CONTRACEPTION PRACTICES IN RELATION TO SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

ABSTRACT

Objective: To determine the autonomy of young Pakistani women in house hold decision making and the use of modern contraception; and to find association between couples' joint participation in decision making and use of modern contraception.

Methodology: : 12 months duration csross-sectional study carried out at Gynae & Obstetrics department

Results: Out of 360 women, 179 (49.7%) had 3-5 children while only 17 (4.7%) had more than 6 children. According to 261 (72.5%) women both husband and wife wanted same number of children while in only 2 (0.6%) cases husband wanted fewer children. Socioeconomic status showed a statistically strong association (p=0.035) with using modern contraceptives. Education status showed a statistically strong association with desire for more children (p=0.004), usage of modern contraceptives (p=0.004) and respondents role in household decision making (p=0.041).

Conclusion: It was found that in substantial number of couples decision for usage of modern contraceptives was mutual. A very alarming finding was that most of the women have not had an encounter with family planning worker in last six months despite the fact that most of the women in the study did not have desire to have more children.

Keywords: Family planning, Modern contraception, Population, Women health and empowerment

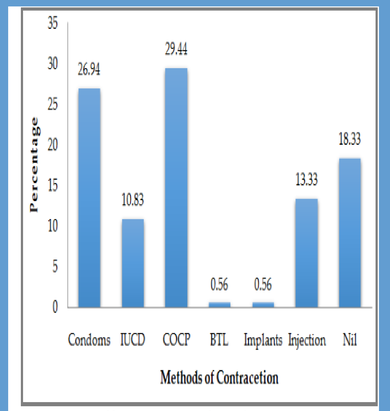

Figure-1: Different types of modern contraceptives used.

Table-II: Autonomy of young women in household decision making.	
Visited by family planning worker in last 6 month	
	n (%)
Talked	42 (11.7)
Gave family planning method	2 (0.6)
Talked and gave method	6 (1.7)
None	310 (86.1)
Number of Living Children	
0	5 (1.4)
1	53 (14.7)
2	106 (29.4)
3 -5	179 (49.7)
6-10	17 (4.7)
Desire for More Children	
Wants within 2 years	78 (21.7)
Wants after 2 + year	14 (3.9)
Wants, unsure about thinking	24 (6.7)
Undecided	36 (10.0)
Wants no more	208 (57.8)
Husband's Desire For Children	
Both wanted same	261 (72.5)
Husband wanted more	28 (7.8)
Husband wanted fewer	2 (0.6)
Don't know	69 (19.2)
Person Who Usually Decides On Large Household Purchase	
Respondent alone	35 (9.7)
Respondent and husband jointly	147 (40.8)
Husband alone	118 (32.8)
Someone else	60 (16.7)
Final Say On: Child Health Care	
Respondent alone	66 (18.3)
Respondent and husband jointly	170 (47.2)
Husband alone	116 (32.2)
Someone else	7 (1.9)
Other	1 (0.3)

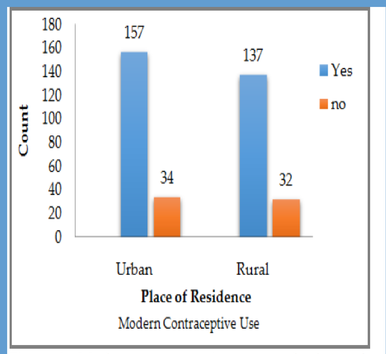

Figure-2: Modern contraceptive use and place of residence.