

Effectiveness and value for money of combined interventions to empower girls and address social norms in reducing child marriage: cluster randomized controlled trial and cost-effectiveness of CARE's Tipping Point Programme in Bangladesh

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Background & Objectives

Child Marriage (CM)



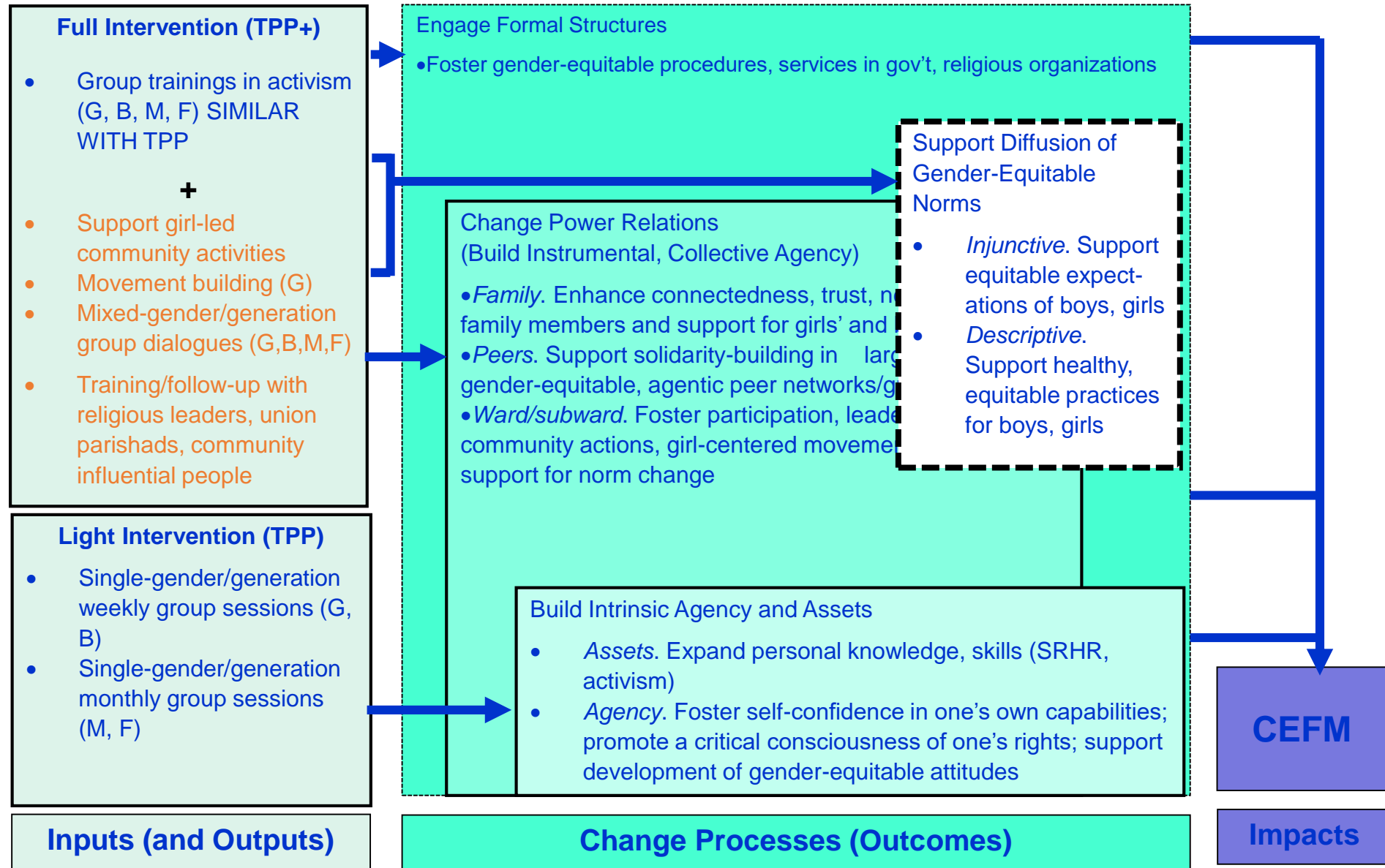
Globally, around 40% of the girls get married **before age 18**.

In Bangladesh, this figure was 50% in 2022.

Negative implications of CM on the lives and well-being of girls, their families, communities and the nation at large

Elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation features as **one of the SDGs**

CARE's Tipping Point (TP) Theory of Change



Objectives of the studies

Short-term (2-yr from baseline)

To assess **the short-term impact of Tipping Point (TP) interventions** in reducing child marriage in a northern sub-district in Bangladesh

Medium-term (5-yr from baseline)

To assess **the medium-term impact of Tipping Point (TP) interventions** in reducing child marriage in a northern sub-district in Bangladesh

To assess **cost-effectiveness**

Methods

Studies' overview

- **Design:** A mixed-method three-arm cluster Randomized Controlled Trial (cRCT)
- **Study site:** 51 villages (clusters, 17 per arm) in *Pirgacha upazila* (sub-district) from Rangpur district, Bangladesh
- **Study population:**
 - **A cohort of girls** aged 12-<16 years at recruitment
 - Cross-sectional samples of community members aged ≥ 25
- **Sample size:**
 - 1,275 girls (25 per cluster)
 - 540 community members
- **Timeline**
 - Short-term Impact Study
 - Baseline survey: 2019
 - Follow-up survey 1: 2021
 - Medium-term Impact Study and cost-effectiveness:
 - Follow-up survey 2 (girls only): 2024
 - Retrospective cost data collection

