



Constructs of power and equity, and their association with contraceptive use among men in Africa



Mary Yetter

Senior Advisor, CARE

myetter@care.org

Doris Bartel, CARE dbartel@care.org

Rob Stephenson, rbsteph@sph.emory.edu

Marcie Rubardt, CARE mrubardt@care.org

Learning Objectives

Participants will have a greater understanding of:

1. The possible links between men's attitudes and perceptions about gender and power and men's reported (couple) use of contraceptives
2. Use of standardized scales to measure attitudes towards gender and perceptions of power in couples



Methods

Location: Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda

Population: Married men and women of reproductive age

Sampling: Stratified random sample of households, 2700 total (594 men)

Data collection: Face-to-face interviews using closed-ended questionnaire with same-sex enumerators

Date: Jan-Feb 2009

Informed consent: Obtained for all participants

Questionnaire content

- Questions adapted from the **Demographic and Health Survey questionnaire** for use in low contraceptive prevalence countries:
 - included background demographic characteristics,
 - fertility and contraceptive behaviors,
 - attitudes towards contraception, and
 - perceptions of norms around fertility and family planning
- Gender attitudes: Modified GEM scale
- Decision-making power in relation to spouse: Modified Sexual Relationship Power Scale

Results: Family Planning

	Ethiopian Men n = 292	Kenyan Men n = 302
Want to delay next pregnancy 2 yrs or more, or don't want another	43%	43%
Last pregnancy mistimed	26%	20%
Desired family size:		
1-3	10	19
4-6	65	62
7+	25	19
Current couple FP use	38%	29%

Modified GEM and SRPS Scales

- Gender Equitable Men scale – adapted 17 items

Agree, disagree, or not sure?

- Men need sex more than women do
- A woman should not initiate sex
- It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant
- Changing diapers, giving the kids a bath, and feeding the kids are the mothers' responsibility
- A man can hit his wife if she will not have sex with him

- Sexual Relationship Power Scale – adapted 6 items

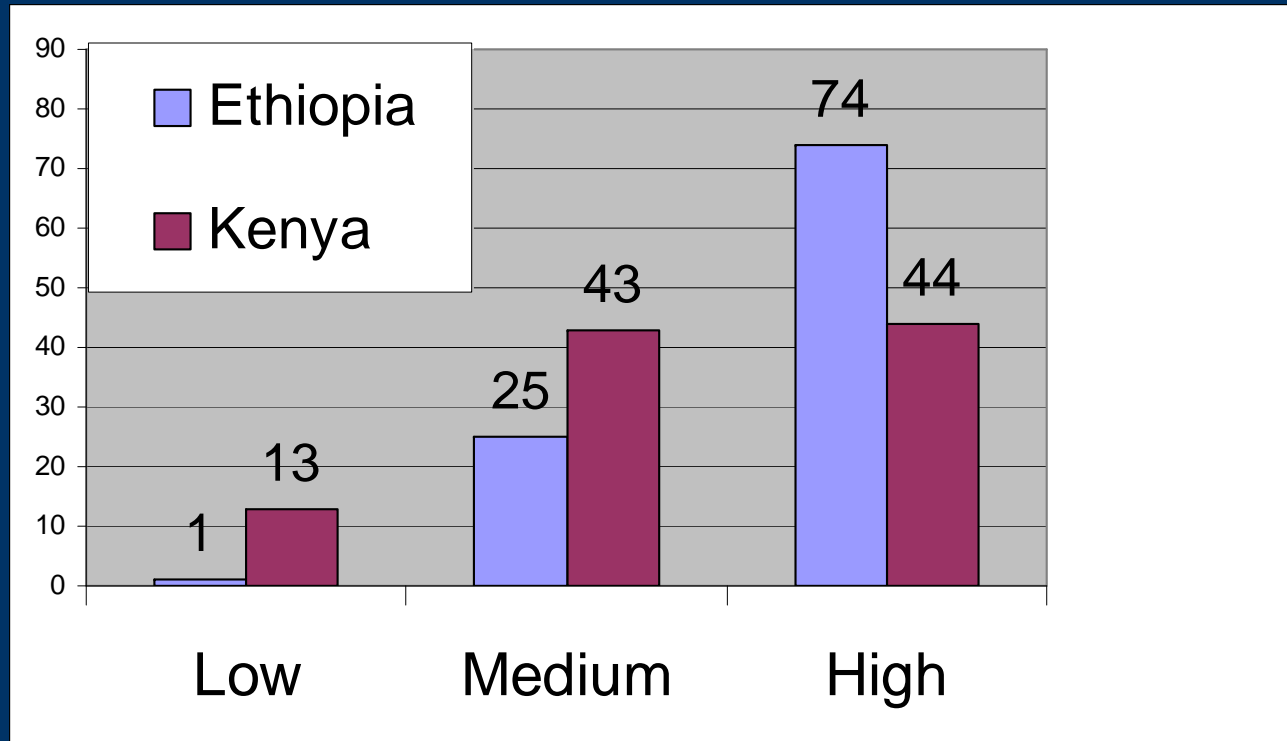
Agree, disagree, or not sure?

