Women reacting to Disrespect and Abuse during childbirth: 
From secondary analysis of qualitative data in Benin.

Dossou JP, Kanhonou L, Goufodji S, Lange I.
Funny?

Ridiculous?

Original?

Inappropriate?

Disrespectful?
Deviations from Human Rights standards

Deviations from national standards

Poor treatments/conditions considered as acceptable

Treatments/conditions deemed as D&A by providers and women

Normalised D&A

Behaviour that all agree is D&A

Adapted from Freedman, P.L. Kruk, M.E., Lancet, 2014
Respect as an Emergent property”
D&A during childbirth*
1. Physical abuse
2. Sexual abuse
3. Verbal abuse
4. Stigma and discrimination
5. Failure to meet professional standards
6. Poor rapport between women and providers
7. Health system conditions and constraints

*Bohren et al. 2015

Response of women to D&A
Explore how women respond to D&A in health facilities in Benin
Starting conceptual framework

**Strategy**
- Agency that is not rational
- Operates through the perception of the situation, guided by its previous internalized experiences

**Symbolic capital**
- Capital based on honor, prestige or recognition
- Serves as value that one holds within a culture.
Secondary analysis of qualitative data
Database & Analysis

- Facilities: 13
- Targets:
  - Maternity ward
  - Health workers & Women
- Technics:
  - Interviews
  - Observations day and night
- Type of materials: 952
- Purposive selection of 232
- NVIVO 10

2005
Psychosocial consequences of near-misses

2008-2010
Changes introduced by clinical audits in quality of EMOC

2012-2013
Changes introduced by free CSection in quality of M&N care
Maternity ward as a social field

- The maternity ward has its own “rules of game”
- Not just a mirror of the general rules in the society
- Specific rules as compared to other wards within the same facility
Capitals

Variable

Variable

Variable

Variable

Very high

Very high

Very high

Very low

Very low
“... La seule chose qui importe d’abord pour le personnel c’est le carnet, le nombre de consultations faits, les analyses demandées et l’échographie. Si elle est à jour par rapport à tout cela, la collaboration est souvent bonne... Tu peux être très pauvre correct et tu seras bien reçu par eux plus qu’un riche arrogant.”
Patients and the rules

Practices

1. Don’t know rules
   - Naïve: Variable

2. Not able to comply
   - Submission
   - Begging attitude

3. Fully comply
   - Assisting for care provision, Providing additional resources

Mechanisms

- Variable
- Being the perfect "child"
- Conflict avoidance
Patients and the rules

4. Fully comply with more revendication
   - Advocacy, Negotiation, Capital exhibition, Capital exchange, Gifts...

5. Reject the rules
   - Violent verbal or physical confrontation

Mechanisms
   - Coercion
   - Improved direct benefit or perceived benefit
   - Coercion
À “Tu appelles son aide, tu dis pardon madame, appelle moi votre patronne là”
Savalou, Women, 2009

À “...quand une patiente est recommandée comme cela, si tu ne fais pas les choses avec promptitude et qu’il arrive un malheur, on te crée tout les problèmes du monde” Ouidah, Kandi, 2008
Dimensions of women strategies

**Activity**
- From completely passive to extremely active

**Timing**
- From immediate to extremely delayed

**Number of people involved**
- From Individu alone to the whole community

**Blaming**
- High level of self-blaming to the full rejection on the providers
Facility based delivery is increasing despite chronic D&A

“D&A as a powerful disincentive for women to seek care in facilities for their subsequent deliveries” HOW?
Mind the separation fallacy

D&A view only from the providers perspective reinforce Paternalism in Doctor and patient relationship

Separating Action from Reactions is a separation fallacy

We don’t discuss their effectiveness or appropriateness
Possible applications

- This is still preliminary results
- Provide broader and context-specific view
- Give room of manoeuvre for transformative interventions
  - that can target i.e. the symbolic capital and rules
  - Improvement of acceptable existing strategies
  - Avoid constraint to existing effective strategies
obrigado
Dank U
Merci
mahalo
Köszi
cnacubo
Grazie
Thank you
mauruuru
Takk
Gracias
Dziękuję
Děkuju
danke
Kiitos