

Original Article

Contraceptive method preference and use among married woman garment workers.

Sheuli Yasmin¹, Nazrul Islam², Ashik Ahmed Gazi³, Shahida Begum⁴

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Nightingale Medical College & Hospital, ²Associate Professor and Departmental Head in Maternal & Child Health Care in NIPSOM, ³Associate Professor, Department of Physiology in Dhaka Community Medical College & Hospital, ⁴Assistant Professor in NIPSOM.

Abstract:

Objective: To assess the contraceptive method preference and use among married woman garment workers.

Method and materials: A cross sectional descriptive study was carried out among 171 married woman garment workers of 15 - 49 years old in Dhaka city in a 6 months period from January 2012 to June 2012.

Result: Among the respondent, majority (53%) were between the age group of 26 to 31 years and belonged to low socio economic group. Most of the respondent (80%) living in nuclear families. In both the aspect of husband and wives, very few (around 30%) had primary level or more of education. Out of the 171 respondents, mean age of first marriage was 18 years. About the use of contraception, 64% were using oral pills, 23% were using injection, 8% were using condoms and 5% used copper-T. Majority (63%) of the respondent starting using contraceptive within one month of the marriage and took decision about the contraceptive jointly both by husband and wife. It is found that 70% of the respondent collected contraception from the health complex. Pregnancy status among the respondent (8%) were pregnant at the time of study. Among the respondent 12% become mother before their first anniversary due to lack of knowledge regarding contraceptive methods and use and also husband's opposition was stated as the non-use of contraceptive methods. The main form of complaints of pill-users were vertigo and nausea

Conclusion: Current contraceptive use rate was 75% and 25% of women were non-users. Moderate use rate may be attributed to several socio-economic and cultural factors such as education, limited excursion, facilities, husband-wife communication, occupation and economic condition and also 8% of them were pregnant at the time of study was on-going. In addition women face difficulties in obtaining contraceptive supplies and lack of knowledge of contraceptive method.

Introduction:

Bangladesh is a densely populated country of the world. Family planning information and service are therefore a critical means for the articulation attainment of reproductive right and contraceptive health and central component of reproductive health programs.^{1,2} Knowledge of family planning methods is high among Bangladesh couples. 99.9% couples know at least one modern method but among them only 54% of newly married couples know about family planning method.^{3,4} The contraceptive prevalence rate among nearly married is about 31% which is slightly over the national rate.³ National strategy needs to be implemented among them about the benefits of postponing childbirth, smaller family size and birth spacing by adopting appropriate contraceptive method with proper knowledge about their

use.^{5,6} The proportion of currently married woman aged 15-49 who were using a contraceptive increased from 12 percent to over 40 percent over the twelve year period.¹⁰ In 1975, only 8 percent of currently married woman were sterilized. The percentage rose to 22.8 in 1991.^{8,9}

Methodology and materials:

A cross-sectional descriptive type study was carried out among 171 married rural women of 15-49 years old in garment factories in Dhaka during the period of 6 month from January 2012 to June 2012 by face to face interview. The study was explained to them before interviewing the married garment worker to create awareness. Data was collected from the respondent by using face to face interview based on structured questionnaire, which included all the relevant information. After collection data were compiled,

checked, verified, edited and coded. The data were entered into a computer SPSS (version-16) on the basis of objectives of study and using relevant statistical tools and techniques.

Result:

The cross sectional study was conducted on the women in selected garment factories in Dhaka city. The mean age of the first marriage of the respondent was 18 years. About 51% respondents have two children, 38% have single and 11% have more than three children though 97% had the expectation of having 1 child. Current contraceptive use rate was 75% and 25% of women were non users. Moderate use rate may be attributed to several socio economic and cultural factors such as education, limited excursion facilities, husband wife communication, occupation and economic condition. In addition, women face difficulties in obtaining contraceptive supplies and lack proper knowledge of contraceptive methods.

Table-1: Distribution of garment workers by age

Age group	Frequency	%
16 to 20 years	44	25.7
21 to 25 years	37	21.6
26 to 31 years	90	52.7
Total	171	100

Mean \pm SD= 23.9 \pm 2.9

Table-1 shows that majority (52.7%) of respondent were in the age between 26 to 31 years with Mean \pm SD=23.9 \pm 2.9 years.