- My partner has more say than I do about important decisions that affect us
- I more committed to this relationship than my partner is
- I feel comfortable discussing family planning with my partner



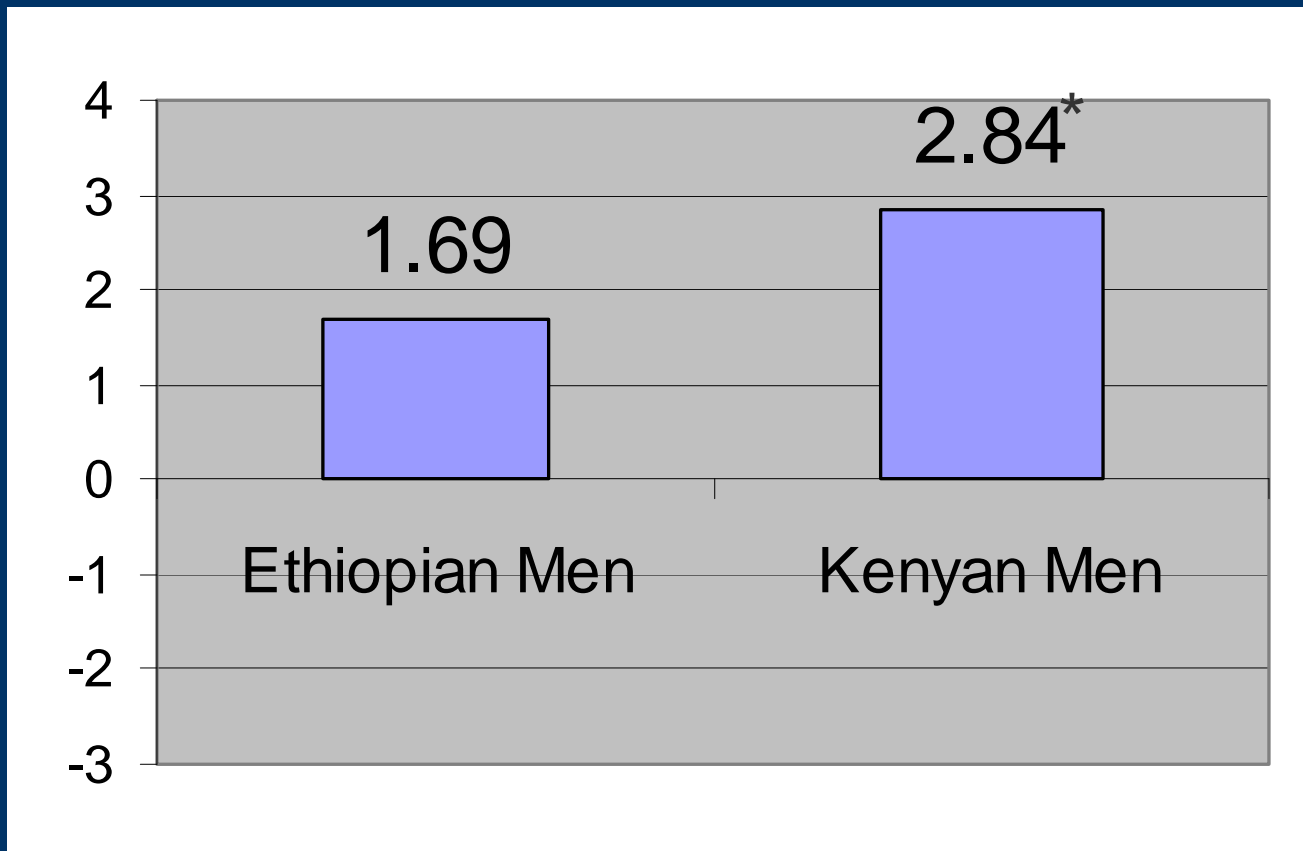
