

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Male Involvement in Maternity Health Care in Malawi

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### Abstract

This study was conducted in Mwanza district in southern Malawi with the aim of investigating the individual's, community's and health workers' perception of male involvement in maternal health care. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were the methods used for data collection. The participants' responses generated two main themes namely male involvement in health facility care and outside the health facility. The participants' perception of male involvement in facility care concentrated around six sub-themes describing male involvement as; couple HIV counselling and testing; a government law; a strategy for fast services for women; unfair programme for women without partners; a foreign concept; an act of love. We conclude that male involvement in the health facility care was fragmented and associated mainly with first antenatal care; couple HIV counselling and testing; suggesting poor integration of male involvement into the existing maternal and child health programmes and that there is need to engender maternal health care services.

**Keywords:** Gender roles, maternal health care, social norms, perception

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