Table-2: Distribution of the garment workers by regularity of menstruation

Menstruation regularly	Frequency	%
Yes	84	49.1
No	87	50.9
Total	171	100

Table 2 shows that 50.9% garments workers are not having regular menstruation.

Table-3: Distribution of garment workers by interval between marriages & first contraceptive use

Interval in months	Frequency	%
≤ 1	108	63.15
2-6	36	21.07
7-11	27	15.78
Total	171	100

More than three-fifth of the respondents 63.15% were using contraceptives within one month of marriage,

15.78% of the respondents were using contraceptive within 7-11 month of age.

Table-4: Distribution of the garment workers by contraceptive use

Contraceptive use	Frequency	%
Used	129	75.45
Not used	42	24.6
Total	171	100.0

Table shows that 75.45% (129) used contraceptive method and 24.6% (42) not used contraceptive.

Table-5: Distribution of the garment workers by contraceptive preference

	Frequency	%
Oral pill	82	63.6
Injection	30	23.3
Condom	11	8.5
Copper-T	6	4.7
Total	129	100.0

Above the table shows that most of the respondent (82) used oral pill and the percentage is 64%.

Table-6: Association between religion and contraceptive preference

Religion	Contraceptive Preference						X ²	P Value
	Oral pil (n=82)		Other (n=47)		Total			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Islam	79	66.9	39	33.1	118	100	6.839	0.009
Hindu	3	27.3	8	72.7	11	100		
Total	82	75.4	47	24.6	129	100		

Table 6 Reveals that association between religion and contraceptive preference among the married rural women was statistically significant ($p=0.04$ at $\alpha=0.05$)

Discussion

There are variation in the types of contraceptive methods that are practiced in garment factories married women in Bangladesh. The study was designed with the major activities of identifying the contraceptive method preference and use in married garment women. In Bangladesh, result shows that husband education and family planning exposure had no significant relationship upon modern methods use and preference. It is found that most of the married did not adopt any method of contraceptive after their marriage. They waited for their first issue or some were reluctant to use contraceptive and maximum have no clear idea about contraception. Most of the respondents were of age between

26 to 31 years and 75.45% used contraceptive methods while 24.6% did not use contraceptive and most of the respondent used oral pill, which was about 64%.

Conclusion:

The cross sectional study was conducted on the garments married women in Dhaka City. Health education program regarding family planning, female education and need for intensive information communication activities and motivate the population and maternal and child health care service will have definite impact on more contraceptive practice, exposure to electronic media, home visit by family planning worker and services provided by them have also emerged as successfully important factors.

Reference:

1. Charles F. Westoff, " Unmet need at the end of the century". princeton University, Princeton, NJ,USA and MEASURE DHS+, ORC Macro, Calverton, MD,USA, April 2002
2. John A Ross and WilliamL. Wintrey, " Unmet need for contraception in the developing world and the former soviet union; and updated estimate " Interntimd family planning perspectives 2002
3. Oni GA and J.Mc Carthy " Use of contraceptives for birth spauing in Nigerian city" Studies in family planning, 1986, page 163-171
4. Shahidullah M. Chakrobortyn, Factors affecting the use to contraception in w: a mutivariate analysis Asia pacific population journal 1993; vot 8, No.3 (p-19-30).
5. United nations childrens fund (UNICEF)- facts for life, New York,USA :2002
6. Bhushan, I, Understanding Unmet Need, WOrking Paper Number 4. Baltimore , Johns Hopkeing University School public Health, Center for communication programs, November 1997.
7. Directorate of family planning Azimpur, Dhaka, Issue No. FPD/ESP/5610, Dated: 18/11/2003
8. Mahmud M Islam MM, " Adolescent Contraceptive use and its determinents in Bangladesh: Evidence from Bangladesh fenlilit, Survey 1989, contraception 1995 sept; 52(3): 181-6
9. Islam MA, Chakroborty N, Sharmin S-" The linkage between infznt and child moratality and subsequent fertility in Bangladesh",Bangladesh demographic and health survey 1993-94 entended analysis, Kanter A, Al sabir-A, Chakroborty N(EDs), National institute of population research and tranning; 1996. p 57-72.