Results: Gender and sexuality attitudes

Gender Equitable Male (GEM) scale:
High = highly equitable attitudes



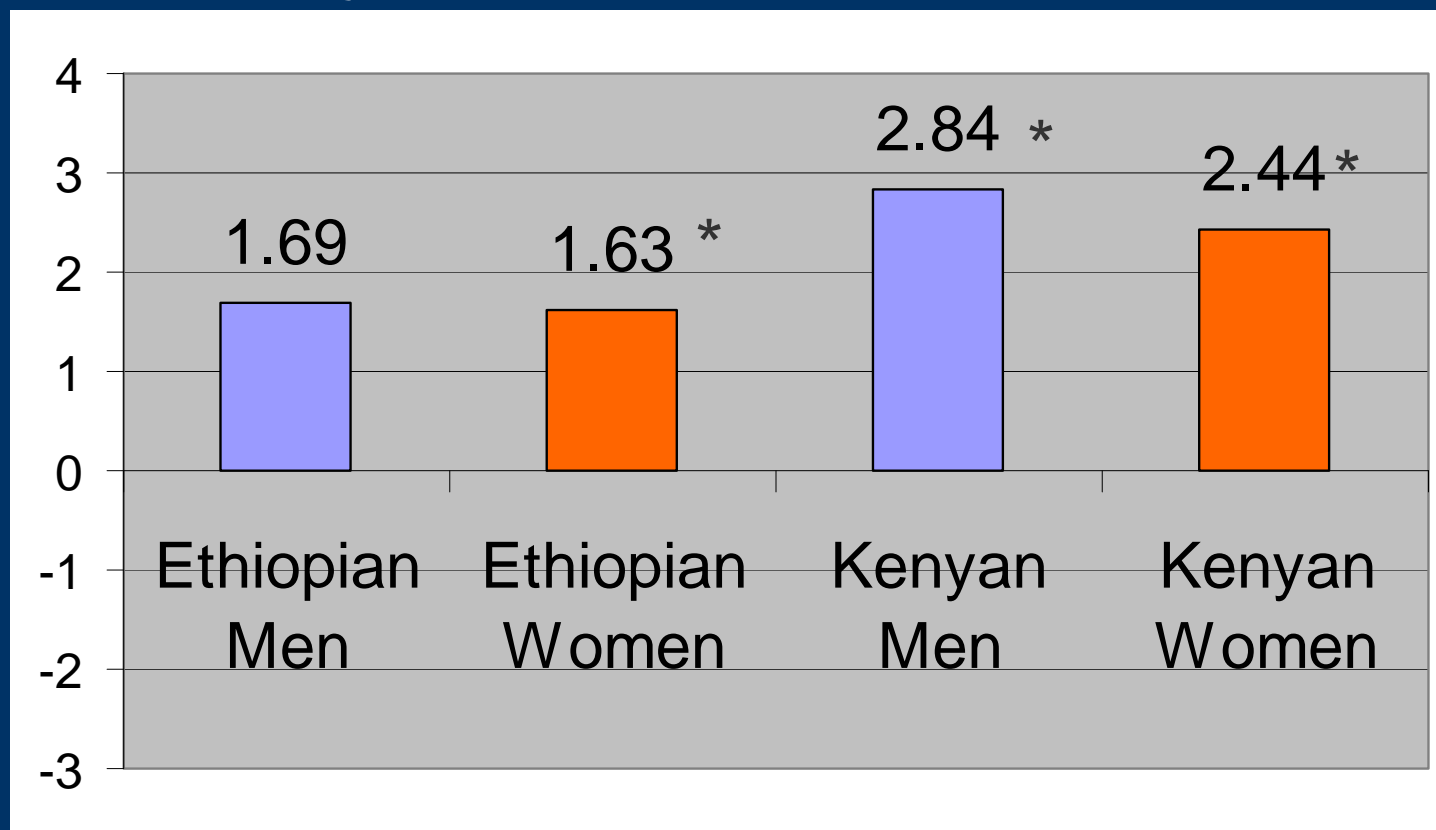
Association of reported contraceptive use with men's high gender equity attitude score

