

Conceptual muddle

Defining agency

- Improving women's agency is crucial for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- **Definition:** The ability to define one's goals and act on them
- Requires understanding:
 - (1) Goal-setting capacity
 - (2) Perceived control and ability ("sense of agency")
 - (3) Ability to act on goals ← decision making

Her decision making power correlates with proxies of bargaining power (and he agrees)

	Wife says she is the main decision maker/decision- making is joint (1)	Husband says wife is the main decision maker/decision-making is joint (2)
<i>Women's Status & Empowerment Proxies</i>		
Difference in years of schooling: husband-wife	-0.002***	0.001
Wife not working	-0.080***	-0.034***
Wife works off farm	0.021***	-0.015***
Wife says she earns more than her husband	0.107***	0.019*
Wife says she owns land	0.058***	0.023***
Woman condones a husband beating his wife	-0.061***	-0.027***
Wife is aged 15-19 ^(b)	-0.110***	-0.094***
Wife is aged 20-34 ^(b)	-0.047***	-0.044***
Age difference: husband-wife	-0.003***	0
Wife was married before age 20	0.015***	0.013***
Years of marriage	0.001***	0
Total number of children woman has	-0.005***	-0.002*
Total number of children who died	-0.010***	-0.004*
Couple in a polygamous marriage	-0.093***	-0.082***
Observations	61,839	61,839
Adjusted R-squared	0.201	0.181

But do they agree who decides?

Not 47% of the time

Member of the household	Wife			
Husband	Who usually makes decisions about making major household purchases?	Husband	Joint	Wife
	Wife	4.6%	4.4%	1.4%
	Joint	14.5%	24.3%	4.0%
	Husband	27.6%	16.0%	3.3%

When is she pulling more power?

	Wife and husband agree she is the main decision-maker / decision-making is joint (1)	Wife and husband disagree (wife gives herself more power than husband) (2)
<i>Women's Status & Empowerment proxies</i>		
Difference in years of schooling: husband-wife	0	-0.001**
Wife not working	-0.031***	-0.033***
Wife works off farm	0	0.026***
Wife says she earns more than her husband	-0.008	0.112***
Wife says she owns land	-0.009	0.065***
Woman condones a husband beating his wife	-0.046***	-0.010***
Wife is aged 15-19 ^(b)	-0.072***	-0.021**
Wife is aged 20-34 ^(b)	-0.031***	-0.003
Age difference: husband-wife	-0.001**	-0.001***
Wife was married before age 20	0.016***	-0.003
Years of marriage	0.001**	0
Total number of children woman has	-0.003***	0
Total number of children who died	-0.005**	-0.002
Couple in a polygamous marriage	-0.067***	-0.010**
Observations	61,839	61,839
Adjusted R-squared	0.161	0.033

Variation over time?

Rwanda – change in decision making on durables (one year follow up)

Men	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	2,423	76.08	76.08
1	762	23.92	100
Total	3,185	100	
Women	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	4,534	81.56	81.56
1	1,025	18.44	100
Total	5,559	100	

Variation over time

**Disagreement
moves
around too**

Change

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	1,613	75.48	75.48
1	524	24.52	100
Total	2,137	100	

From disagree to agree

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	1,933	90.45	90.45
1	204	9.55	100
Total	2,137	100	

From agree to disagree

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	1,817	85.03	85.03
1	320	14.97	100
Total	2,137	100	

Treatment effects?

