



Beyond women's empowerment: exploring the role of men in family planning among Mangkong ethnic couples in Nong District, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR.

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

Does men's involvement in family planning increase women's level of empowerment in family planning, and in what way?

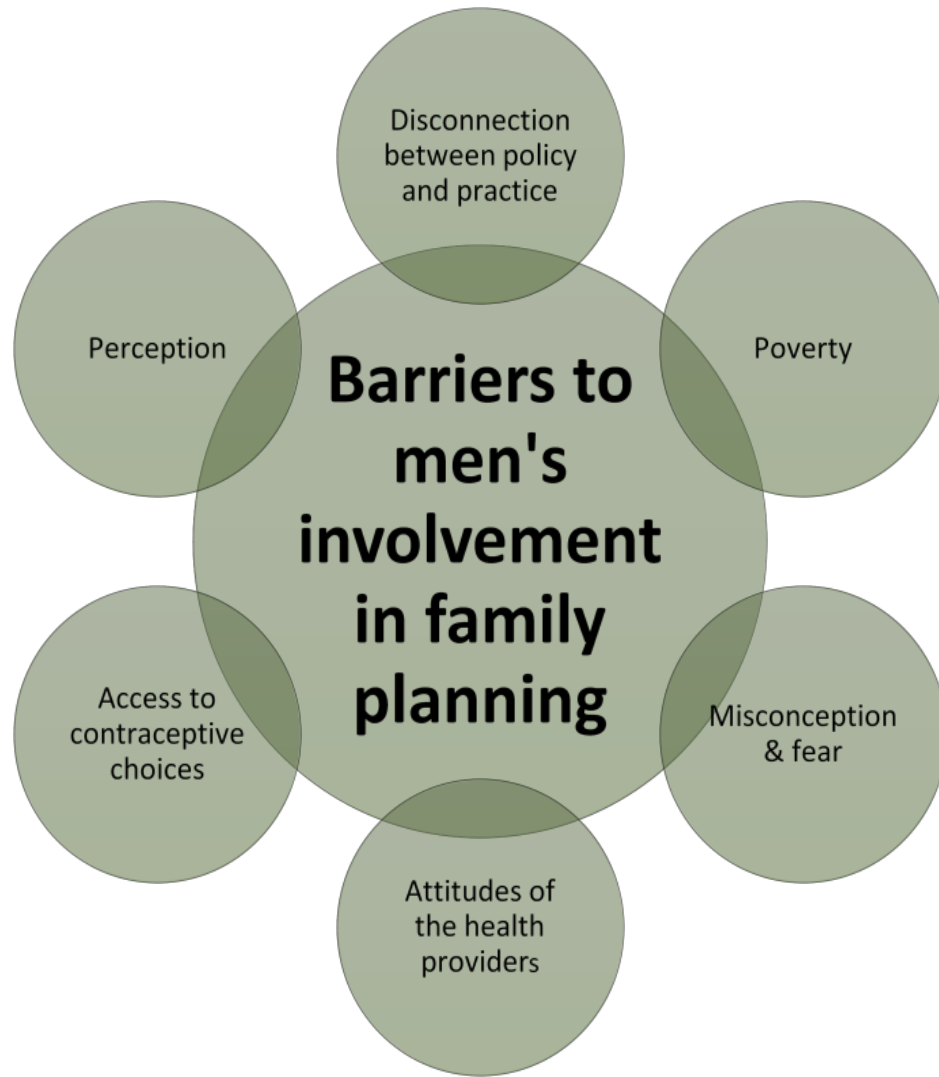
METHODS:

§Semi-structured interviews: Primary participants; Key informants

§Informal Observation: built rapport, engaged in farming, observation of gender roles.

§Documents analysis: RH Policy, RMNCH Strategy and Action Plan, CIP, FP2020, etc.





When I took my wife to the health center. They (the providers) did not say anything. They just talk to women.

(Husband, CP6).