Adjusted Odds Ratio*, CI=95%



Women's gender attitudes also showed significant association with contraceptive use in both countries

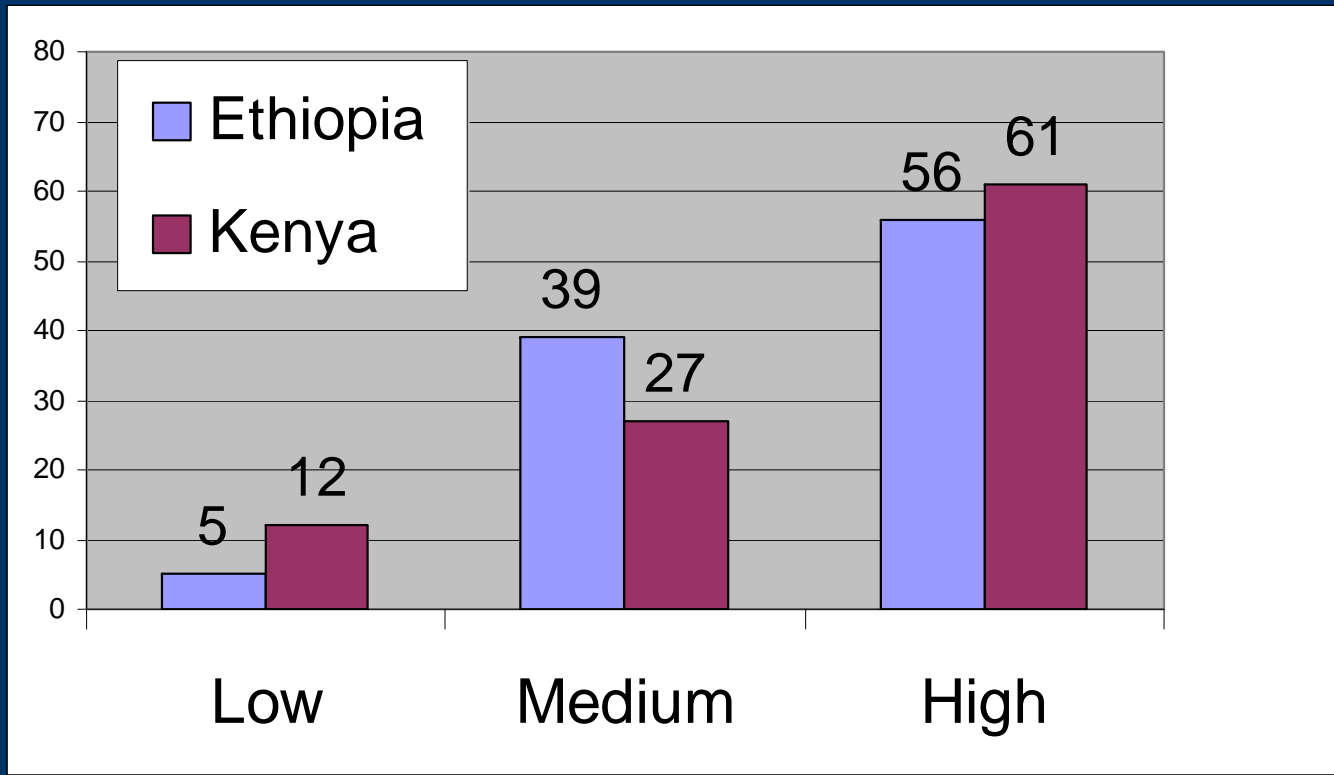
Adjusted Odds Ratio*, CI=95%



*significant at 0.05

