

**Introduction:** CSO conducted Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH) in July 2011 in cooperation with KRSO, ministry of health, ministry of woman affairs and other relevant public bodies, with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Pan Arab Population and Family Health Project (PAPFAM), as well as WHO, UN-Woman, UNICEF and UNDP. This survey is the first survey that addresses women issues on the basis of life cycle approach (adolescence, reproductive, after productive and elderly stages) from empowerment, health, reproductive health, violence against women and other relevant social and health dimensions to establish a comprehensive database on Iraqi woman issues across life cycle. The innovation in I-WISH is the comprehensive approach beyond reproductive role of women, and the involvement of new modules on female adolescent and a module on man knowledge, perception and behavior in regard to women issues. The survey is based on a stratified random sample of 10,620 households derived from the listing frame of population census. Following is the main findings on “Woman’s Issues from Man’s Perspective”.

**Knowledge:** I-WISH results reveal that about half of currently married men 18+ (47%) were aware of women reproductive issues (family planning, relationship between natural breast feeding and getting pregnant, period and its physical and physiological consequences, puerperium and other women health issues) before marriage. This percentage varies by place of residence; it is higher in the urban (51.7) in comparison to rural areas (44.7%). It is also positively correlated with the level of education; about one quarter of illiterate men (26.5) had knowledge on woman’s reproduction before marriage in comparison with almost all (95.9%) men with higher education degree. The results have also showed that this knowledge has come from different sources; “friends” formed the primary source (67.8%) of men knowledge on woman’s reproductive health. The second source was “books and magazines” at (42.8%), and the third was TV and radio programs at (40.6%). As for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), there was a consensus among Iraqi men that it is a bad ritual with differences on its roots causes.

**Behavior:** About (42.9%) of currently married men reported not to assist their wives in house chores at all, against (6.1%) regularly assist their wives these chores. The percentage of men refuse to participate in these chores is lower in the urban areas (36.4%) compared to rural areas (57.8%). The results showed negative correlation between the refusal to participate in house chores and the level of education; this rejection is more popular amongst less educated men. The survey addressed also the type of issues where husbands discuss regularly with their wives as a measure of men’s perception on the role and capability of his wife.

The results have showed that (59.8%) of men discuss household economy on regular basis with their wives, whereas (56.8%) discuss family issues (family values, number of children, etc), against (23.1%) discuss issues of reproduction health and sexual behavior. Only one out of ten married men (10.3%) discuss political issues such as forming of the government and parties affairs. It is noted also that (49.2%) discuss religion issues and about (9.7%) discuss general philosophical issues like social concerns, communication, climate change and other public concerns. The survey revealed significant difference between urban and rural areas in this regard; rural men focus on the traditional role of women related to reproductive and family affairs.

**Percentage of married men 18 years and above by issues regularly discussed with their wives**

Issue	Urban	Rural	Total
Household economy	62.4	54.2	<b>60.1</b>
Family affairs	59.8	51.7	<b>57.5</b>
Reproductive and sexual health	26.8	13.7	<b>23.2</b>
Political issues	12.2	5.1	<b>10.2</b>
Religious issues	48.0	52.8	<b>49.3</b>
Public and philosophical issues	11.7	4.4	<b>9.7</b>

**Man’s perceptions towards woman role in the household:** The perception of man regarding division of labor inside the household between husband and wife indicates his perception on the role of woman in household affairs and decision making. I-WISH results revealed that most men believe that woman’s role in the household’s affairs is focused on feeding, cleaning, and service affairs, then comes her role in the follow up on children's development helping them with their education and their

sexual health awareness. According to men, women almost have no role in solving problems and financial support. No significant differences were observed between rural and urban men.

## Man's perceptions regarding woman role:

I-WISH results confirmed the stereotyped role of woman as a follower for man perspective in the household and society development. Significant differences between rural and urban areas. Although men, in general, accept women participating and supporting their leading role in the family and the society affairs, they still do not accept giving her a leadership role not even in deciding women affairs in the society (3.5%).

Main role for woman in life	Urban	Rural	Total
Having children	34.5	44.6	37.2
Shares man in household development	63.0	54.1	60.6
Work and bread winning	1.1	0.7	1.0
Participate in development and decision making	1.4	0.6	1.1
<b>Woman role in relation to man's role in household</b>			
Woman follows man in household development	29.9	38.5	32.2
Woman shares/supports man in household	66.9	59.0	64.8
Man shares woman in common household	3.0	2.5	2.9
<b>Woman role in relation to man's role in society</b>			
Woman follows man in society development	31.8	43.9	35.0
Woman shares man in society development	64.3	53.8	61.4
Woman responsible for woman affairs in society	4.0	2.3	3.5

## Man's perception on woman capabilities

Percentage of men by perspective on woman capabilities in selected areas

Area	More capable	Equal to man	less capable
Internal household management	60.7	23.7	15.5
Child bearing	70.2	23.4	6.3
Heading household	6.0	11.1	82.8
Management of household economy	12.6	23.3	63.9
Driving cars	4.2	8.7	86.7
In senior political positions	4.9	14.1	78.4
Understanding politics	4.4	14.9	75.4
Judging suitability of daughter's husband	6.6	53.0	39.0

When men asked on their perspective on woman's capability in comparison with her male counterpart in selected areas, it was confirmed that men do not consider women as capable as men in the public and political affairs, and the areas where important decisions need to be taken, while they believe that women are more capable in the traditional role of women namely child bearing and internal household affairs.

## Perspective of man regarding VAW

Survey results reveal the perception of men in regard to violence against woman. It shows that the man perspective is still having some contradicting aspects. Significant proportion of men give the right to the man to do some actions considered as violence against woman by international standards. This includes beating wife, preventing wife from going to health center alone, controlling the type of dress code she follows. This applies also to the female child including forcing her to marriage before legal minimum age and deciding

