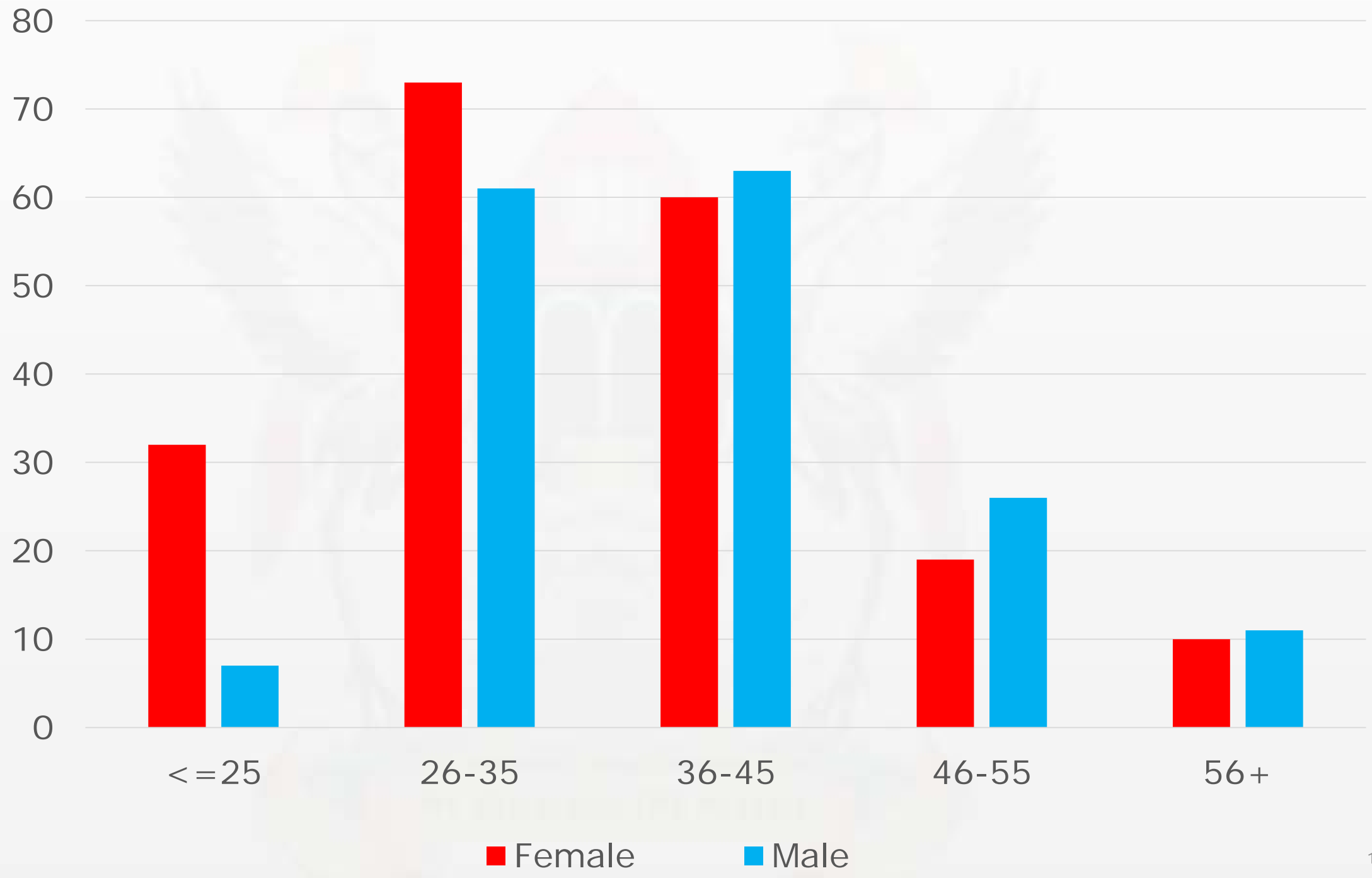
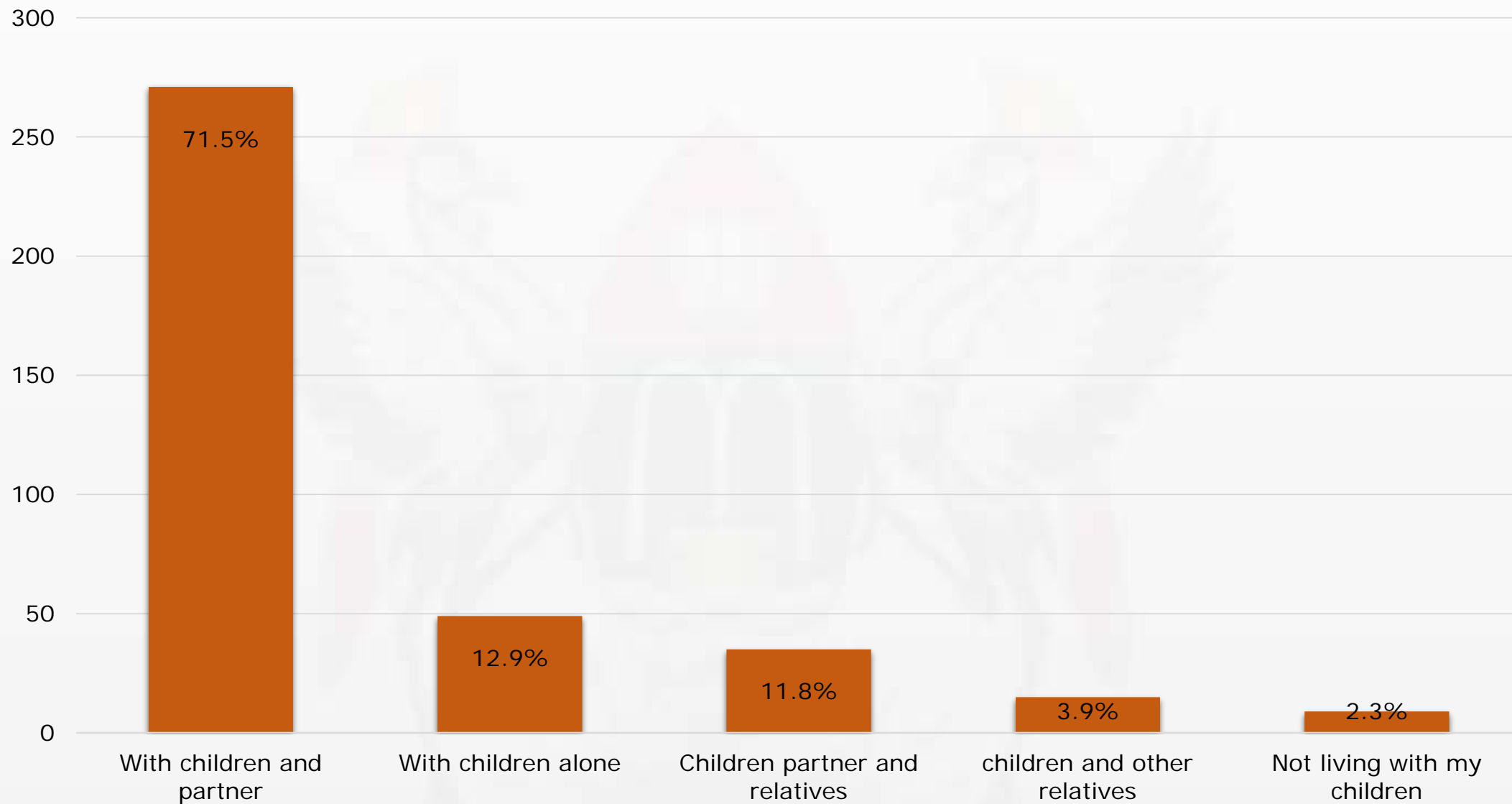