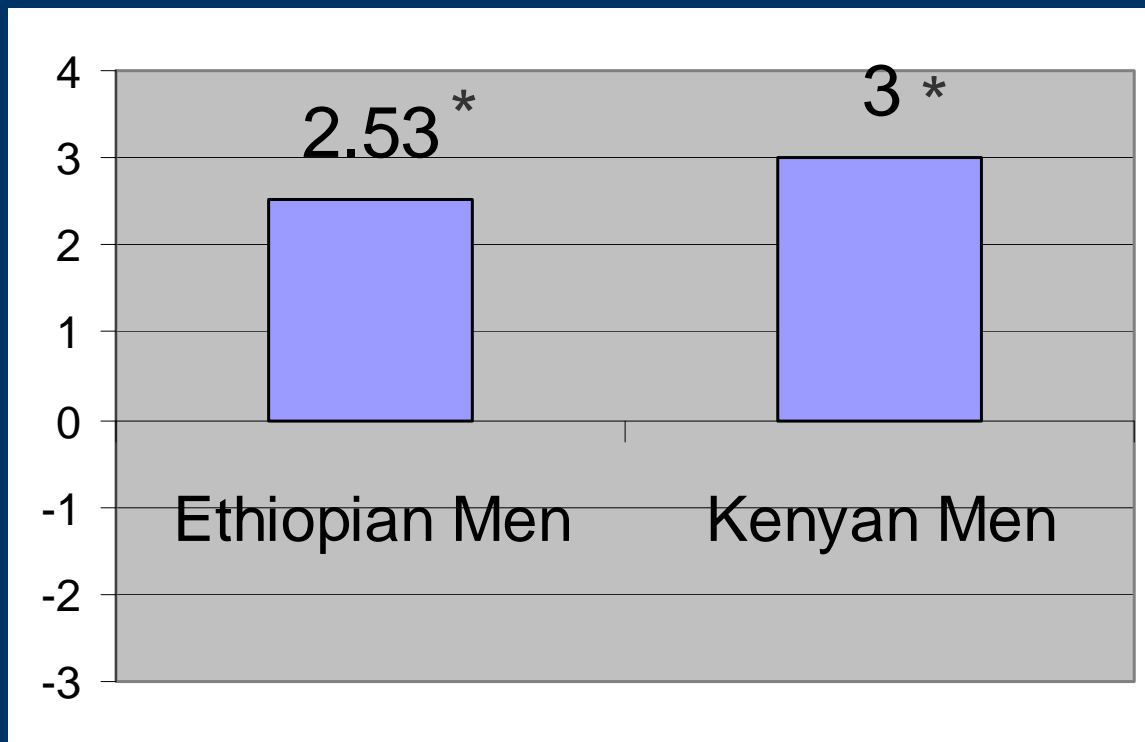
Results: Power or dominance over spouse

Sexual Relationship Power Scale:
low = relatively less power in relationship



Significant association of reported contraception use with men's high power score

