



Influence of Availability and Quality of Services on Contraceptive Use

Amrita Kotwal, Bhupinder Singh, Gurdeep Singh

There has been a global recognition of the importance of reproductive health as a major component of women's health and well being, information on reproductive health status, needs and services etc. are lacking in many countries. This study was a part of cross-sectional survey done in rural population of R.S. Pura Block. A sampling frame of 191 AWCs was prepared but 19 AWCs (10%) was drawn by random sampling technique. A house-to-house survey was conducted to cover entire eligible couple population of selected AWCs and 1357 females (15-45 years) including pregnant women could be contacted for interview by oval questionnaire method on a pre-tested performae. The qualitative variables are summarized in form of frequencies and their percentages.

Overall knowledge about the source of family planning methods among women was very low (24.8%). About 60% of women were receiving a contraceptive (other than permanent method users) from a government facility where as about 37% of women got them from a chemist shop (Table-1). Distance of a health facility was not associated with non-use of contraceptive. Average distance of a health facility among users was 0.705 kms whereas among non-users, it was less (0.417kms) Table-2). (Table-3) 3/4th of women had informed choice and 2/3rd were instructed for follow up services. It was encouraging to observe that sterilization procedures and post-insertion coverage by antibiotic in Cu-T users was satisfactory. It was 60% users who were availing the contraceptives from a Govt. facility irrespective of distance and time taken to reach there. However, the study conducted in slums of Delhi showed the linkage between availability of health facilities and distance to reach there as a predictor of contraceptive use (1).

The present study reveals that about 3/4th women received counseling about various methods (informed choice) and about 2/3rd were told about follow up. In the study conducted by ICMR, around half the women had received counseling and only 1/5th had an informed choice (2). It was startling to see that mass media and health functionaries played less role in creating awareness of the different methods of family planning as majority of them (3/4th) acquired it from their husbands, friends and relatives. Meta-analysis (3) showed that women's education and exposure to mass media bear a significant

Table.1 Place From Where Getting Contraceptives Currently

Sources	Number (n=337)	(%)
Hospital	123	(36.5)
Chemist	120	(35.6)
Dispensary	16	(4.7)
AWC	65	(19.3)
Not Specified	13	(3.9)

Table.2 Distance of Health Center from Place of Residence

Distance (in Kms)	Ever been to a health facility			
	Yes (n=182)	(%)	No (n=102)	(%)
0	46	(25.3)	39	(38.2)
0.5	88	(48.4)	2	(2.0)
1	29	(15.9)	3	(2.9)
2	10	(5.5)	0	(0.0)
3	0	(0.0)	2	(2.0)
4	2	(1.1)	0	(0.0)
5	4	(2.2)	2	(2.0)
6	1	(0.5)	0	(0.0)
Not specified	2	(1.1)	54	(52.9)

Table.3 Average Distance of Health Center from Place of Residence

	Use of Health Facility for Family Planning	
	Yes (n=182)	No (n=102)
Average Distance (Km)	0.705	0.417
S.D (Kms)	0.973	1.159

positive relationship with contraception through all regions. While another study (4) showed that social interactions with in religious congregations, discussion with friends or relatives have a strong impact on knowledge and adoption of contraceptives. Similarly Gupta *et al* (5) showed that Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Campaigns are associated with increased contraceptive use & intention to use. So in future there is used to explore possibilities of involvement of mass media and enhancement in activities of health functionaries.

References

1. Shyamini KA, Helen H . A study of some of the factors relating to contraceptive use in an urban slum. *Health Pop-Persp Issues* 1995; 18 (4) :176-89.
2. Chandhick N, Dillon BS, Kamboo I, Sexena NC. contraceptive knowledge, practices and cultivation of services in the rural areas of India (An ICMR Task Force Study). *Ind J Med Sci* 2003; 57(7): 303-10.
3. Arokiasamy P. Gender Preference, Contraceptive use and fertility in India. Regional and development influences. *Int J Population Geography* 2002; 8 : 49-67.
4. Klitsch M . In Mozambique, social diversity within church congregations encourages contraceptive use. *Int Family Planning Perspectives* 2002; 28 (2) : 126-27.
5. Gupta N, Katende C, Bessinger R. Association of mass media exposure with family planning attitudes and practices in Uganda. *Studies Family Planning* 2003 34 (1) : 9-31.

From PG Department of Community Medicine Govt. Medical College Jammu, J&K- India

Correspondence to : Dr. Amrita Kotwal, 68 A/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu- 180004 J&K- India