



A Study on Unmet Need of Contraception Among Married Women in Urban Field Practice Area of JJM Medical College, Davangere, Karnataka

Ritu Kashyap¹, Vidya G S², Ruchi Dhar¹

Financial Support: None declared
Conflict of Interest: None declared
Copy Right: The Journal retains the copyrights of this article. However, reproduction of this article in the part or total in any form is permissible with due acknowledgement of the source.

How to cite this article:

Kashyap R, Vidya GS, Dhar R. A Study on Unmet Need of Contraception Among Married Women in Urban Field Practice Area of JJM Medical College, Davangere, Karnataka. *Natl J Community Med* 2017; 8(4):203-207.

Author's Affiliation:

¹Post-graduate; ²Professor, Dept of Community Medicine, J.J.M. medical College, Davangere, Karnataka

Correspondence:

Dr. Ritu Kashyap
ritukashyap2000@gmail.com

Date of Submission: 06-03-17

Date of Acceptance: 05-04-17

Date of Publication: 30-04-17

ABSTRACT

Background and Objectives: Unmet need of contraception is an on-going problem in India. The study was aimed to assess the unmet need of contraception and awareness of contraception among married women in the age-group of 15-49 years and reasons for non-usage of contraceptives among them.

Methods: The study was a community-based cross-sectional study conducted among 180 married women in the age-group of 15-49 years. The sampling method used was systematic random sampling. A pre-tested questionnaire was used to collect data. Data entry was done in Epidata and analysed by SPSS v20.0.

Results: The unmet need of contraception among study participants was 17.2%; unmet need for spacing and unmet need for limiting was 7.8% and 9.4% respectively. Majority of them had awareness of copper-T (96.1%), condoms (94.4%), oral contraceptive pills (95.6%) and tubectomy (91.7%). The most common reason for non-usage of contraceptives was preference for male child (54.8%).

Conclusions: The present study showed high unmet need of contraception among married women in the age group of 35-39 years with preference for male child as the most common reason for non-usage of contraceptives among them. Thus, there is a need to focus family planning services in this age-group of women with emphasis on gender equality.

Keywords: Unmet need, Contraception, Family planning, Awareness.

INTRODUCTION

Women with unmet need of contraception are those who are fecund and sexually active but are not using any method of contraception, and report not wanting any more children or wanting to delay the birth of their next child.¹ The concept of unmet need points to the gap between women's reproductive intentions and their contraceptive behaviour.²

Despite the dramatic increase in the use of family planning methods, about one in every six married women still has an unmet need of contraception and as a consequence, 76 million women still experience

unintended pregnancies every year in developing countries.³

In India, National family health survey-3 (2005-06) results showed that the total unmet need of contraception is 12.8% with unmet need for spacing and limiting is 6.2% and 6.6% respectively.⁴ According to District level household and facility survey-III (2007-08), the total unmet need of contraception is 20.5% with unmet need for spacing and limiting were 7.2% and 13.3% respectively.⁵

In Karnataka, about 10% of the married women have an unmet need of contraception with unmet need for limiting is 4% and unmet need for spacing

is declining steadily since National family health survey-1.⁴ In Davangere district of Karnataka, total unmet need of contraception is 11.6% with unmet need for spacing and limiting was 6.8% and 4.9% respectively.⁶

Though the extent of unmet need in Davangere district is comparable with national figure (12.8%) but still it exists as a problem and poses a challenge to family planning programme. So, there is an urgent need to identify those issues which are contributing to the unmet need in Davangere district and develop locally relevant strategies to focus family planning programme towards those identified issues for further improvement in the coverage and quality of family planning programme.

With this view, the present study was undertaken to assess the unmet need of contraception and awareness of contraception among married women in the age group of 15-49 years in urban field practice area of J.J.M. Medical College, Davangere and reasons for non-usage of contraceptives among them.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was a community-based cross-sectional study and conducted from March 2015 to August 2015 in an urban field practice area of J. J. M. Medical College, Davangere, Karnataka, India. Davangere is located in the central part of Karnataka, about 250 Kilometres from state's capital Bengaluru. The study population consists of married women in the age-group of 15-49 years, residing in the urban field practice area.

The prevalence of 11.6% was taken for total unmet need of contraception according to Karnataka DLHS 2012-13 ⁶and 5% of absolute precision with 95% of confidence interval; sample size of 164 was obtained. A 10% non-response rate was also taken into consideration. And total sample size was rounded off to 180.

