



Reflections: Gender-roles and
implications for Service Provision
and Policies

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“The difference between ways of dealing with things create challenges for us as a family. For instance, in Canada hitting is not allowed and the law is by the woman’s side and the children’s. Sometimes when I have an argument with my wife she would stand for herself and tell me that she has the rights here and it is an obstacle.”

Quote: Male participant

The relationship between us got worse because he thought I would leave him and I wanted to live my life more here (in Canada);... Because the laws here are with the women, children and against the men, he thought that I would hold this matter against him additionally he was unemployed. At the beginning of our arrival here, the information that he got was that the woman and children and then the man, and he would definitely be under my control...

Quote: Female participant

”Here in Canada...”

Welcome to Canada

What you should know

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What I heard in the narratives of participants:

- How gender relationships and roles are shaped by context; by the daily context of stress in transition countries and by the integration process.
- Tension and difference between "expressed" gender norms/expectations and lived realities
- See fluidity and flexibility; not rigid distinctions
- Gender relations often situationally and variously defined
- Understanding gender roles and identities expressed through various narratives of loss and opportunity/possibility

Service Provision

- Recognizing gender relationships/roles as situationally defined, as well as shaped by cultural values, expectations
- Responsibility to recognize the impacts of our responses and services
- Support a service environment of care that offers re-moralization (Frank, 2002)
 - Working with families as unit, while recognizing importance of unique gender experiences and needs, but also wider diversity
 - Creating a space for men -> engage with and validate narratives of loss
- See resilience and strengths, support families in building a narrative that validates their resilience
- Culturally appropriate lens - engaging with complexity, an approach to building understandings

Thank you 😊

“When the person does not work to provide for oneself and family [he] will not feel joy. When I work and provide for my home I feel my essence and entity.

[T]he only thing that I can give my children after we left our country of origin is advice as I am unable to provide them financially.’

Quote: Male participant

“I can tell you taking charge [of all aspects of family life] impacted me negatively and positively. The negative impact was that that I was exhausted, and the positive impact was that I offered my family support and I have helped them, I helped them to be comfortable in the transit country.”

Quote: Female participant