

# Obstacles to Vasectomy

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This is a compilation of reasons why some men in some societies are reluctant to undergo vasectomy. Obstacles vary from one society to another and among subgroups within the same society. Ideal solutions are not always practical. For example, in developing nations, there may simply not be adequate funds or manpower to implement educational or family values programs.

<u>Obstacle to Vasectomy</u>	<u>Ideal Solution</u>	<u>When Ideal Solution is Not Available or Not Acceptable</u>
Fear of pain	Volunteer facilitators to educate men that it did not hurt for them (education).	1. Incentives for facilitators. 2. Incentives for patients.
Fear of loss of sexual function	Volunteer facilitators to educate men that vasectomy did not interfere with sexual response (education).	1. Incentives for facilitators. 2. Incentives for patients.
Fear of skeletal muscle weakness	Volunteer facilitators to educate men that vasectomy did not make them weaker (education).	1. Incentives for facilitators. 2. Incentives for patients.
Fear of other health problems (cancer, heart disease, etc.)	Volunteer facilitators to educate men that there is no evidence of side effects (education).	1. Incentives for facilitators. 2. Incentives for patients.
Perception that many children is manly even if no support is provided	Social Education	Cash Incentives
Lack of responsibility for children	1. Social pressure to support children 2. Government pressure to support children, assuming that employment is high.	Cash Incentives
Religious prohibition of effective contraceptives	Government promotion of or rewards for family planning.	Cash Incentives
Perception that sex is all that one can do	Classical education / job training	Cash Incentives
Perception of a man that if he loses his present partner, he will want someone with no children because he does not want to raise another man's children. A woman with no children will want children so he must retain his fertility.	1. Make reversals available locally. 2. Government pressure on men to support their biological children (assuming that employment is high).	
Feeling of women that procreation is all they can do	Government programs to promote opportunities for women.	Cash Incentives
Inability to afford vasectomy	Make vasectomy available at no charge.	
Need to work every day	Cover transportation and lost wages	Additional cash incentives
Procrastination	Cash incentives	Cash incentives
Fear of women that men with vasectomies will be unfaithful, so they circulate rumors of impotence after vasectomy	Reinforcement of "family values" including fidelity.	Cash incentives