

A study of clandestine contraceptive use by wife in India

Background and rational

A wife's concealment from her husband of her use of contraception may be an indication of absence of communication, lack of confidence, or disagreement on the use of family planning between spouses. Clandestine use may be in the best health interests of some women and their children, and it may allow some women to improve their financial independence and autonomy. Recently conducted National family health survey of 42185 couples is found that many women who use contraception do so without their husbands' knowledge in India. In this study it has been tried to explore that why a small subset of contraceptive users chose to keep their method use secret from their husband.

Data and Methods

In this paper analysis is being done by utilizing couple file of National family Health Survey, 2005-06. In couple file information about current use of contraceptive is collected separately from both husband and wife. Clandestine contraceptive use by wife is computed on the basis of use of female methods reported by both husband and wife. Furthermore, analysis is also done separately for female sterilization. Both bivariate and multivariate regression analysis has been used for assess the association.

Major Findings

This study shows that clandestine use is almost 12 percent for all female methods and 7 percent for female sterilization. It means 12 percent husbands don't know that their wife is using family planning method. From the logistic regression analysis it is clear that clandestine use of all female method is a high among the women whose marital duration is more than 10 years. As compare to rural women urban women are less likely to hide their use. Education of the women has positive effect on clandestine use; it means educated women are more hiding their use of contraceptive then the illiterate women. However, where husband are highly educated women hiding is less. As compared to Hindu, Muslim women are less likely to hide their use. Likelihood of hiding their use is also low among the women who belong to SC/ST or OBC class as compared to higher class women. Wealth has a negative effect on clandestine use.

Conclusion

These findings indicate that, those women who hid their practice of contraception from their husbands; not do so because of they are belonging to vulnerable group but may be did so because they found it very difficult to bring up the subject of family planning with them.

Suggestions

With the backdrop of literature review, this study suggested that, to increase levels of contraceptive acceptability, service providers should continue to educate men about family planning, and if appropriate local religious leaders should reassure men and women that family planning is not prohibited by their religion. In cases where efforts to increase men's acceptance of contraception are unsuccessful, providers need to assure contraceptive users of complete confidentiality. Service providers should not automatically encourage husbands' involvement. A client's right to privacy should always be respected.