On Dynamics of Marriage: Association Between some Socio-Economic Variables and Contraceptive Use

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ABSTRACT

Fertility is a complex phenomenon and is affected by a number of socio-economic and biological factors. Contraceptives are used for birth control and for spacing the birth. In this paper, an attempt has been made to study the association between some socio-economic variables such as education of husband and standard of living index (called independent variables) and contraceptive use (called dependent variable). Statistical chi-square (X^2) test is used for the analysis. It was found that there is strong relationship between independent and dependent variables.

Keywords: *Contraceptive, urban population, education, standard of living index, chi-square test.*

INTRODUCTION

In population study, the fertility is considered a positive factor for expanding the growth of the population. The use of contraceptives is one of those variables which may affect fertility rate by spacing the birth and sterilization process[1]. The results of several studies reveal that the use of contraceptives to limit the family size is still rare, though a large majority of couple possesses the knowlege of various contraceptives and have favourable attitude towards the use[1, 2, 3]. Recently, studying the relationship between some socio demographic variables and contraceptive use, it was found that age of wife and number of surving children both have a profound influence on the contraception use and the highest practice rate was found in age group 30-39 of wife[4].

In this paper, an attempt has been made to find current rates of contraceptive use in an urban population in relation to some chosen socio-economic variables such as education of husband and standard of living index. Statistical chi-square (X^2) test was used to find if any relation exists between these variables (independent variables) and the variable contraceptive use (dependent variable).

METHODOLOGY

To achive the aim, the data on the number of contraceptive users according to chosen socio-economic variables were collected from 253 husbands (called respondents) whose wives age were 15-49 year from 300 sample households of an urban population in state Uttar Pradesh (India) with the help of an interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Study revealed that 51 percent of sample respondents had ever used a contraception, 49 percent never used any contraceptive and 36 percent were currently using. Toe find out variations in contraceptive use by selected variables, the data were classified accordingly and discussed as follows :-

(i) Contraceptive use and education:

Table-1: (a) Use of Contraceptives by education of respondents

Education of respondent	Ever users	Current users	Total respondents
Illiterate	31 (31.6)*	30 (30.6)	98
Upto Primary	12 (44.4)	11 (40.7)	27
Upto Intermediate	77 (65.8)	58 (49.6)	117
Graudate and above	08 (72.7)	07 (63.6)	11
Total	**128 (50.6)**	**106 (41.9)**	**253**

Figures in brackets denote percent

Table-1: (b) X^2 test: Ever users of contraceptives by education of respondent

Education of respondent	Ever users	Number of respondents who never used	Total
Illiterate	31 (31.6)*	67 (68.4)	98
Upto Primary	12 (44.4)	15 (55.5)	27
Upto Intermediate	77 (65.8)	40 (34.2)	117
Graudate and above	08 (72.7)	03 (27.3)	11
Total	**128 (50.6)**	**125 (49.4)**	**253**

*Figures in brackets denote percent
X^2 = 28.15, df = 3, significant at 0.05 level

Table-1(a) presents the ever use and current use of contraceptives by education of respondents. Use of contraceptives was found positively related with education of husband. Lowest percentage of use was found in illiterates and the highest in highly educated. Table-1 (b) shows that about 68 percent of the couple where husbands were illiterate had never used any contraceptive. This may be one of the reasons that illiterates have higher fertility rate and in contrast highly educated has lower fertility rate [5]. Chi-square value is obtained 28.15 which is significant at 0.05 level at 3 degree of freedom.

(ii) Contraceptive use and standard of living index

Table-2: Use of contraceptives by standard of living index

Standard of living index	Ever users	Number of respondents who never used	Total respondents
Low	23 (34.8)*	43 (65.1)	66
Middle	84 (53.5)	73 (46.5)	157
High	21 (70.0)	09 (30.0)	30
Total	**128**	**125**	**253**

*Figures in brackets denote percent
X^2 = 14.66, df = 2, significant at 0.05 level

Table-2 shows that ever user of contraception increased with increasing the standard of living index. Minimum use is in low standard and maximum in high standard about 70 percent. This may result in the higher fertility rate in poor economic status and low fertility rate in high economic status. Chi-square is obtained 14.66 which is significant at 0.05 level at 2 degree of freedom.

CONCLUSION

In the study, it was found that the use of contraceptives varied by education level of husbands and by standard of living index. In the sample, about 42 percent were found currently using a contraceptive. The highest practice rate was found in highly educated husbands and in high status family. On the other hand, in illiterates and in the family of low standard of living index, the use rate of contraceptive was found very low.

Seeing the result, it is needed to promote the larger use of contraceptives where use rate is very low because these groups are high fertile [2].

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