

**MenEngage**

boys and men for gender equality

Tanzania



**KIBARAZANI CAMPAIGN: *Becoming a father***

**TEGETA, DAR ES SALAAM**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**

## **Introduction**

MenEngage Tanzania under the support of Sonke Gender Justice through the secretariat Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) conducted a Mencare Campaign (Kibarazani): Becoming a Father to 60 men who are bodaboda cyclist on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at Tegeta Ward, Kinondoni District.

The main objective was to reflect on men's concerns about becoming a father and to discuss the benefits that an involved father can bring to himself, their children and partners as well.

MET secretariat, Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) facilitated the campaign in collaboration with Safety Kwanza which is also a member of MenEngage Tanzania. The session started whereby Safety Kwanza Coordinator, Kelvin Mashauri welcomed all participants and briefly explained the objective of the campaign and the program of the day. Then he welcomed MenEngage Coordinator Dorothea Ernest who shared about MenEngage Tanzania and importance of engaging boys and men for gender equality. She also explained about the MenCare campaign that, MenEngage Tanzania introduced the campaign in January, 2016 and it is a global campaign that is implemented in more than 30 countries with the aim of achieving gender equitable and non-violence fatherhood.

Once again she welcomed participants and clarified the objective of the session that is to reflect on men's concerns about becoming a father and to discuss the benefits that being an involved father can bring to their children's, partners and themselves.

You can mention in bullets the number of topics covered in the session

### **My Concerns about becoming a father: *A Father Story***

The first session was on concerns about becoming a father whereby Safety Kwanza Coordinator, facilitated by giving the purpose of the session to participant that was to assist participants to reflect on their needs and interests as fathers and expected fathers and also to learn from the experience of an involved father.

He welcomed one of the participants who have experience of an involved father, one of the participants a married man with one child who briefly explained to the participants his story

starting from before and after becoming a father. He started by saying that, *I got a chance to have a good education and attained my degree in one of the university in Uganda, whereby I met my life partner. I discovered the pregnancy of my wife when I was doing my field practical in Tanzania while my partner was in Uganda. It was not easy for me to receive the news about pregnancy because I thought that I was not ready and still I was dependent to my parents. So I decided not to disappear from her because she was helping me, but on the other hand I was thinking on how I can handle her as we are both still students and at that time I did not have any assistance from my family.*

*When I returned back to Uganda, I thought of being the main help to my partner including assisting her in everything although I was not good financially. In helping her I was able to cook for my partner, wash clothes, wash dishes and attend together the anti-natal clinic. He told to other participants that, the time of pregnancy a woman needs her partner in a very close way so that she does not experience being alone.*

Participants were given a chance to ask him some questions; one of the participant asked him about the perceptions from his neighbors when he was doing all that to his partner and he replied that *"I heard many people talking about me being involved in women's work but at the same time I was receiving congratulations that I will be a good father as I was involved from the beginning of my wife pregnancy. I believe that you will do the same to your wives when they become pregnant"*.

Afterwards, participants were asked on how they feel after listening to the story and if they have learnt something new. One of the participants (29) said, *"My participation was not so deep to help my partner because I did not help her after all I had no idea if I was supposed to do so, this is because I do not remember to see my parents doing that.*

It was mentioned by other participant that attending anti-natal clinic together as partners helps both partners to know their health status and how to take care of their health.

Also the facilitator, posed the question to the participants on their reaction when they get information that their partners are pregnant. One participant responded that *"I was afraid and did not know what to do as I was imagine starting new phase of life as father, I was not ready at all."* Most participants replied the same though, others were happy but not sure on how they will

take care of the mother and the coming child. Nevertheless, none of the participant thought on how he could be an involved father.

After the discussion, Safety Kwanza Coordinator appreciated participants for what they shared and welcomed Dorothea Ernest to start another session. She started by explaining the purpose of the session that was to help men reflect on the benefit of being an involved father, including benefits for the child, the mother and the man himself. She added that, being an involved father begins during pregnancy, when men are actively involved in their child’s life as it has positive benefits for the man, the woman and the child.

