

Farmers Attitudes towards Contraceptives Practices in Oyo East Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Contraceptive use is focus on whether to space and time of child bearing and also one important aspect of family decision. It is now an established fact that Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, with 170million people, currently has more than 42million women of reproductive age. Many of these women are exceeding their desired family size and are at the risk of poor maternal health outcomes in view o these divergent views, this paper therefore assess the farmers attitude towards contraceptives practices in Oyo State East Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Analysis of data collected revealed that there is a positive and significant relationship between age ($r = 0.571$) level of education ($r = 0.547$) and attitude of farmers towards contraceptives practices. A further analysis of the data show that majority the respondents are aware of contraceptive practices which includes abstinence, condom, Pills, Intra Uterine Device IUD etc. there source of information include Radio, health worker, friend and neighbor.

Keywords: Farmers, Attitude, Contraceptives, Practices.

Introduction

Nigeria is the most populous country in Sub-Saharan Africa, with over 150million people, with growth rate of 2.9 and a total fertility rate of 5.7 (Population Council; 2011). National Population Commission (NPC) Nigeria 2009). However in Nigeria unintended intercourse is the primary cause of unwanted pregnancies and many women with unwanted pregnancies decide to end them by abortion Otoide et al (2001). According to Oye-Adeniran et al (2005) high maternal mortality and morbidity rate in Nigeria is a major concern for every stakeholder in the health sector and unsafe abortion is one of the major causes.

Population and development policies stress economic development rather than attempts to reduce fertility. The contraceptive information and services offer to women in Nigeria is often compromised Ozumba et al (2005). National population commission (NPC 2008) shows that only 14.6% of married women aged 15-49 in Nigeria use any method of contraception. This is in spite of the existence of the natural policy on population and sustainable development which encourage voluntary limitation of births to four children per women as well as various family planning programmes that have been carried out in the Country Federal Government of Nigeria (2004).

Similarly Khurfield (2006) observed that Nigeria is already facing a population explosion with the resultant effect that food production cannot match the growing population. However Household with many children are likely to become poor. The maternal mortality ratio of 630 deaths per 100,000 births is among the highest such rates in the world WHO et al., (2012). Yet contraceptive use is low in Nigeria, with just 10.5% of married women of reproductive age using a modern contraceptive method NPC and ICF Macro, (2009).

Family planning is a way of thinking and living that is adopted voluntarily upon the basis knowledge, attitude and responsible decision by individual and couples in order to promote the health and welfare of the family, group and this contributes effectively to the social development of a country Isaiah (2007).

However family planning has been applied to Soloe the problem of unwanted pregnancies many families. Most of the rural people believe in the African culture which permits the separation of the mother and her child from the father for long period of time following child birth in order to provide good nutritional period for the mother and child and a total abstinence from sexual intercourse for the mother. But the father can meet with other women. In order to correct this the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN) a Nigerian member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was set up with the main objectives of protecting the health of mothers and children encouraging the building up of healthy and happy families and enabling couples to have matrimonial sexual relationship as often as they can without fear of unwanted pregnancy (PPFN 1993). The failure to have good attitude to effective family planning programmes has severe economic consequences on individual families and the nation at large. It is against the background that this study was conceived.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study was to assess the attitude of farmers towards contraceptive use.

The specific objectives of the study were to

1. identify the personal characteristics of the respondents.

- ascertain the level of awareness of contraceptive in the study area.
- examine source of information available to the respondents.
- ascertain the farmers attitude towards contraceptives use.

Hypothesis of the study

The hypothesis of the study was stated a null form as follow

There is no significant relationship between selected personal characteristics of the respondents and farmers attitude towards contraceptives methods.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Oyo East Local Government Area of Oyo State. The Local Government Comprises of ten wards, five out of the ten ward (50%) namely Apaara, Apinni, Oke Apo, Jabata and Araromi were selected Twenty four respondents from each ward using simple random, method making a total of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents. The dependent variable of the study is the attitude of farmers towards contraceptives practices measured with attitudinal statements. On a 5 points likert scale. A 10- item was development validated and administered to the study sample. Five of the items are positively stated and are weighted 5 for (strongly agreed) 4 for (Agree) 3 for (Undecided) 2 for (disagree) and 1 for (strongly disagree). The five negatively stated items were weighted in the reverse order of the positively stated items i.e strongly agree = 1, agree = 2, undecided = 3, disagree = 4 and strongly agree = 5. Frequency counts, percentage were used to describe the data while Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the relationship that exists between the attitude of farmers and their personal characteristics of the respondents.

The independent variable includes person characteristics of respondents, information sources and awareness to contraceptive respondents were asked to state their actual age, whether they have primary, secondary or tertiary education. Those without formal education were asked to indicate it.

Information sources: measured by frequency of contact with various sources this was measured on a four levels rating namely not at all = 1, rarely = 2, frequently = 3 and very frequently 4: with mean 2.5. For awareness, two point scale of 0 or 1 was used for the practices the respondents were aware of and those they were not respectively.

