

When daughters and sons observe their fathers being respectful and non-violent in egalitarian relationships with their mothers and other women, they internalize the idea that men and women are equal and that intimate partners treat each other with respect and care.

Did You Know?

Men who witnessed their fathers using violence against their mothers, and men who experienced some form of violence at home as children, are significantly more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence in their own adult relationships. (IMAGES-MENA)

Changes in Perceptions of Masculinities and Gender Roles -Programme ABB 2018 Lebanon Pilot Results-

"A man should have the final word about decisions in the home."
Agree/Disagree

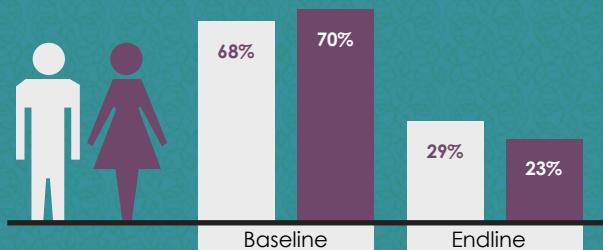


Figure: Percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with attitudes around gender roles.

When fathers engage in housework and childcare and spend time with their sons and daughters, these actions contribute to boys' acceptance of gender equality and to girls' sense of autonomy.

(DeGreet, I., Carolo, H., & Minerson, T. (2014). Give love, get love: The Involved Fatherhood and Gender Equality Project. Toronto, ON, Canada: White Ribbon Campaign.)



"My husband is now capable of apologizing to me without feeling that this threatens his masculinity. He takes my opinion into consideration in all things, and he shares household chores with me. He used to think that violence against me could be justified whenever I was not performing my duties properly, but this has changed since he took part in the programme."

(31-year-old displaced Syrian woman in Lebanon)

Programme ABB

*ABB means father

Promoting Positive Parenting, Supporting Gender-Equal Relationships and Strengthening Active Fathers' Involvement in Early Childhood Development



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“Communicating with my wife and children and respecting them means that I am a good man.”

(33-year-old displaced Syrian man in Lebanon)

Did You Know?

Global statistics speak loud and clear on who mostly cares for children in their first years of life. Even with all the advances towards equality for women over the past 20 years, women around the world still spend, on average, 3 times as much time caring for children and their homes as compared to men and fathers.

(Heilman, B., Levkov, R., Van der Gaag, N., Hassink, A., & Barker, G. (2017). State of the World's Fathers: Time for Action. Washington, D.C.: Promundo, Sonke Gender Justice, Save the Children, and the MenEngage Alliance.)

- Nurturing parenting involves helping children develop healthy social and emotional behaviors, teaching life skills, and promoting well-being through modeling healthy ways to solve problems and communicate feelings;* These children then often grow up to pass on these notions of respect and equality to their own children.

*(*Lackman J, Hutchings J. Sinovuyo Caring Families Programme for Young Children: Facilitator Manual. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2016.)*

- Fathers need to know that, together with other family members, they are the ones who are also teaching their children how to identify an emotion and how to express it.



Remember

- The unequal power dynamics' between men and women in intimate relationships can have serious repercussions for the risks /exposure to violence and the overall well-being of the family.
- It is the responsibility of all individuals, women and men, to strive to raise boys and men, as well as girls and women, to understand how violence prevents individuals from building positive and loving relationships. It is commonly assumed that perpetrating violence is a “natural” or “normal” part of being a man. Just as violence is learned, it can be unlearned and prevented especially for the protection of women's and children's rights.
- We expect mothers to be the primary caregivers and sources of affection. It is important to critically examine these assumed roles and decide for ourselves the type of fathers we want in society.

IMAGES MENA Report on Lebanon 2017 showed that 46.5% of men answered "True" to the statement: "Husband's role in caring for the children at home is mostly as their financial provider." in comparison to 75.3 % of women.

What is Programme ABB?

Programme ABB is a fatherhood training programme that engages men through their identity as fathers to learn about gender equality, masculinities and femininities, violence against women and girls, positive parenting, and healthy emotional expression and communication. Throughout the implementation process, these men and their partners discuss gender dynamics with regards to decision-making within the home, healthy communication, emotional expression, and positive discipline.

“It is amazing. My husband is making himself available at night to talk to me about our family and to solve the problems and conflicts between us.”

(37-year-old Lebanese woman)

Program Objectives

Programme ABB's overall goal is for men and their partners to learn through questioning and critically reflecting on gender norms, exercise equitable and nonviolent attitudes and behaviors in a comfortable space, and internalize these new gender attitudes and norms, applying them in their own relationships and lives. Ultimately, this process contributes to achieving three objectives:

- Gender equity, meaning fairness and justice in the distribution of opportunities, responsibilities, and benefits available to men and women, as well as the strategies and processes used to achieve gender equality. *(Greene, M. E., & Levack, A, USAID, 2010).*
- Attitude and behavior changes at the individual and community levels that lead to transformed gender norms within specific objectives.
- Ensuring the sustainability of integrated care for every child during the early childhood stage through safe and sound parenting practices.