Fig 2: Family structure - household composition



Tab 3: Parental relationships - communication



Variable	Female	Male	P=Value
Discusses Own			
Day events & worr	96 (60.3%)	106 (68%)	0.09
Day events but not worr	16 (10%)	19 (11.8%)	
Not day events but worr	15 (9.4%)	16 (9.9%)	
Not day events and worr	32 (20.1%)	17 (10.5%)	
Discuss Partner's			
Day events & worr	92 (57.8%)	112 (70%)	0.01
Day events but not worr	18 (11.3%)	13 (8.1%)	
Not day events but worr	17 (10.69%)	20 (12.5%)	
Not day events and worr	32 (20.1%)	15 (9.3%)	



Tab 4: Parent-relationship – fights and anger/hostility (N=357)

Variable	Female	Male
Fights		
Never	86 (53.7%)	93 (57%)
Often/Sometimes/Rare	74 (46.2%)	68 (42.2)
Anger		
Not at all	20 (12.6%)	12 (7.5%)
Yes	138 (87.3%)	147 (92.4%)



Tab 5: Parent-relationship – violence (N=357)

Variable	Female	Male
Categorised relationship as		
Good, non conflictual	18 (67%)	9 (33%)
Conflictual, not violent	65 (41.4%)	83 (51%)
Violent, involving fights	74 (47.1%)	68 (42.5%)



Tab 6: Inter-parental relationships and parenting practices

Variable	Good	Conflictual	Violent	P= Value
Listen Often Sometimes/rare/never	25 (92.5%) 2 (7.4%)	79 (53.7%) 65 (44.2)	65 (46.1%) 68 (48.2%)	0.000
Harsh par (slapping) Never Often/sometimes/rarely	12 (48%) 12 (52%)	60 (40.5%) 88 (59.4%)	34 (23.9%) 108 (76%)	0.003
Provision (pay sch fees) Never Rarely Sometimes Often	0 (0%) 3 (11%) 3 (11%) 18 (66.7)	16 (10.9%) 15 (10.2%) 21 (14.3%) 86 (58.9%)	9 (6.3%) 18 (12.7%) 46 (32.6%) 61 (43.2%)	0.003



Summary of key results



- Although men appear to be better communicators than women, parental relationships were generally conflictual
- Parents who report a violent relationships with their partners are significantly less likely to listen to their children or provide for them, and significantly more likely to hit them
- These preliminary findings point to one of the pathways by which violence may be perpetuated across generations



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