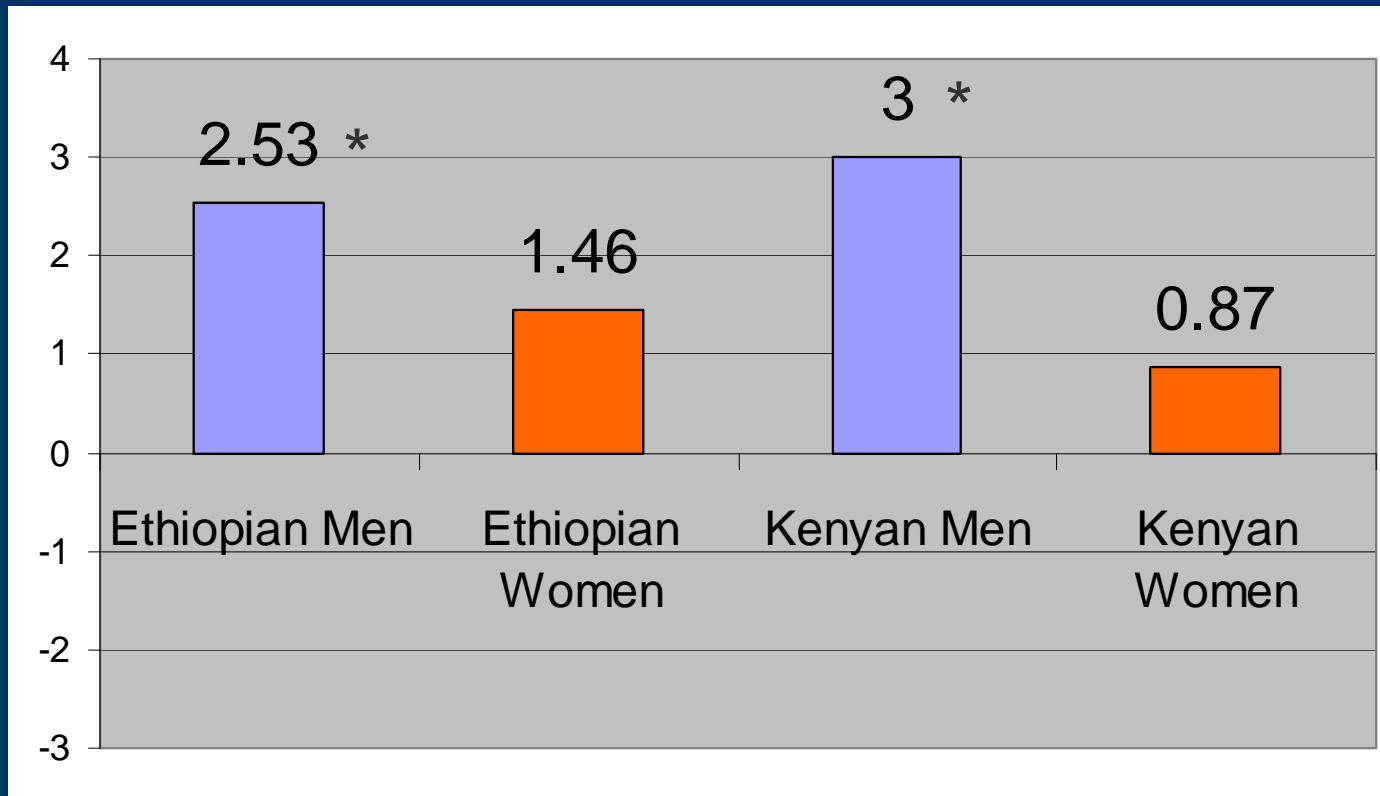
Adjusted Odds Ratio, CI=95%



*significant at 0.05

In contrast, women's high "power" showed no association with contraceptive use

Adjusted Odds Ratio, CI=95%



*significant at 0.05

Conclusions

1. Measures of men's attitudes regarding gender roles, sex, reproduction, violence, domestic responsibilities and power are sensitive in identifying men who report contraceptive use.
2. The adjusted odds ratios in both countries indicate a significantly increased likelihood of contraceptive use in men who report more power in their relationships.
3. In Kenya, men who report more equitable gender attitudes are also significantly more likely to be using contraception.
4. In contrast, while women's gender equity attitudes in both countries showed significant association with contraceptive use, women's high "power" showed no association with contraceptive use.

Implications for programming

1. Gender equitable attitudes for both men and women are important for Family Planning programs.
2. Power dynamics in the couple are also important, especially for interventions that target men.
3. Power dynamics and gender equitable attitudes are not necessarily the same predictors for men and women.

