



EMERGE COVID-19 and Gender Questions Women and Girls' Agency



Center on Gender Health and Equity (GEH)

EMERGE COVID-19 and Gender Questions

Women and Girls' Agency

Household Decision-Making Control

1. In general, how much control do you have over personal decisions that have a major impact on your life, such as whether you will go out of the house into the community, with whom you will associate outside of your household, or when and from whom to seek health care for yourself?

	How much control do you have over your decision?	How much control do your husband or other household members have over your decision?	If your husband or family do not agree with your decision, can any of the following happen? (Please check all that apply)	Since the start of the pandemic, do you have less control, more control or the same control over this decision?
i. Leaving the house to go into the community	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. They will stop you. b. They will be angry and may speak badly about you but won't stop you. c. They will punish you. d. Nothing will happen	a. Less Control b. More Control c. Same level of Control
ii. Who you will associate with outside of your household	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. They will stop you. b. They will be angry and may speak badly about you but won't stop you. c. They will punish you. d. Nothing will happen	a. Less Control b. More Control c. Same level of Control
iii. From whom to seek health care for yourself	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. They will stop you. b. They will be angry and may speak badly about you but won't stop you. c. They will punish you. d. Nothing will happen	a. Less Control b. More Control c. Same level of Control
iv. When to seek health care for yourself	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. They will stop you. b. They will be angry and may speak badly about you but won't stop you. c. They will punish you. d. Nothing will happen	a. Less Control b. More Control c. Same level of Control
v. Large household purchases	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. They will stop you. b. They will be angry and may speak badly about you but won't stop you. c. They will punish you. d. Nothing will happen	a. Less Control b. More Control c. Same level of Control
vi. Visits to family or relatives	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. None b. Very Little c. Some d. A fair amount e. Full Control	a. They will stop you. b. They will be angry and may speak badly about you but won't stop you. c. They will punish you. d. Nothing will happen	a. Less Control b. More Control c. Same level of Control

Sources: Questions on Household Decision-Making Control were taken or adapted from:

- Demographic and Health Surveys. (2019). Demographic and Health Surveys Phase 8: Woman's Questionnaire. Retrieved from <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-DHSQ8-DHS-Questionnaires-and-Manuals.cfm>
- The "Decision-Making Dimension" in Wisor S, Bessell S, Castillo F, Crawford J, Donaghue K, Hunt J, ... & Pogge T. 2014. The individual deprivation measure: A gender-sensitive approach to poverty measurement. Melbourne: The International Women's Development Agency. See <http://emerge.ucsd.edu/measure-id/>
- Hinson, L., Edmeades, J., Muriithi, L., & Puri, M. (2019). Developing and testing measures of reproductive decision-making agency in Nepal. SSM-Population Health, 9, 100473.

Freedom of Movement

1. Since the COVID-19 lockdown, how often do each of the following leave the household?

a. Never or Less than 3 hr/week	a	b	c	d
b. 3-10 hrs/week	a	b	c	d
c. 11-20 hrs/week	a	b	c	d
d. 21 or more hrs/week	a	b	c	d
i. Males in household age 25-59	a	b	c	d
ii. Males in household 60+	a	b	c	d
iii. Males in the household age 16-24	a	b	c	d
iv. Males in household less than age 16	a	b	c	d
v. Females in household age 25-59	a	b	c	d
vi. Females in household 60+	a	b	c	d
vii. Females in the household age 16-24	a	b	c	d
viii. Females in household less than age 16	a	b	c	d

2. Who in your family usually goes out to buy or get essential products (eg. groceries or food supplies) during the lockdown?
 - a. Self
 - b. Husband
 - c. Other adult male aged 16 or older
 - d. Other adult female aged 16 or older
 - e. Son under age 16
 - f. Daughter under age 16
 - g. Other (please specify _____)
 - h. No one, items are delivered or we cannot get them

3. Can you personally go out to buy/get essential products (food, menstrual products) if you needed them at this time?
 - a. Yes (If yes, skip to next section)
 - b. No

4. If no, why not?
 - a. No, because it is against government rules
 - b. No, because my family does not allow it
 - c. No, because I lack transport
 - d. Other reason (please specify _____)

Gendered Constraints to Women's/Girls' Behaviors in the Household

In many households during the COVID lockdown, women have had to change the way they live in their own homes, due to increased presence of men in households during the day. Have you had to alter your behavior at home in any way due to the increased presence of men in the household following the COVID-19 pandemic and the social containment efforts to manage the spread of the virus (lockdown, curfew, etc). Please respond yes or no to each of the following statements, as applies to you:

1. Since the start of the pandemic, I have to wear clothing that I would usually not wear while being at home, for example wearing only traditional clothes or clothes that cover more of my body.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

2. I cannot do things for entertainment that I used to do previously, for example watch my favorite TV show or listen to my favorite radio show, because male members of the family are now home and do not like me doing it.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

3. (For wives only) I cannot talk on the phone/chat online with my parents or other family members for as long as I used to previously, because male members of the family are now home and do not like me doing it.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

4. I cannot talk on the phone/chat online with my friends for as long as I used to previously, because male members of the family are now home and do not like me doing it.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. I cannot talk on the phone/chat online with male friends, because family members are home more and do not like me doing it.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Source: Items on freedom of movement and gendered constraints on household behaviors created for this survey, based on literature review.