Results and Discussion

The result revealed that 55.0% of the respondents were male and 45.0% were females. A larger proportion of the respondents were middle age 30 – 49 years (63.3%) the above is an indication that majority of the farmers are in their active productive age. On the basis of religion, 38.3% were Christians and 55.0% Muslims. Majority (66.7%) were married, 18.3% single and 5.0% divorced. Furthermore, almost half (45.0%) of the respondents this is an indication of more responsible adults in the area had primary school education, 20.8% had secondary school education while only 17.5% had no education. In all more than 80% had formal education with a minimum of primary school education. The household size revealed that most of the respondents (50.8%) had between 5-9 people in their household.

Table 2 shows the awareness of respondents by family planning practice. The family planning the respondents aware of include abstinence method, condom, withdrawal method within is 100% while birth control pills and nor plant 43.3% and intrauterine device (37.2%). This is an indication that respondents are aware of difference family planning methods.

Table 3 shows respondents sources of information the ranking was based on frequency of contact with the information sources to farmers.

The result in table 3 shows that most important sources of information to respondents on family planning methods is Radio ($\bar{X} = 3.94$) followed by health worker ($\bar{X} = 3.1$) and family and friends ($\bar{X} = 2.73$) and television ($\bar{X} = 1.98$), posters ($\bar{X} = 1.79$) and Billboards ($\bar{X} = 1.47$). This is an indication that majority of the respondents listened more to radio in the area. This implies that health personnel, friends and neighbor were regarded as the most effective source of information to the respondents.

Attitude towards Family Planning

Almost half (49.2%) of the farmers had favourable attitude towards family planning while 50.8% had unfavorable attitude towards the practices. This is may be due to the conservative nature of rural societies. However according to Jejeblong (2002) young people often decide not to seek family planning because they do not want their parents or other adults to know that they are sexually active while many fear include, disapproval and hostile attitude from service providers and others.

Hypothesis Testing

The study revealed that significant relationship existed between some selected personal characteristics of respondents and their attitude towards contraceptive methods (Table 5). All the selected variable age ($r = 0.571$) and educational level ($r = 0.547$) had positive bivariate correlation coefficient. The implication of this is that as the farmers' increases in age their attitude towards the contraceptive become high. Also as the educational level of the farmer increases there is tendency for attitude towards family planning to increases. According to Cohen (2000) reported that small amounts of education has been found to sometimes raise rather than lower fertility because it breaks down traditional birth spacing practices such as prolonged breastfeeding or postpartum abstinence without lowering fertility desires. Also educated farmers are less likely to be fatalistic toward the use of family planning and more likely to be knowledgeable about alternative methods of family planning and their potential side – effects.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the findings there was a high level of awareness of family planning methods among the respondents. However almost half of the respondents have positive disposition toward family planning methods also there is significant relationship between age and educational level of the respondents. This corroborate the work of Westoff and Cross (2006) that reported that about one in five married women of childbearing age (22%) in African has a unmet need for contraception with a higher percentage among rural women. It is even more disturbing that more than 3 out of 10 of the respondents had an unmet need for modern contraception, because of other methods failure rates. However decision making concerning fertility control is for many people but deeply personal and sensitive issue which involve religion, belief, custom and values.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:-

1. Farmers should be encouraged on the importance of family planning so as to change their attitude towards it.
2. The importance of each type of family planning should be made known through major source of information.
3. Health sector should try and to look into the possibility of side effect of the contraceptives.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Personal Characteristics N = 120

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Sex		
Male	54	45.0
Female	66	55.0
Age		
20-29	30	25.0
30-39	46	38.3
40-49	22	18.3
50-59	14	1.7
Above 60	8	6.7
Religion		
Christianity	46	38.3
Islam	66	55.0
Traditional	8	6.7
Marital Status		
Single	22	18.3
Married	80	66.7
Divorced	6	5.0
Widowed	10	8.0
Separated	2	1.7
Educational Status		
No formal education	21	17.5
Primary education	54	45.0
Secondary education	27	20.8
Tertiary education	8	6.7
Adult education	10	8.3
Household size		
1-4	61	50.8
5-9	36	30.0
Above 10	23	19.2

Source; Field Survey 2014

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Awareness

FAMILY PLANNING METHOD	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Abstinence	110	91.7
Male condom	115	95.8
Female condom	36	30.0
Herbal method	96	80.0
Prolong breast feeding	52	43.3
Pills	61	50.8
Hormonal Injectable	80	66.7
Intra Uterine Device (IUD)	59	49.2
Female sterilization	24	20.0
Implants	37	30.8

Source; Field Survey 2014
 Multiple Responses Recorded

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Source of Information

SOURCE	MEANS SCORE
Radio	3.05
Health workers	3.25
Friends/Neighbour	2.73
Television	1.98
Poster	1.79
Bill boards	2.63
Others	1.47

Multiple Responses Recorded
 Source field survey 2014

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Attitudinal score

ATTITUDINAL SCORE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Favourable (38-50)	54	45.0
Neutral (24-37)	23	19.2
Unfavourable (10-23)	43	35.8
Total	120	100

Source; Field Survey 2014

Table 5: Relationship between Attitude towards Contraceptive and Selected Personal Characteristics of the Farmers

AGE	MEANS SCORE
Age	0.571**
Educational Level	0.547*
Household size	0.006

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Source; Field Survey 2014

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