**Cultural Influences and Reproductive Health for Men and Women**

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 “Womanhood is frequently defined through fertility” (Holtz, p. 505, 2022). Women that are unable to have children may be ostracized from communities and even abandoned or abused by their spouse (Holtz, 2022). Bearing children is a means of preserving a marriage, a family name, and identifies faithfulness to a culture or religion (Terzioglu et al., 2018). Yet, it is reported that in areas of developing countries that experience infertility there is more access to schools, better survival rates for children, increased urbanization of the area (Holtz, 2022).

 Men are fertile for a longer span of their lives than females (Holtz, 2022). Men also do not start having children or taking responsibility for them until they are in their 20s (Holtz, 2022). Having a male child is often a desire of the man and may be a necessity for some to run a farm (Holtz, 2022). In some cultures, men are allowed to have more than one wife to ensure that they are able to reproduce efficiently (Holtz, 2022).

 Ultimately, it seems that reproductive health will remain the responsibility of the woman. Whether it be to have children, seek assistance in fertility or even an abortion (Holtz, 2022). The effects of infertility do not carry the same weight for men as it does women. There seems to be little information discussing ostracizing men from their communities or wives abandoning their husbands due to infertility of the male. Studies have determined that infant and maternal health improves when the father is involved in pregnancy (Erfanian Arghavaian et al., 2019). Men play a vital role in supporting mothers mentally, verbally, and physically (Erfanian Arghavaian et al., 2019). Hopefully, men will soon understand they have always been important in the grand scheme of life from beginning to end.

**References**

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