

Community

How might beliefs about gender influence vaccination behaviours? Does the gender of the caregiver or vaccine recipient impact vaccine uptake?



"I rely on my husband to make decisions about vaccinating my children"

In many families, mothers care for children but don't always make decisions about their health. Fathers or other male relatives may need to agree to vaccination.

"I find it difficult to read and understand the pamphlets they give us at the local clinic"

Women may not have the same access to health information as men, especially if they have less education.

"I prefer to visit a female healthcare provider"

Sometimes, women don't feel comfortable going to clinics if male health workers are there, or in some

cases, their husbands might not let them go alone.

"Sometimes I miss taking my child for their vaccination because my husband isn't around to take me to the clinic"

Women may not have money to travel to the clinic, or may not be allowed to leave their homes without a male or older family member accompanying them. When this is not possible, it may lead to missed vaccinations.

"We could only afford one child to be vaccinated, so we chose our son"

In contexts where males may be valued more than females, the son's healthcare needs are prioritised over the daughter's.

Healthcare System

To what extent do gender norms influence healthcare providers and vaccination service delivery?



"They talk down to us because we are women"

Female health workers might face discrimination, which can make it harder for women to work as vaccinators.

"We rarely meet with the child's father"

Healthcare workers often overlook the role that men can play in vaccination decisions and fail to engage them in conversation.

"The community I work in doesn't encourage men and women to work together"

Gender norms may limit female vaccinators from travelling or working alone with their male colleagues.

"I'm demotivated in my job, as I don't feel respected"

Female healthworkers may face gender bias or difficulties at work, which demotivate them.