



Name of Activity: Community Dialogue – Nebbi Sub-county/Nebbi District			
Date: February 08, 2017	Location: Nebbi Sub County Head Quarters		
Staff member in-charge: Mr. Berocan Moses (MEMPROW champion) Supported by Edwin Muramuzi	Participants: 85 People (35 male, 50 Female) A number of social groups were represented, these include teachers, youth, mothers, fathers and leaders (religious, local council and cultural)		
Introduction: The dialogue revolved mainly on gender roles and to a small extent on the issue of children performance in schools basing on the fact that Nebbi District got only 10% (178) of 1815 UCE finalists in first and second grade and the school dropout rates.			
Key highlights			
Introduction The dialogue was opened by the Chairman Local Council iii, Nebbi Sub county, Mr. Afoka Caesar. He thanked MEMPROW for its support towards the development of the communities and encouraged the participants to also support MEMPROW's efforts so that there can be a change in their sub county especially in fighting poverty and promoting human rights.			
Discussion Participants were asked to mention the kind of roles that men and women play in a home and they mentioned the following: <table><tr><td><i>Women's roles</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• To change behavior• Lobbying for the family• Looking after children• Organizing a home• Grow crops</td><td><i>Men's roles</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head the family• Promote good relationships among family members• Produce children• Educate children• Marry women• Grow crops• Provide medical care• Provide clothing• Provide shelter• Manage/Control family affairs• Decision makers in a home</td></tr></table>		<i>Women's roles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To change behavior• Lobbying for the family• Looking after children• Organizing a home• Grow crops	<i>Men's roles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head the family• Promote good relationships among family members• Produce children• Educate children• Marry women• Grow crops• Provide medical care• Provide clothing• Provide shelter• Manage/Control family affairs• Decision makers in a home
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From the discussion, it was revealed that men had to control their wives and other family members; their position in a home was superior to that of women. Male participants were asked what would happen in case they returned home and they found their wives had not done what they expected them to do, for example, cooking, bathing children, fetching water and the like.			

Some of the responses included beating the wife, going back to trading centre to continue hanging out with friends, asking the wife the reasons why she didn't do what she was supposed to do, going to bed, ignoring the wife, forgiving the wife among others.

In conclusion, the facilitator told participants that some conflicts break out as the result of power struggles; one feeling that his or her power/roles had been overstepped therefore they needed to understand that the differences in gender roles were created by themselves and are not natural therefore such differences can be disregarded in support of sharing resources and working together to develop their community.

The facilitator requested participants to always put themselves in the shoes of the people they live with before they do anything with them; to promote peaceful means to resolving misunderstandings in homes. He further emphasized that all actions and words uttered always had consequences on people; which are either negative or positive but participants should always pursue positivity that is encourage, motivate, help out, appreciate, forgive, reconcile among others. He also encouraged participants to always provide as much as they can for their children and also avoid use of insulting language against their children as it demoralizes them and sometimes alludes them to do what is not right and may also lead to school dropouts. Naturally, children depend on adults, they look at adults as providers of all their needs therefore children may turn to their teachers, close relatives or even strangers to ask for money or any other resources, eventually such people may take advantage to initiate sexual relationships with children or abuse children; for example by alluring them in child labor.



***In picture:** One of youth expresses himself during the dialogue.*

Comments from participants

- *All along where was this organization (MEMPROW)? For sure, a woman is like a nanny whereas a man is like a king. Are you going to stop doing your work in this place or you are going to other places? For sure, a woman does work that nobody can see with his eyes or can value.*



- *After this meeting, I realize that God created us to work together as men and women.*
- *After this meeting, I request us to begin with our own families and start promoting peace and working together before we think of reaching out to other community members. Some of the community members can see the light when our own families are in order.*
- *As a teacher, I have realized that we need to change the way we handle learners. Sometimes we act harshly towards learners, send them out of class because of what we think about them; for example thinking that they are just dull and do not want to concentrate, send them out of school for lack of uniform among other reasons. I hope to put in practice what I have learnt by trying to understand the backgrounds of learners and seeking to understand learners' weaknesses and then guiding them.*
- *As someone who works with the local radio, I hope to support development by always giving information on human rights.*
- *I have realized that as Alurs we are not doing well, women have taken it all upon themselves to run homes and girls have dropped out of school because we do not take care of them. Sharing responsibilities as men and women is key for our development.*