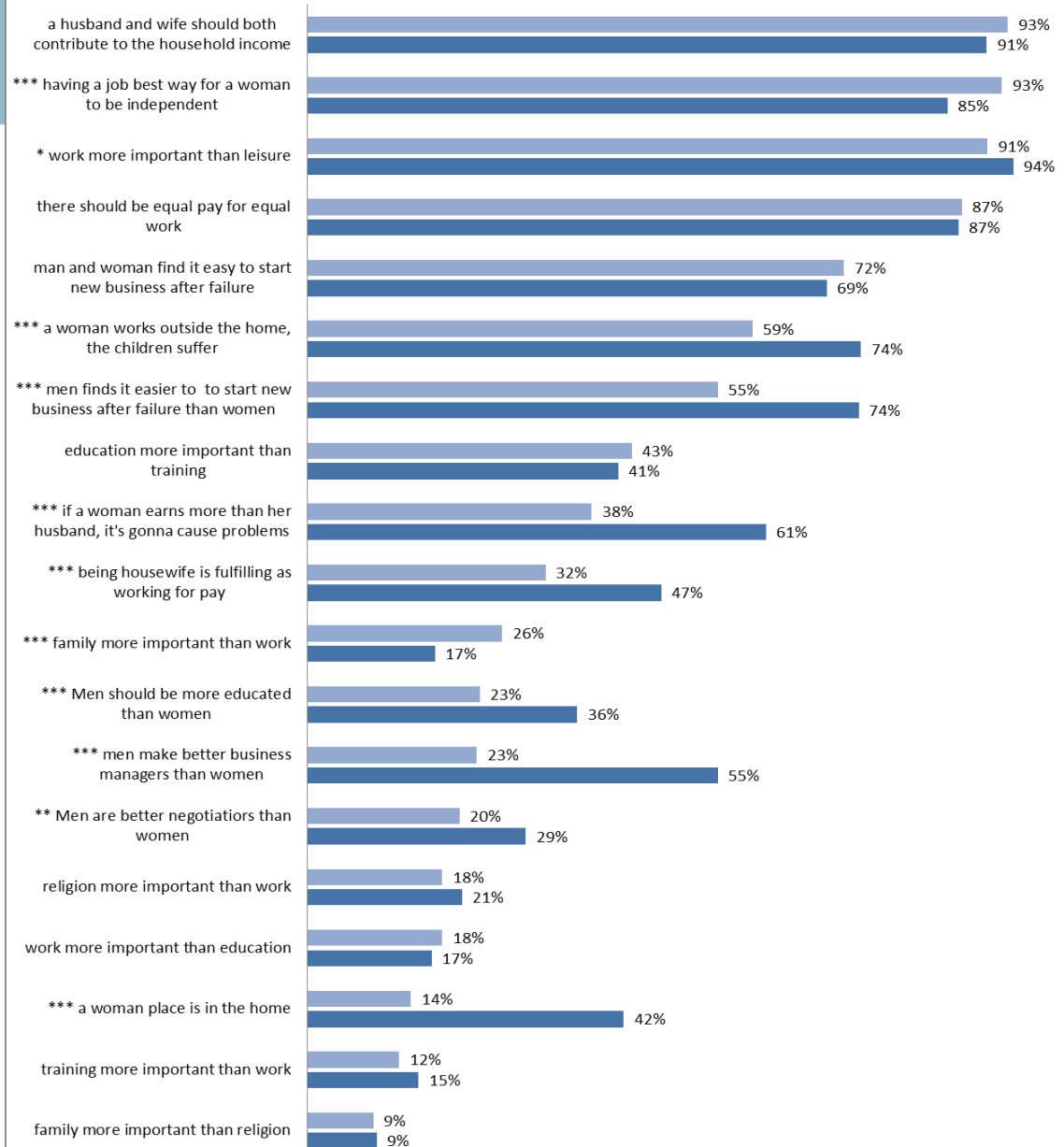
Still work in progress...

- Nothing in levels
- Maybe something in direction of power struggle

Norms?

Malawi BRIE 3rd follow up

■ WOMEN ■ MEN



Thank you!



Her decision making power correlates with proxies of bargaining power

	Wife says she is the main decision maker (1)	Wife says decision making is joint (2)
<i>Women's Status & Empowerment Proxies</i>		
Difference in years of schooling: husband-wife	-0.002***	-0.002***
Wife not working	-0.031***	-0.080***
Wife works off farm	0.027***	0.018***
Wife says she earns more than her husband	0.254***	0.074***
Wife says she owns land	0.157***	-0.002
Woman condones a husband beating his wife	-0.023***	-0.066***
Wife is aged 15-19 ^(b)	-0.043***	-0.110***
Wife is aged 20-34 ^(b)	-0.023***	-0.048***
Age difference: husband-wife	-0.002***	-0.002***
Wife was married before age 20	0	0.016***
Years of marriage	0.002***	0.001***
Total number of children woman has	-0.005***	-0.005***
Total number of children who died	0	-0.010***
Couple in a polygamous marriage	-0.006	-0.106***
Observations	34,495	56,625
Adjusted R-squared	0.189	0.201