Data analyses

Short-term (2-yr from baseline)

- All participants included
- Account for multiple levels (villages and individuals)
- Causal impact of session attendance

Medium-term (5-yr from baseline)

- Micro-costing
- Cost per participant
- Cost avoiding health consequences of CM
- Probability cost-effectiveness

Studies' outcomes

Short-term (2-yr from baseline)

- Child Marriage

Medium-term (5-yr from baseline)

- Child Marriage
- Health
 - Mental
 - Sexual and reproductive

Results

Short-term impact on child marriage

	Effect (95% CI)	p-value
Impact of randomization		
TPP vs control	0.01 (-0.04, 0.06)	NS
TPP+ vs control	0.03 (-0.02, 0.08)	NS
TPP+ vs TPP	0.003 (-0.04, 0.05)	NS
Impact of access to the intervention		
TPP vs control: Number of session ≥ 21 (ref: < 21)	0.01 (-0.04, 0.07)	NS
TPP+ vs control: Number of session ≥ 36 (ref: < 36)	0.08 (-0.04, 0.17)	NS
TPP+ vs TPP: Number of session ≥ 36 (ref: < 36)	0.03 (-0.33, 0.39)	NS

Medium-term impact on child marriage

	Effect (95% CI)	p-value
Impact of randomization		
TPP vs control	0.02 (-0.04, 0.09)	NS
TPP+ vs control	-0.01 (-0.03, 0.24)	NS
TPP+ vs TPP	-0.07 (-0.15, 0.02)	NS
Impact of access to the intervention		
TPP vs control: Number of session ≥ 21 (ref: < 21)	0.02 (-0.04, 0.08)	NS
TPP+ vs control: Number of session ≥ 36 (ref: < 36)	-0.03 (-0.19, 0.13)	NS
TPP+ vs TPP: Number of session ≥ 36 (ref: < 36)	-0.72 (-2.19, 0.76)	NS

Medium-term impact on health

Comparison	Depression coeff. (95% CI)	Vaginal fistula coeff. (95% CI)	DALY coeff. (95% CI)
TPP vs control	-.19 (-.62, .25)	.58 (-.71, 1.9)	-.01 (-.02, .01)
TPP+ vs control	-.47 ** (-.90, -.04)	.85 (-.41, 2.1)	-.02* (-.03, .002)
TPP+ vs TPP	-.31 (-.80, .19)	.28 (-.90, 1.5)	-.01 (-.03, .01)

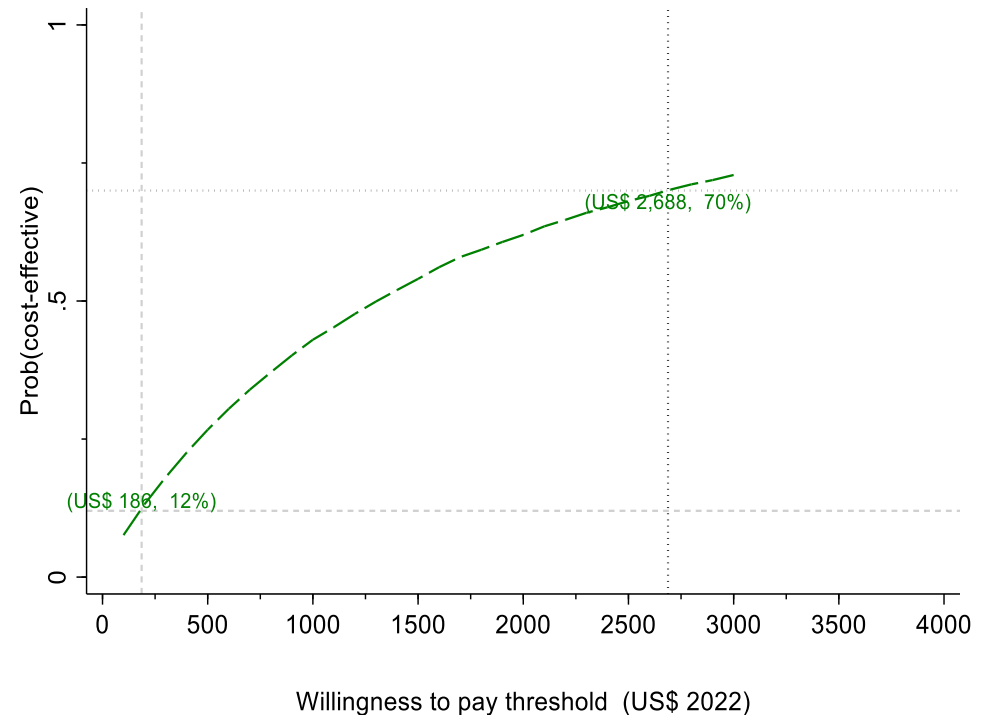
Costs + medium-term cost-effectiveness

Cost per person (USD 2022 prices) Cost-effectiveness

TPP vs control: \$ 292

TPP+ vs control: \$ 26

TPP+ vs TPP: - \$ 266



Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

IMPACT

- **Short-term (2-yr post baseline):**
 - TPP+: no impact on CM
- **Medium-term (5-yr post baseline):**
 - TPP+:
 - Promising for girls' health
 - Impact on CM in the expected direction

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

- TPP+: cost-effectiveness is promising

Recommendations

Interventions

Community-wide vs girls-focused approach

Test TPI effectiveness in a non-pandemic situation

Further explore attendance

Research

Measuring health impacts consistently

Long-term follow-up

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