

PACANet Experience with MCP in Christian Settings

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PACANet Survey Results

- Most responses from SADC paralleled non SADC Africa responses
- General social/cultural acceptance was identified by conference participants as the primary facilitating factor (55%).
- SADC responders much more likely to remain “silent “ (27%, $p=.008$) if suspected spousal infidelity

Church Services for Couples

- 55% of married responders participated in premarital counseling from church.
- 22% reported receiving premarital counseling which effectively dealt with the issue of MCP
- 38% have attended a training on faithfulness in marriage.
- 45% reported that counseling for couples having marital difficulty is available.
- 48% felt church leaders were not talking about MCP, because their church leaders believed that the problem too big to address safely

2 Key Implications for Future Programming

- Services to couples need a greater focus in areas such as finance, communication, sexuality and gender.
- The heavy “silence” in the SADC region is probably indicative of the greater general cultural acceptance expressed by respondents in this region compared to non SADC Africa ($p=.026$)
This may present the greatest challenge to effective programming in this region.

Religious Attendance and MCP

Respondents who report greater than weekly attendance at a religious service also report lower MCP prevalence in religious institutions. This may mean an actual lower MCP prevalence or that these respondents are underestimating MCP in their religious communities.

One possible explanation for a lower prevalence supported by this study is that these individuals are more likely to attend a faithful training, (56%, $p=.055$), receive premarital counseling (78%, $p=.016$), and report premarital counseling effective in addressing MCP (67%, $p=.004$).

PACANet Approach

- To support activities in the church that increase the awareness of the magnitude, risk, and hence urgency to act,
- To call for positive role models in leadership,
- To encourage church leaders to complement other stakeholder MCP interventions with their comparative advantage,
- To engage in advocacy to influence social behaviors and structures and
- To main stream activities which address this issue with new insights relevant to today's challenges while building on biblical values of chastity, faithfulness and quality of family life.

Family Impact - Zimbabwe

1. Aim to combat MCP by strengthening family union.
2. Family life education trainings for youth and adults. This includes trainings around:
 - Premarital counseling,
 - Optimum enjoyment of sex in MARRIAGE,
 - Maintaining positive communication in marriage,
 - Managing conflicts in marriage , and
 - Value based marital/family preparation for youth

The Faithful House/ CRS

- One week couple training , gender , sexuality , finance and building marriage and family on biblical principles.
- 93% of beneficiaries compared to 75% of controls reported that they could freely discuss sexual issues;
- 86% of beneficiaries compared to 66% of controls now shared financial information;
- 42% of beneficiaries reported greater respect for the spouse
- 45% of beneficiaries compared to 59.1% of controls still agreed that *“A man can produce children elsewhere if his wife is infertile”*.