The urban field practice area has 12 anganwadi centres and caters to a total population of 16,943. All Anganwadi centres were included in the study and from each Anganwadi centres, 15 households were selected using systematic random sampling for equal distribution of sample size. If there were more than one married women in a household, Kish Grid method⁷ was used to select one participant.

Inclusion criteria: (a) All married women in the reproductive age-group of 15-49 years; (b) Pregnant and lactating mother with mistimed pregnancies.

Exclusion criteria: (a) Married women with contraceptive failure. (b) Pregnant women who wanted

to have children within two years. (c) Those who did not give consent to participate in the study.

The selected married women were interviewed after obtaining informed verbal consent from them. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was used to collect data regarding socio-demographic profile, age at marriage, duration of marriage, awareness of contraception and reasons for non-usage of contraceptives. Modified BG Prasad classification, 2014⁸ was used to assess socio-economic status. Working group was classified according to participants response included house maids, teachers, tailors and business. Ethical clearance was obtained from the institutional ethical review committee.

Data collected was entered in EpiData v.3.1 software (EpiData Association, Odense, Denmark). Data was analyzed with the help of Statistical software for social sciences (SPSS) v20.0. Proportions, mean and confidence interval were employed for interpretation of data.

RESULTS

Out of 180 married women interviewed, 31 (17.2%) women had unmet need of contraception; unmet need for spacing and limiting were 7.8% and 9.4% respectively (Figure-1). Their mean age, mean age at marriage and duration of marriage were 27.2 +5.4, 23.2+4.3 and 9.6+ 3.8 years respectively.

In the present study, the unmet need of contraception was highest among following study participants- married women in the age group of 35-39 years (21.9%); illiterate women (63.6%); house wives (18.8%); Muslims (27.9%) and Class V socio-economic status (23.6%)[Table-1].

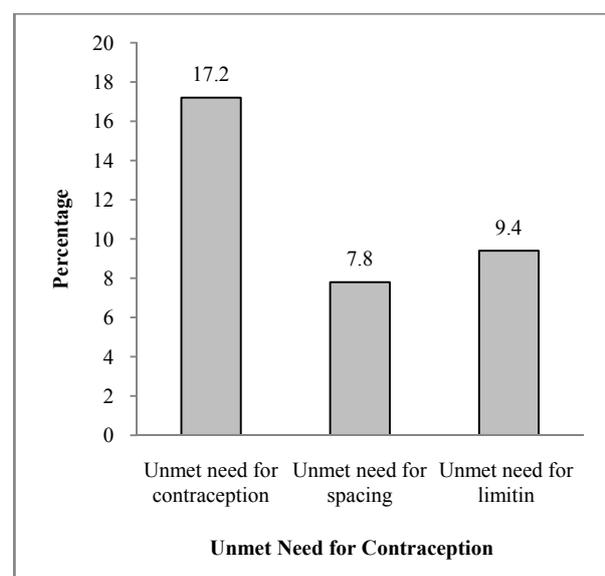


Figure 1: Unmet need of contraception among study participants.

Table 1: Socio-demographic profile and unmet need for contraception among study participants

Socio-demographic profile	Total study participants (n=180)	Unmet need for contraception		
		Spacing	Limiting	Total unmet need
Age of participants (years)				
15-19	23	4 (17.4)	1 (4.3)	5 (21.7)
20-24	32	4 (12.5)	2 (6.3)	6 (18.8)
25-29	36	3 (8.3)	2 (5.6)	5 (13.9)
30-34	29	1 (3.4)	3 (10.3)	4 (13.8)
35-39	22	1 (3.7)	4 (18.2)	5 (21.9)
40-44	23	1 (3.7)	4 (17.4)	5 (21.1)
45-49	15	---	1 (6.7)	1 (6.7)
Education				
Illiterate	11	4 (36.4)	3 (27.3)	7 (63.6)
Primary	22	3 (13.6)	3 (13.6)	6 (27.3)
Secondary	28	3 (10.7)	5 (17.9)	8 (28.6)
Pre-University College	51	2 (3.9)	2 (3.9)	4 (7.8)
Graduate	45	1 (2.2)	3 (6.7)	4 (8.9)
Post-graduate	23	1 (4.3)	1 (4.3)	2 (8.7)
Occupation				
Housewife	144	13 (9.0)	14 (9.7)	27 (18.8)
Working	36	1 (2.8)	3 (8.3)	4 (11.1)
Religion				
Hindu	112	5 (4.5)	7 (6.3)	12 (10.7)
Muslim	68	9 (13.2)	10 (14.7)	19 (27.9)
Socio-economic status				
Class-I	9	1 (11.1)	--	1 (11.1)
Class-II	23	1 (4.3)	1 (4.3)	2 (8.7)
Class-III	28	1 (3.6)	3 (10.7)	4 (14.3)
Class-IV	65	6 (9.2)	5 (7.7)	11(16.9)
Class-V	55	5 (9.1)	8 (14.5)	13 (23.6)
Total	180	14 (7.8)	17 (9.4)	31 (17.2)

(Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Table 2: Awareness of contraception among study participants (n=180)

Contraceptive type	Total (%)	95% CI
Oral contraceptive pills	172 (95.6)	92.5-98.6
Copper-T	173 (96.1)	93.3-98.9
Condoms	170 (94.4)	91.1-97.8
Tubectomy	165 (91.7)	87.6-95.7
Vasectomy	159 (88.3)	83.6-93.0
Centchroman	10 (5.6)	2.2-8.9
Injectable contraceptives	99 (55)	47.7-62.3
Emergency contraceptive pills	109 (60.6)	53.4-67.7

Table 3: Reasons for non-usage of contraception among study participant with unmet need (n=31)

Reason for non-usage	Total* (%)	95% CI
Inconvenient or unsatisfactory services	8 (25.8)	10.4-41.2
Lack of information	3 (9.7)	0.7-20.1
Fear of side-effects	5 (16.1)	3.2-29.1
Opposition from husbands or relatives	11 (35.5)	18.6-52.3
Preference for male child	17 (54.8)	37.3-72.4
Desire for child in future	12 (38.7)	21.6-55.9
Ignorance	9 (29)	13.1-45.0
Religion beliefs	7 (22.6)	7.9-37.3

*Multiple responses reported by study participants for non-usage of contraception

Table 2 showed that majority of the study participants were aware of copper-T (96.1%), oral contraceptive pills (95.6%); condoms (94.4%), tubectomy (91.7%) and vasectomy (88.3%). Only 55.0% and 60.6% of the study participants were aware of injectable contraceptives and emergency contraceptives respectively. Only few study participants were aware of Centchroman (5.6%).

Table 3 showed the most common reason for non-usage of contraceptives in the present study was preference for male child (54.8%). Desire for child in future (38.7%) , opposition from husbands or relatives (35.5%), ignorance (29.0%), unsatisfactory services (25.8%) and religion beliefs (22.6%) were reported as other reasons for non-usage of contraceptives. 16.1% had fear of side-effects and 9.7% had lack of information regarding contraception.

DISCUSSION

In our study, the unmet need of contraception among married women in the age group of 15-49 years was 17.2%. The finding is similar with the study conducted by Srivastava DK et al⁹ in Gwalior district (21.7%), Vasudevan K et al¹⁰ in Pondicherry (20.5%), Raveendran R et al¹¹ in South India (16.7%) and DLHS⁵ -2007-08 (20.5%). A study con-

ducted by Relwani NR et al¹² in Nagpur, Ansari MW et al¹³ in Rajpur and Begum S et al¹⁴ in Mumbai showed higher prevalence of unmet need of contraception (22.1% ,28.9% and 40.6% respectively) as compared to present study.

The present study showed unmet need for spacing and limiting was 7.8% and 9.4% and these findings are comparable with figures of NFHS-3 of unmet need for spacing (6.2%) and limiting (6.8%).

In our study, unmet need of contraception was highest in the age group of 35-39 years (21.9%). A study conducted by Malini B et al¹⁵ in urban area of Tamil Nadu reported similar finding of 33% of unmet need of contraception in the age more than 35 years.

In our study, the unmet need was highest among illiterate women (63.6%) and housewives (18.8%). Similar findings were reported by Pal A et al¹⁶ i.e., highest unmet need in illiterate women (66.5%) and housewives (66.3%). In our study and Srivastava DK et al⁹ study showed highest unmet need among those who belonged to Muslim religion.

In our study, awareness of available contraceptives was more than 60% except injectable contraceptives (55.0%) and centchroman (5.6%). A study conducted by Sulthana B et al⁷ in an urban area of Puducherry also showed that awareness of available contraceptives was more than 60% among married women except injectable contraceptives (16.5%) and centchroman (3%).

