

Phase 2

Focus Groups Guide for Adolescent Girls - Nepal

#1 Interacting with boys

Moderator: Now I am going to tell you a story. This is a fictional story of an adolescent girl named Fahima and an adolescent boy Billal. Let's pretend they are from this Village. I do not want you to think of any real Fahima and Billal who live in this village. I would like you to listen to Fahima's story attentively and discuss the following questions.

Fahima aged 14 has been seen talking two or three times outside her home or on the way school to Billal aged 15. Some neighbours see them and tell her parents. So, when Fahima returns home the neighbours are still there and she has to face her parents. Her parents took her to a separate room and demanded that she stops talking with Billal. Fahima says that she was talking about her schoolwork and about the family's agricultural activity with Billal.

1. Could you please fill in the gaps in the story and continue it for me?

Probe:

- a. In your opinion, what will the neighbors think about Fahima who is just seen socially talking to a boy a couple of times?
 - b. What measures will Fahima's parents use to stop her talking with Billal? Why?
 - c. Are things any different in any families? How are they different?
2. What do you think most girls like Fahima will do, will she continue, or will she stop talking with Billal? Why? What will happen if she refuses to stop talking to him?

#2a Eve Teasing

Moderator: Now I am going to tell you another story. This is a fictional story of an adolescent girl named Salma. Let's pretend they are from this Village. I do not want you to think of any real Salma who live in this village. I would like you to listen to Salma's story attentively and discuss the following questions.

Salma is a 15 years old school going girl. One day, walking alone to see her friend, some older boys on the road start eve teasing her. Some neighbours see them and tell her parents what happened. So, when Salma returns home the neighbours are still there and she has to face her parents. Her parents took her to a separate room and demanded that she stop leaving the house alone to go to any place alone

1. Could you please fill in the gaps in the story and continue it for me?

Probe:

- a. In your opinion, what will the neighbours think about Salma?
- b. What measures will Salma's parents use to stop her to leave the house alone? Why?
- c. What do you think most girls like Salma will do, will she continue to visit her friend or stop?
- d. What will happen if she refuses to stop leaving the house alone to go to any place? What will the parents do? Why?
- e. Are things any different in any families? How are they different?

Marriage after eve teasing

I am going back to the story again. NOW I would like you to imagine that the following week, one of Salma's relatives tells her father that he knows of a great groom for Salma. Salma's father agrees with the relative that the groom sounds like a good match. When Salma came to know that her parents invited the potential bridegroom to their house for seeing Salma, she expressed her disapproval of this matchmaking as she does not want to marry before she is 20 years old.

1. How will decision be made in this scenario?

Probe: If the proposal is considered good

- a. How will her mother react to Salma's assertion and what will she do? Why?
- b. How will her father react to Salma's assertion and what will he do? Why?
- c. How will Salma's peers and cousins react?
- d. Given the reaction and opinion of the people involved, what will be Salma's reaction and what will she do? Why?
- e. Will it make any difference if the proposal was not considered good, but not considered bad either? In what ways the reaction and actions will be different?

#3 Marriage- Dropout Girl

Moderator: Now I would like to tell you one last little story of an adolescent girl named Saleha. Let's pretend she is from this Village. I do not want you to think of any real Saleha who lives in this village. I would like you to listen to Saleha's story attentively and discuss the following questions.

Saleha aged 16 is a dropout girl who lives with her parents and sisters. One day the matchmaker came to her parents with a marriage proposal for Saleha. Saleha and her family came to know from the matchmaker that one of Saleha's former classmates Rita is already engaged and is getting married in a week. The matchmaker suggested that Saleha needs to get married too as she is getting older. She also mentioned that she has a perfect proposal for her. She gave details of the potential bridegroom. Saleha's parents were pleased with his background and asked the matchmaker to invite the potential bridegroom to their house for seeing Saleha.

1. What will Saleha's family and peers want her to do in this situation?

Probe: If the proposal is considered good

- a. What would most peers and cousins want Saleha to do? Why?

I am going back to the story again. When Saleha came to know that her parents invited the potential bridegroom to their house for seeing Saleha, she expressed her disapproval of this matchmaking as she does not like the suitor and would rather choose her own husband.

2. How will decision be made in this scenario?

Probe: If the proposal is considered good:

- a. How will her mother react to Saleha's assertion and what will she do? Why?
- b. How will her father react to Saleha's assertion and what will he do? Why?
- c. How will Saleha's peers and cousins react?
- d. Given the reaction and opinion of the people involved, what will be Salma's reaction and what will she do? Why?
- e. Will it make any difference if the proposal was not considered good, but not considered bad either? In what ways the reaction and actions will be different?

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