

TABLE 1. Characteristics of relationship, by type of sex partner

Partner type	Purpose	Exclusivity/trust	Power relations/decision making	Acceptance of contraceptive/protection methods
Spouse	Official marital relationship. Children. Intimacy and sexual pleasure.	Trust is norm. Man may have extramarital affairs; wife should be faithful.	Through marriage (bride-price payment), husband gains power over wife's sexuality and reproduction. Husband officially decides on method use.	Contraception usually accepted. Explicit protection against STI and HIV is taboo because of connotations of infidelity and lack of trust.
Stable extra-marital partner	Intimacy and sexual pleasure (more excitement than with wife).	No marriage bond, thus less female exclusivity and less trust than with wife.	Man has less control over the sexuality of this partner than of his wife. Man is final decision maker, but she can negotiate because there is no official bond and she has emotional power over him.	Contraception and STI and HIV protection are accepted, because there is less trust.
Stable girlfriend (for single men)	Future marriage. Intimacy (and unhurried sex).	Female exclusivity is not assumed but hoped for. Seriousness of relationship and trust progress together.	Man fears losing partner, which gives her negotiation power. As they move closer to marriage, man's power over her sexuality and contraceptive use increases.	Contraception is accepted. Man does not want to make his girlfriend pregnant before marriage. STI and HIV protection is accepted because of lack of trust. Acceptance reduces as relationship progresses.
Extra girlfriend (for single men)	Alternative to first and most important girlfriend. If older woman, for financial support.	No exclusivity. No trust.	Man has power and decides on method use, except if partner is a "sugar mommy" (then she holds economic power and he has to follow).	Contraception and STI and HIV protection methods are accepted.
Casual partner	Excitement, fun (usually brief encounter, low level of intimacy). Sex may occur in exchange for money, food, drinks.	No exclusivity. No trust.	Man is dominant decision maker. Woman can negotiate when man is eager for sex.	Contraception and STI and HIV protection methods are accepted.
Sex worker	Sex for money. No intimacy.	No exclusivity. No trust.	Man has power and decides because he pays.	Contraception and STI and HIV protection methods are accepted.