In our study, the most common reason for non-usage of contraceptives among married women was preference for male child (54.8%) followed by desire for child in future (38.7%) and opposition by husbands or relatives (35.5%). A study conducted by Davalgi S et al¹⁷ in urban slums of Central Karnataka also showed that majority of married women had desire for male child (34%) as a reason for not using any type of contraception. A study conducted by Jesha MM et al¹⁸ in North Kerala showed fear of complications (10.6%) as most common reason for non-usage of contraception.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The present study concluded that the unmet need of contraception is highest among married women in the age group of 35-39 years and preference for male child is most common reason for non-usage of contraceptives. Thus, family planning services should be focussed more towards this age-group of women with more emphasis on gender equality.

Acknowledgement: Authors acknowledge Anganwadi workers and study participants for their co-operation in the study.

REFERENCES

1. World Contraceptive Use 2009. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2009. Available from <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WCU2009/Metadata/UMN.html>. Last accessed on 2017 Jan 16
2. WHO. Sexual and reproductive health: Unmet need for Family Planning. World Health Organization, Geneva. Available from http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/family_planning/unmet_need_fp/en/. Last accessed on 2017 Jan 16.
3. UNFPA. Reducing unmet need for family planning: Evidence based strategies and approaches. New York: UNFPA, 2008 Nov;25(1),p1. Available from http://www.unfpa.org/EOL_nov2008. Last accessed on 207 Jan 16.
4. IIPS. National family health survey (NFHS-3), 2005-06. Mumbai: International Institute for Population Studies. International Institute for Population Studies; 2007. Available from: <http://www.mohfw.nic.in/nfhs3/index.htm>. Last accessed on 2017 January 16.
5. District Level Household and Facility Survey III 2007-08 (DLHS III). Ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India. Available from www.rchiips.org/pdf/INDIA_REPORT_DLHS-3. Last accessed on 2017 Jan 16.
6. Karnataka District Level Household and Facility Survey 2012-13 (DLHS IV). Ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India. Available from www.nipccd-earchive-wcd.nic.in/PDF. Last accessed on 2017 Jan 16.
7. Sulthana B, Shewade HD, Sundermurthy B, Manoharan K, Subrmanian M. Unmet need for contraception among married women in an urban slum of Puducherry, India. *Indian J Med Res*. 2015 Jan;141(1):115-8.
8. Mangal A, kumar V, Panesar S, Talwar R, Raut D, Singh S. Updated BG Prasad socio-economic classification, 2014: A commentary. *Indian J Public Health*. 2015;59:42-4.
9. Srivastava DK, Gautam P, Gautam R, Gour N, Bansal M. A study to assess the unmet needs of family planning in Gwalior district and to study the factors that helps in determining it. *Natl J Community Me*. 2011;2:29-31.
10. Vasudevan K, Soundarya C. Assessment of unmet need for contraception in an urban area of Pondicherry. *Nat J Res Comm Med*. 2016 Oct-Dec;5(4):223-8.
11. Raveendran R, B V. Unmet need for family planning in South India. *International Journal of Biomedical and Advance Research*. 2017 Mar;8(3):82-6.
12. Relwani NR, Saoji AV, Kulkarni M, Kasturwar N, Zade R, Wadke R. Revealing unmet need for contraception among married women in an urban slum of Nagpur. *Int J Med Sci Public Health*. 2015;4:1136-40.
13. Ansari MW, Iti LJ, Ahmad MK, Reddy S. A study to assess the factors determining the unmet need for contraceptive usage in an urban area Rajpur. *J. Evid. Based Med. Healthc*. 2015 Aug;2(35):5367-76.
14. Begum S, Nair S, Donta B, Prakasam CP. Prevalence of unmet need for contraception in urban slum communities, Mumbai. *Int J of Reprod Contracept Obstet and Gynecol*. 2017 Jan 4;3(3):627-30.

15. Malini B, Narayana E. Unmet need for family planning among married women of reproductive age group in urban Tamil Nadu. *J Family Community Med.* 2014 Jan-Apr;21(1):53-7. doi:10.4103/2230-8229.128786.
16. Pal A, Mohan U, Idris MZ, Masood J. Factors affecting unmet need for family planning in married women of reproductive age group in urban slums of Lucknow. *Ind J Comm Health.* 2014;26(1):44-9.
17. Davalagi S, Revanna R, Agadi N. Determinants of Post - partum contraception practices in urban slums of central Karnataka, India. *Indian J Comm Health.* 2016;28(3):280-5.
18. Jesha MM, Sebastian NM, Haveri PS, Nath AS. Unmet Needs for family planning in a municipal area in North Kerala, India. *Int J Reprod Contracept Obstet Gynecol.* 2016 Jul;5(7):2322-7.