Locus of Control

1. Describe how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements at this time. Use the following response pattern:

	a. Strongly agree	b. Agree	c. Disagree	d. Disagree
i. In my life, good luck is more important than hard work for success.	a	b	c	d
ii. When I make plans, I am almost certain I can make them work.	a	b	c	d
iii. Every time I try to go ahead, something or somebody stops me.	a	b	c	d
iv. My plans hardly ever work out, so planning makes me unhappy.	a	b	c	d
v. I do not have enough control over the direction my life is taking.	a	b	c	d
vi. Chance and luck are very important for what happens in my life.	a	b	c	d
vii. I feel less in control of my life since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.	a	b	c	d

Scoring information: Reverse score item 2, and then get the mean of the first six questions. A higher score is indicative of higher control.

Source: The Locus of Control scale (items 1-6) is taken from:

- UW-BHS senior survey. https://depts.washington.edu/uwbhs/pdf/Locus_of_Control.pdf. This measure is a short-form of the original Locus of Control scale from- Rotter, JB. 1966. Generalized expectancies for internal versus external control of reinforcement. Psychological Monographs. 80(1):1-28
- We developed item 7 for this survey. Please check the correlation of item 7 with the measure using items 1-6, as well as the Cronbach alpha of the measure with and without item 7. You can keep item 7 as a separate variable. If you wish to include item 7 in the LoC measure, make sure that: a) it is significantly correlated with the measure made from items 1-6, and b) it demonstrates good internal consistency (Cronbach alpha > .7) with inclusion of item 7.

Coping

1. How well do each following statements describe your behavior and actions at this time? Use the following response pattern.
 - a. Does not describe me at all
 - b. Does not describe me
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Describes me
 - e. Describes me very well
- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| i. I look for creative ways to alter difficult situations. | a | b | c | d | e |
| ii. Regardless of what happens to me, I believe I can control my reaction to it. | a | b | c | d | e |
| iii. I believe I can grow in positive ways by dealing with difficult situations. | a | b | c | d | e |
| iv. I actively look for ways to replace the losses I encounter in life. | a | b | c | d | e |
| v. I am coping well with the difficulty and stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. | a | b | c | d | e |

Source: The Coping Measure items (items 1-4) are taken from:

- Sinclair, V. G., & Wallston, K.A. (2004). The development and psychometric evaluation of the Brief Resilient Coping Scale. Assessment, 11 (1), 94-101. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14994958>.
- We developed item 5 for this survey. Please check the correlation of item 5 with the measure using items 1-4, as well as the Cronbach alpha of the measure with and without item 5. You can keep item 5 as a separate variable. If you wish to include item 5 in the Coping measure, make sure: a) it is significantly correlated with the measure made from items 1-4, and b) it demonstrates good internal consistency (Cronbach alpha > .7) with inclusion of item 5.

Self-efficacy

1. How well do each following statements describe your behavior and actions at this time? Use the following response pattern.

a. Not at all true b. Hardly True c. Moderately True d. Exactly True

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| i. I can always manage to solve difficult problems if I try hard enough. | a | b | c | d |
| ii. If someone opposes me, I can find the means and ways to get what I want. | a | b | c | d |
| iii. It is easy for me to stick to my aims and accomplish my goals. | a | b | c | d |
| iv. I am confident that I could deal efficiently with unexpected events. | a | b | c | d |
| v. Thanks to my resourcefulness, I know how to handle unforeseen situations. | a | b | c | d |
| vi. I can solve most problems if I invest the necessary effort. | a | b | c | d |
| vii. I can remain calm when facing difficulties because I can rely on my coping abilities. | a | b | c | d |
| viii. When I am confronted with a problem, I can usually find several solutions. | a | b | c | d |
| ix. If I am in trouble, I can usually think of a solution | a | b | c | d |
| x. I can usually handle whatever comes my way. | a | b | c | d |
| xi. I can usually handle the stresses that are coming up related to the pandemic | a | b | c | d |

Source: The Coping Measure items (items 1-4) are taken from:

- Schwarzer, R., & Jerusalem, M. (1995). Generalized Self-Efficacy scale. In J. Weinman, S. Wright, & M. Johnston, Measures in health psychology: A user's portfolio. Causal and control beliefs (pp. 35-37). Windsor, UK: NFER-NELSON.
- We developed item 11 for this survey. Please check the correlation of item 11 with the measure using items 1-10, as well as the Cronbach alpha of the measure with and without item 11. You can keep item 11 as a separate variable. If you wish to include item 11 in the Self-Efficacy measure, make sure: a) it is significantly correlated with the measure made from items 1-10, and b) it demonstrates good internal consistency (Cronbach alpha > .7) with inclusion of item 11.

To further develop your survey, please refer to the following modules:

- [Partner Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Bystander Behaviour](#)
- [Digital Connectivity, Cyber Control and Abuse](#)
- [Domestic Work Distribution, Time Use and Unpaid Labour](#)