

Extended Abstract

Poor-Rich Differential in Contraceptive Adoption among Postpartum Women in India

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The Government of India has launched several programs throughout the country related to family planning from time to time and updates its strategies. The idea behind launching these programs was that family planning should ensure that births are properly timed, properly spaced and ended by choice. Family planning programs have yielded noticeably positive gains over the past few years. Overall contraceptive prevalence rate has steadily increased from 41 percent to 48 percent during the period 1992/3-1998/9 and 56 percent by 2005/6 (NFHS-I, II & NFHS-III). However there has not been much promotion for family planning programs targeting for postpartum women who were in crucial stage of life.

The broad objective of the proposed study is to examine in the Indian context, how contraceptive adoption differ between poor-rich women who were in the postpartum period. However, the specific objective of the study is to explore the impact of economic condition of women on type of contraceptive use. Further an attempt has been made to link the economic condition of women to initiation of contraceptive use.

The initiation of postpartum contraceptive use analyzed from calendar data by selecting the first use of contraceptive in subsequent month after having a last birth in 5 years preceding the survey. The study employed multinomial logistic regressions to investigate a variable indicating type of contraceptive method and Cox hazard regression model to examine timing of adoption of contraceptive, for those who use, the time from birth in months until contraception is started.

In order to achieve the proposed objective this study will use data from recent round of National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-2005-06). The samples are nationally representative and are designed to produce estimates at the national and state levels. NFHS data are collected in a cross sectional format, but the recent National Family Health Survey-III conducted during 2005-06 for the first time collected retrospective monthly information about contraception. This calendar data provides unusually detailed information about a five year contraceptive history but has hardly been used in India. The study takes advantage of calendar data gathered in conjunction with the individual questionnaire in which female survey respondents were asked to report retrospectively their pregnancy status, pregnancy

outcomes as well as contraceptive use on a month-by-month basis for a period covering 67 to 69 months from January 2001 to what-ever month the interview took place in 2006. A five-year contraceptive history (January 2001 to January 2006) was collected for each woman who, or whose husband, was not sterilized at the calendar's start.

Inclusion Criteria

For the analysis purpose, in the first stage 36850 women who were currently married or cohabiting with their partners and had a live birth within 5 five years before the survey were included in this analysis. At the stage of conceptualization regarding the return of menses we thought that among 36850 women, only 25992 women who had resumed menstruation have been selected for the analysis purpose. Also Becker and Ahmed (2001) found that family planning use is most likely in the month following menses return. But in Indian situation the adoption of contraceptive after birth, have no clear cut pattern, i.e. on the one side majority of women adopted contraceptive without the return of menses, and on the other side large proportion of women did not used contraceptive even they resume menses.

Outcome variables

The outcome of interest is the use of any contraceptive methods (modern or traditional contraceptive methods) after the last childbirth. Information comes from the birth and contraceptive use calendar, which is first time included in the NFHS-III Women's Questionnaire, which records month-by-month all events related to pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, childbirth, and contraceptive use for 60 months before the survey. The outcome is measured by duration (in months) from the time of the last childbirth to the time that a woman started using a modern method of contraception. At the time of the survey, if a woman had not adopted any contraceptive method, she is considered a censor case.

Results

Result shows that, there are significant gaps in modern contraceptive prevalence between the poor and rich. About 55 percent poor household women did not adopt contraceptive after having birth, for rich women this percentage was only 30. Nearly 35 percent rich and only 10 percent poor women have adopted spacing method, although the difference in adoption of sterilization is insignificant. Findings show that 71 percent rich women and only half of the poor women have adopted spacing method within six months after delivery. Poor women have higher chance in adoption of sterilization, within six months after delivery compare to rich women.

Table 1: Type of contraceptive and time of adoption, according to economic condition of postpartum women NFHS-2005-06, India.

Type of Contraceptive	Time to initiate contraceptive (In months)					
		1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30
Spacing Method	Poor	49.3	27.1	12.7	6.9	3.9
	Middle	54.2	27.2	8.6	5.3	4.7
	Rich	70.6	18.2	5.2	3.0	3.0
	Total	63.0	21.7	7.5	4.3	3.5
Sterilization	Poor	57.4	22.5	10.9	4.8	4.4
	Middle	59.2	15.9	11.9	5.8	7.2
	Rich	53.0	21.1	11.1	6.2	8.6
	Total	56.7	20.7	11.2	5.4	6.0
Traditional Method	Poor	54.9	27.8	10.9	4.2	2.1
	Middle	61.1	26.7	7.0	2.6	2.6
	Rich	72.0	19.4	6.1	1.6	0.9
	Total	61.7	24.8	8.6	3.0	1.8