

RSPN & UNFPA PROJECT EVALUATION BRIEF

Impact Assessment of Husband Schools on Reproductive Health

Abstract / Synopsis

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), with support from UNFPA, implemented the Husband Schools Model to engage married men in family planning, reproductive health, birth spacing, and spousal communication. The intervention aimed to address social, gender, and service-related barriers that limit contraceptive uptake in Pakistan. The project reached over 31,000 men and women with family planning messages. The evaluation undertaken by the London School of Economics (LSE) Student Consultancy team assessed the project's impact using survey data collected from 62 male participants and 46 female spouses in Islamabad, Attock, and Loralai between 22 and 31 December 2025.



Field Session & Interactive Discussion with Husband School Participants

Findings

> 70% Women reporting greater involvement in FP decision-making	~ 80% Men with knowledge of >2 family planning methods	> 90% Men confirming family planning is permitted in Islam
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Findings indicate that the project interventions significantly improved household communication on family planning, with over 70 % women reporting greater involvement in discussions and decision-making after their husbands attended Husband Schools. The project also enhanced men's knowledge of contraceptive methods and the health benefits of birth spacing with nearly 80 % of men having knowledge of more than two methods of family planning. Contraceptive uptake was primarily driven by condom use, while access to a wider range of methods remained constrained by supply-side limitations in some areas. The referral mechanism encouraged service utilisation with over 70% of men who received referral slips availed family planning services at the facilities. However, women continued to face barriers such as distance,



Figure 1: Awareness Session with Female Members District Attock



Figure 2: Session on Sexual Reproductive Health with Male members in a Husband school in District Attock

transportation challenges, overcrowded facilities, and limited privacy. Although personal acceptance of family planning was high, social stigma and community misconceptions persisted. The evaluation findings also reveal that over 90% men and 84 % female respondents expressed that family planning is permitted in Islam. The evaluation highlights the important role of religious leaders in promoting positive attitudes toward family planning. Moreover, women expressed a strong interest in receiving direct reproductive health education through dedicated projects.

Conclusion

Overall, the Husband Schools Model demonstrates strong potential to improve reproductive health awareness, family planning uptake, and household communication. Future efforts should strengthen gender-equitable decision-making, improved service availability and reliable contraceptive supplies, expand women-centred programming, and promote broader community-level social norm change.