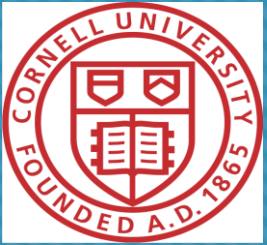


He said, she said: Using pile sort methods to explore differences in decision-making and resource allocation for food, agriculture, and other costs among couples in Tanzania

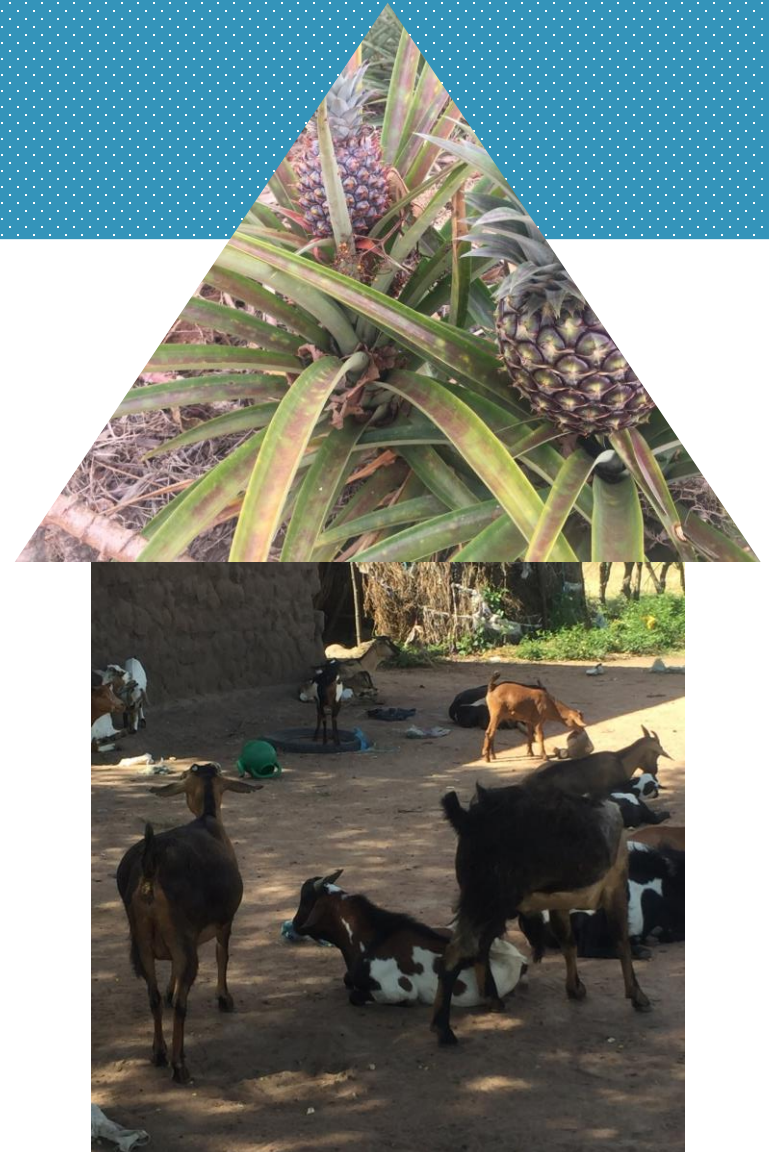


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Background & Purpose

- ❖ Pile-sorting is a qualitative research method used to understand how people categorize elements of interest
- ❖ Used pile-sorting to understand **household gender dynamics** and **decision-making** among couples
- ❖ Understanding these discrepancies can help uncover why many programs targeting women do not achieve their full impact



Pile Sorts Methods

Couples (pregnant women/mothers of children <2 and their partners) interviewed separately at the same time, allocated artificial money to different expenses thrice (as a couple, you, and your partner)



30,000 TSh



Method Development-Allocation

Pre-set vs. Blind categories



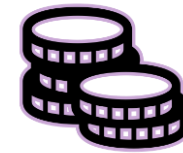
Method Development-Categories



Healthcare



Livestock



Loans



Education



Agriculture



“Other”



Alcohol



Housing costs



Business



Food/Drink



Personal use



Savings

Pile Sort Interview

Pile Sort Interview Topics

Decision-making on spending

Joint vs single decision-making

Disagreements on spending

Process of spending money for healthcare

Domestic violence



Participant Characteristics

	Women (n=58)	Men (n=58)
Mean Age (SD)	27 (7)	35 (11)
Education: No School	10%	16%
Pre-Primary	16%	12%
Primary	66%	64%
Secondary	5%	5%
Post-Secondary	3%	4%
Occupation: Agricultural work	86%	73%
Food Security: Food Secure	45%	12%
Mildly Food Insecure	5%	21%
Moderately Food Insecure	21%	49%
Severely Food Insecure	29%	18%
Polygamous	19%	17%
Mean # of children <2 (SD)	2 (1)	2 (1)

Findings

Different Types of “Joint Decision-Making”



Household # 36

Female

“I was asking about why he was spending money recklessly because we had sold some of our harvest and he was spending the money recklessly. When I asked him, he became angry and he beat me up.” – 37 yrs old

Male

“She trusts me because all the spending I do she doesn’t see, she hears I took 3 kg of meat yet she doesn’t see it at home, or she may hear I had some money, lets say one hundred thousand shillings, yet she doesn’t know how it was used.” – 60 yrs old

Household # 33

Female

“It is really great when you are making decisions together at home, even problems cannot arise in the family thereby you trust each other, you do things together so when he gets a problem you help him and he helps you, not family exclusion, we don’t have that.” - 25 yrs old

Male

“She has the right [to buy things without telling me] but it’s the closeness that me and her have or cooperation, that is why she involves me.” - 38 yrs old

Other Findings

- ❖ Infantilizing of women
- ❖ Importance of business
- ❖ Hiding money
- ❖ Mixed responses to “Who has the final say?”
- ❖ Involvement of other family members
- ❖ Control over separate resources



Key Take-Away Points



- ❖ This pile-sorting method was effective in understanding the nuances of decision-making among households in rural Tanzania
- ❖ Engaged participants
- ❖ Deepened conversations
- ❖ Provided clarity around some of the language used/cultural norms related to household gender dynamics



THANK YOU!

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