The last session was on group discussion on the following questions, participants were divided into five groups;

From the groups different perceptions were raised which shows that participants understand what are the advantages and when they can start to participate as good fathers, see table 1 below;

**Table 1**

QUESTIONS	GROUP ONE	GROUP TWO	GROUP THREE	GROUP FOUR	GROUP FIVE
What are the benefits of a man being an involved father? For the child, mother of a child and himself?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Benefits to children:</li> <li>-The child will have better care</li> <li>-Well brain growth</li> <li>-Child will have good behavior</li> <li>❖ Benefits to father</li> <li>-Father will have good reputation from the whole society</li> <li>-Father will be faithfully to his family</li> <li>❖ Benefits to mother</li> <li>-Good health</li> <li>-Growth of love in the family</li> <li>-Build her self-esteem to the society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Benefit to children</li> <li>-It leads to a child good health</li> <li>❖ Benefit to father</li> <li>-He will have good and healthier family</li> <li>❖ Benefit to mother</li> <li>-Mother will have good health and reduce stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Benefit to children</li> <li>-Child will have good health</li> <li>❖ Benefit to father</li> <li>-Father will be respected with the family</li> <li>❖ Benefit to mother</li> <li>-Mother will well handle and care for the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Benefit to children</li> <li>-A child will have good health</li> <li>❖ Benefit to father</li> <li>-Father will be respected and will have peace at work</li> <li>❖ Benefit to mother</li> <li>-Mother will be able to take care of the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Benefit to children</li> <li>-A child will grow healthier, full of confidence and good behavior.</li> <li>❖ Benefit to father</li> <li>-Father will be respected and will have confidence to handle his family</li> <li>❖ Benefit to mother</li> <li>-Mother will be happy and able to take care of the family</li> </ul>
When does being an involved father start? Why?	<p>Good father will be seen from the time of relationship</p> <p>Good father starts to involve starting the time he got the information that his partner is pregnancy, he will be</p>	<p>Good father starts to involve himself during the pregnancy period</p>	<p>Good father start to involve himself before his partner get pregnant.</p>	<p>Good father starts to involve himself the time he knows that his partner is pregnant</p>	<p>Good father starts to involve himself when they are both in relationship so they will plan together what kind of family they want</p>

ready to continue caring for her and prepare to be father.				
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*Participants during group discussion*

After groups' presentation, participants were given guideline that elaborated more on the benefits of being an involved father to their children, partners and themselves. Some participants said that they knew and understood on being an involved fathers but they lack confidence to practice in their families. But through this session they promised to be champions in leading discussions where they work so as others can get to know, but also to put into practice in their families.

The facilitator ended the session and welcomed Kunduchi Community Development Officer, Ms Julieth Nzugika to give out the closing remarks of the event. She gave her appreciation to all participants for their attendance and also CDF as a secretariat of MenEngage Tanzania for organizing the event.

She emphasized participants to take the topic of the session serious as it will help their partners to reduce stress, creating happiness to their families and most importantly it will help to have protected children with good health. Ms. Julieth urged the participants to influence others from what they have learned, and to use MenEngage Network whenever they need to learn more on issues concerning involvement of men to bring gender equality and positive parenting.

In addition she advised participants to create men's groups in their work place so as to meet more men and share their experience.

## Outputs

- 60 bodaboda cyclist were trained on *becoming a father*
- 3 MenEngage member organizations participated

## Challenges

- **Time management:** The campaign started a bit late as most of the Bodaboda cyclist were late due to the nature of their work.

## Lesson Learnt

- There is a need for awareness raising to men especially the group that have been left behind such as bodaboda and daladala drivers on issues of their concerns as fathers
- Most men do not know their responsibilities as fathers/ partners this is due to patriarchy system.
- More discussion and campaigns are required to make boys and men being involved in their family/being father

## Way Forward

- Work together with Government through Community development officer of Tegeta-Wazo to create men's groups
- Identify Men Champions that will assist MenEngage Tanzania to reach more other men in the community