

Discussion & Men's Perspective



Within Kampong Chhnang,

Cambodian Men's Network (CMN) team had a small group meeting with men from the community for a short period of time to understand about men's perspectives **on the topic of**



Abortion and if abortions are seen as something that should be openly discussed, if it is either negative or positive.

In this short impromptu discussion, of a small group of men, they shared their thoughts, views and understanding of how abortions play a part in their community and in society as a whole.

Many of their comments, at the beginning of the discussion, stated that abortions are not good, people should strive to have kids and children, if possible, they should all focus on nurturing and taking care of the child, instead of ending a life.



Furthermore, they brought up the fact that it is dangerous to have an abortion, especially in the more rural areas as there are fewer medical resources, making it risky to get an abortion, therefore, they should keep the pregnancy to be safe.



Some of the participants

have stated that even in cases of sexual assault, it might be too dangerous to have the abortion,

so they should keep the pregnancy. However, after the discussion continued a little further, their views began to shift and change, they all echoed the same thoughts and feelings about abortions, after a few different questions were asked, and more shared their thoughts and inputs, they had different answers depending on the circumstances and context around abortions.

THE PARTICIPANTS STARTED TO SHARE MORE,

but their viewpoint shifted from what they have shared at the beginning, it seemed like some of their thoughts at the start was not what they really believed, but more of the answers they had at hand, but when there was interest shown in delving deeper, and the further breakdown of the discussion, they became more engaged, more willingness to ponder on the different aspect that could potentially have an impact.

The discussion carried on, and they expressed that to a degree, they all do agree that abortions is necessary if it endangers the mother's health, or is advised by the doctor, then they should consider those options. The discussion continued further, with participants also wanting to highlight that abortion should be allowed if the person carrying the pregnancy does not want it, the choice should be on the person carrying/having the baby, however, some of the participants that do have families and children, said that, if their spouse came to them and told them that their spouse wanted an abortion, the husband would want to try and convince their spouse to reconsider first, to talk out any doubts and convince their spouses otherwise.



Some of the participants disagree, they shared that it should be the choice of the person carrying the pregnancy, and they would support their spouses' choices, without needing to involve other family members.

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The topic of abortion is difficult, having children is a big decision and the same with abortions, if the pregnancy is fatal and endangers the person carrying, abortion should be an option and should be discussed with the doctors, however if the pregnancy does not have any negative impacts, but the person carrying wants an abortion, it would have to be brought up to the whole family to discuss and think about, (the whole family includes, parents and in-laws). - Men's perspective participant

Another aspect that was talked about in abortion was the stance of religion, to see if religion has an impact on access to abortions, or how religion shapes their views on abortions. The participants all echoed the same statement, it is a sin to kill, and have an abortion, however one participant said that:



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Karma and sin should not be the main focus (if the abortion is health related), there are other factors that are more important to consider, such as if it is fatal, if the parents are socioeconomically stable, are the parents stable enough to support more kids etc ...



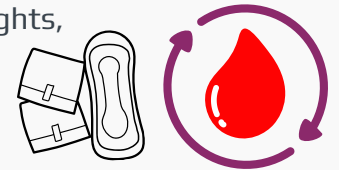
The second topic

that was touched on was menstrual products. The discussion started out with a simple question, should menstrual products be accessible everywhere, especially in public spaces such as (public bathrooms, school bathrooms, workplace bathrooms).

The participants are all aware that currently, there are no menstrual products available in public for those who need them.



The participants all shared their thoughts that access to these products is crucial and very important as it is related to people's health and well-being, and these products should be placed everywhere so it is easily accessible. They brought up reasons for why they believe this, they shared their thoughts,



“In regards to menstrual products, it does not bother me as it is a natural thing and their health should be the important aspect that should be focused on, instead of shame and tabooess” - Men's perspective participant

The discussion then took a different turn and started to look at shame, tabooess and secrecy around menstrual products. It is revealed that some people, feel uncomfortable or are disgusted by the menstrual products,



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Some men are shy or find it disgusting or something that should be kept private, because it is not talked about and they do not experience these things, so they would not understand, instead they get shy or turn away from it because these topics are not openly shared or taught, which might be why men do not understand.

- Men's perspective participant

The participants all had the same thoughts,

that menstrual products should be **available everywhere**, it should not be shamed or looked at in disgust. The participants all shared that there should be space, to have an open discussion around these topics, there should be lessons on this too (biology and puberty) for everyone as

it is crucial to understand that this is something natural and it happens to everyone, everywhere, so it should not be something to be ashamed of or needs to be hidden, but rather to educate, to open a discussion, which could help change people's views by helping them understand what it is and why it happens.





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