

Involving Men to Increase the Uptake of Family Planning Services

Why use this approach?

Devising male engagement strategies can increase the uptake of family planning methods in urban areas, particularly non-scalpel vasectomy.



STEP 1: Create and train a pool of providers

on the non-scalpel vasectomy method (NSV). A doctor should observe five NSV cases and perform five independent cases under supervision before they are deemed a skilled surgeon in NSV.



STEP 2: Ensure availability of NSV kits

at the facility where the surgeon is deployed per Government of India guidelines.



STEP 3: Ensure client flow

by creating a dedicated male engagement team. The team of men or women, should be comfortable talking with men about male family planning methods and articulate and passionate about their work. The team should do group sensitization or one-on-one sensitization with men at the places that they congregate at times when they can concentrate on family planning discussions.



STEP 4: Impart counselling skills

through an orientation/training of mobilizers on informed choice counselling techniques and technical knowledge about NSV, including observation of a few clients undergoing NSV counselling.



STEP 5: Reach out to men

and communicate and engage with them to create demand of male methods through a number of interventions such as:

- workplace interventions
- rickshaw puller intervention
- male congregation interventions, e.g. Chauraha
- evening community meetings in the slums



STEP 6: Distribute handouts

after the sensitization is complete with key messages, frequently asked questions and information on the nearest trained providers to each participant.



STEP 7: Refer clients to providers

to the nearest government or accredited private provider trained in NSV.



STEP 8: Ensure in-clinic counselling

by a staff nurse or provider once the client reaches the facility on all of their family planning options so that they can make an informed choice. If the client agrees to a method, consent should be taken and documented.



STEP 9: Provide refresher training

through a mentor team of trainers responsible for providing on-site support to the other providers bi-annually. This type of visit serves as supportive supervision and an opportunity for providers to seek solutions to the challenges that they are facing while performing male family planning procedures.