

**EMERGE Gender Questions**  
**Social Norms on Family Planning**

*NOTE: This module focuses on social norms in family planning (including fertility, fertility planning and contraceptive use). Many of the items ask about these issues in the context of marriage. You may wish to adapt these items for unmarried individuals. This module can be used with women and men. We do not in this module focus on contraceptive behaviors and fertility outcomes (parity, abortion, etc.), and instead recommend use of [Demographic Health Surveys](#) and [PMA2020](#) for these behaviors and outcomes.*

**Social Norms related to Contraceptive Use**

*The next few items ask about what you think your close friends and relatives are doing in terms of their use of modern contraceptives, such as the pill, an IUD, injectable or condom:*

	a. None b. Some c. Most d. All
1. How many of your close friends and relatives who are married or in sexual relationships do you think use a modern contraceptive (such as the pill, an IUD or condom)?	a      b      c      d
2. How many of your close friends and relatives who are married or in sexual relationships do you think can decide when they want to use contraception?	a      b      c      d
3. How many of your close friends and relatives who are married or in sexual relationships do you think can use contraception if they want to, even when their partner does not want them to?	a      b      c      d

*Now I would like to ask you how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

	a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Neither Agree or Disagree d. Disagree e. Strongly Disagree
4. Men, whose wives use contraceptives, lack authority over their wives and family.	a      b      c      d      e
5. It is shameful to be associated with a woman who uses contraceptives.	a      b      c      d      e
6. It is appropriate for a husband and wife to talk about child spacing and contraceptive methods.	a      b      c      d      e
7. You should defend someone if they are being teased or criticized for using contraception.	a      b      c      d      e

*How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your community's views on marriage and children? By community, we mean the people you are most often around and those that you may listen to more often.*

	a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Neither Agree or Disagree d. Disagree e. Strongly Disagree
8. In my community, it is expected for newly married couples to have a child soon after marriage.	a      b      c      d      e
9. In my community, it is expected for all married couples to have children.	a      b      c      d      e
10. In my community, people feel a lot of pity for married couples who are unable to have children.	a      b      c      d      e
11. In my community, people speak badly of married women who have not had a child after two or more years of marriage.	a      b      c      d      e
12. In my community, people speak badly of married men who have not had a child after two or more years of marriage.	a      b      c      d      e
13. In my community, people will think there are marital or health problems if a couple has not had a child after two or more years of marriage.	a      b      c      d      e
14. In my community, it is unacceptable for couples to choose not to have children.	a      b      c      d      e

15. In my community, it is common to ask married couples without a child when they will have children.	a	b	c	d	e
16. In my community, it is common for parents of a bride to pressure couples to have children soon after marriage.	a	b	c	d	e
17. In my community, it is common for parents of the groom to pressure couples to have children soon after marriage.	a	b	c	d	e

18. When you think about your community, please indicate what community you are speaking of? We would like to understand this
- Those in my local geographic area such as my village or neighborhood.
  - Those of my ethnic or religious community, as I am most often with them.
  - Other (Please specify \_\_\_\_\_)

**Source:** Developed by the EMERGE Team based on research and theory. Should be tested in the field prior to broad implementation.

**Social Norms Related to Contraceptive Use for First Time Parents and Newly Married Couples**

***Now I want to ask you about what your community thinks about contraceptive use among young couples or couples with no children or one child. By contraception, we are referring to ways to prevent pregnancy, such as the pill, IUD, injectable, or condom.***

- How much do you agree with this statement? Members of my community think it is appropriate for newly married couples to use contraception.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
- How much do you agree with this statement? Members of my community think it is appropriate for people who have not yet had children or have only one child to use contraception.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree

***Now I want to ask you about how much you agree with the following statements about leaders in your community.***

- Leaders in my community think it is appropriate for newly married couples to use contraception.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
- Leaders in my community think it is appropriate for people who have not yet had children or have only one child to use a modern method of FP.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree

**Source:** Adapted from: Costenbader E, Zisette S, Martinez A, LeMasters K, Dagadu NA, Deepan P, Shaw B. Getting to intent: Are social norms influencing intentions to use modern contraception in the DRC?. PloS one. 2019;14(7).

**Social Sanctions related to Family Planning and Contraceptive Use**

**If a woman who has not yet had a child uses a modern contraceptive method or tries to avoid pregnancy, how likely is it that the following consequences might occur?**

	a. Very likely	b. Somewhat likely	c. Not likely
1. She may be criticized	a	b	c
2. People in her family or community may say she is not fulfilling her duty to the family or her husband	a	b	c
3. She may have arguments with her husband	a	b	c
4. She may have conflicts with her in-laws	a	b	c
5. She may be considered immoral or promiscuous	a	b	c
6. People may say bad things about her or avoid her	a	b	c
7. People will say she is doing the right thing for her family	a	b	c

**If a woman who has not yet had a son uses a modern contraceptive method or tries to avoid pregnancy, how likely is it that the following consequences might occur?**

	a. Very likely	b. Somewhat likely	c. Not likely
8. She may be criticized	a	b	c
9. People in her family or community may say she is not fulfilling her duty to the family or her husband	a	b	c
10. She may have arguments with her husband	a	b	c
11. She may have conflicts with her in-laws	a	b	c
12. She may be considered immoral or promiscuous	a	b	c
13. People may say bad things about her or avoid her	a	b	c
14. People will say she is doing the right thing for her family	a	b	c

**If a woman who has had two or more children uses a modern contraceptive method or tries to avoid pregnancy, how likely is it that the following consequences might occur?**

	a. Very likely	b. Somewhat likely	c. Not likely
15. She may be criticized	a	b	c
16. People in her family or community may say she is not fulfilling her duty to the family or her husband	a	b	c
17. She may have arguments with her husband	a	b	c
18. She may have conflicts with her in-laws	a	b	c
19. She may be considered immoral or promiscuous	a	b	c
20. People may say bad things about her or avoid her	a	b	c
21. People will say she is doing the right thing for her family	a	b	c

Source: Developed by EMERGE Team based on research and theory. Should be tested in the field prior to broad implementation.