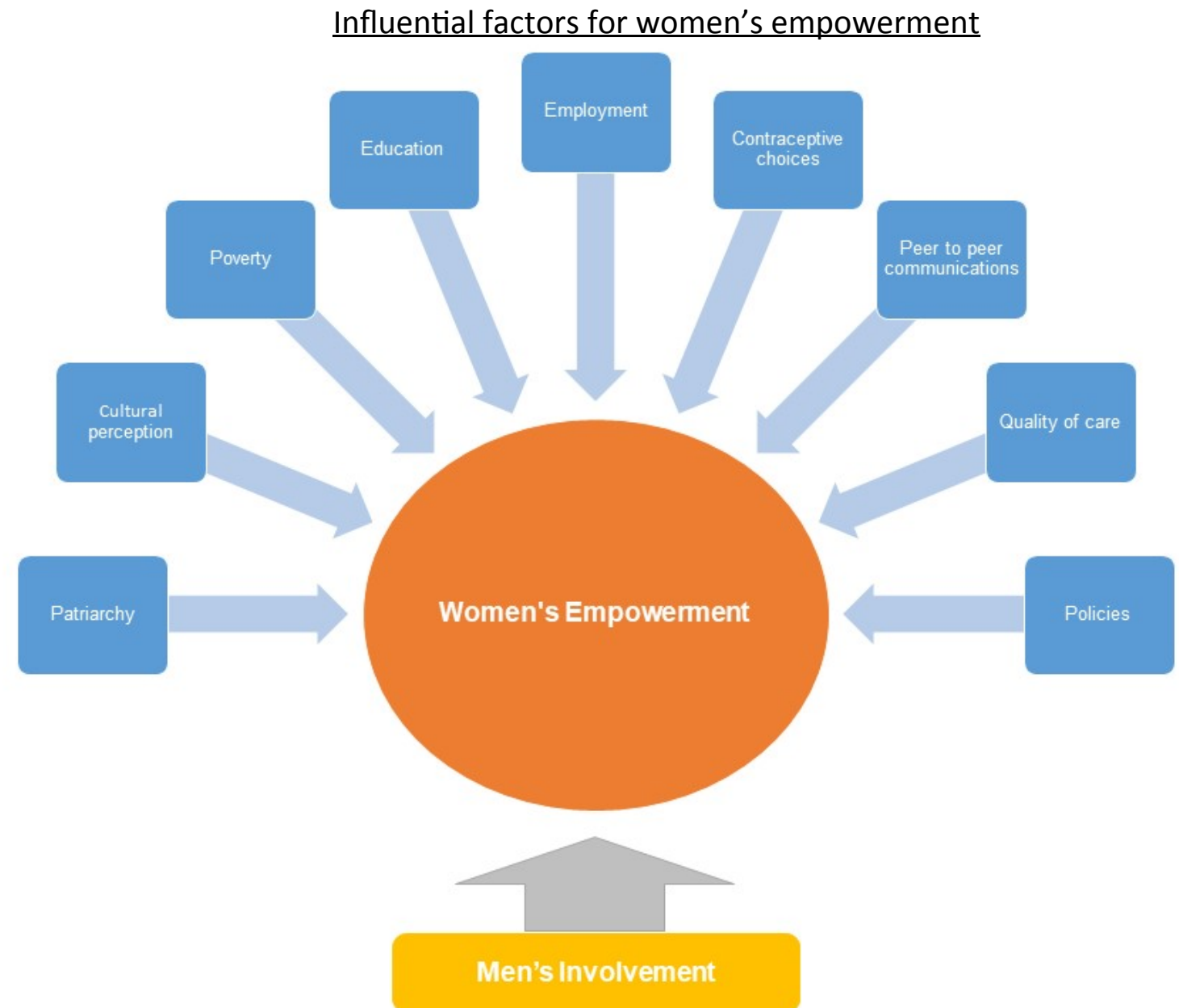
I went there with my wife to get the injection. The provider did not provide any information about condoms.

(Husband, CP13).



FINDINGS CONT.

- ✓ **Spousal communications and joint decision making in family planning;**
- ✓ **Shared responsibilities regarding household work, childcaring;**



CONCLUSION

- Men's involvement in FP increased awareness of men and become supportive of their wife's choice regarding FP.
- Simply adding men into the existing FP programme does not necessarily bring about women's empowerment.
- If gender equality in family planning is to be achieved, gender empowerment should be emphasized rather than focusing on women's empowerment alone.
- Call for culturally embedded model of empowerment for understanding empowerment from the perspective of the Mangkong women.



ຂອບໃຈ!
Thank you!