

Women's Perception of male involvement in contraceptive decision, discussion, and use in urban and rural Kaduna State

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Background:

In Nigeria, use of modern family planning remains very low, about 9.8% among women in union. The role of men in community and household decision making has been found to be significant due to the patriarchal nature of the Nigerian society. Understanding the role of men in the context of family planning is imperative for programmatic reasons.

Objective:

The objective of this study was to assess the role of men in family planning use, decision making, and discussion in the family planning landscape in Kaduna state.

Methodology:

Data for this analysis was from the NURHI/MLE 2015 cross sectional household survey for Kaduna state. Analysis was based on the 4,044 women in union. Women perception's questions relating to partner's involvement in contraception decision making and use, decision maker for contraception, initiator of discussion, and difficulty of starting family planning discussion with spouse were explored.

Results/key findings:

More women in the urban area are using contraceptives than their counterpart in the rural area (23.2% versus 19.2%). In urban Kaduna, 48.2% reported never discussing use of FP method with spouse while 54.9% said they never discussed use of FP method with spouse. When asked about the initiator of discussions, 27.1% of respondents that reported ever discussing FP with partner in urban Kaduna said husband usually initiate FP discussion, while 36.5% said same in the rural areas. When asked about who determine contraceptive use; seven point six percents(7.6%) in urban Kaduna reported that husband solely make decision; 22.3% in rural Kaduna reported same. When asked about the difficulty of initiating a conversation about FP with male partner, about one-fifth (20.1%) in urban Kaduna reported it is very difficult while 17.4% reported it to be a somewhat difficult task. For Rural respondents, 28.0% reported it to be a very difficult task, while 22.65% reported that it was somewhat difficult.

Conclusion:

Men continue to play an important role in contraceptive discussions and decision making in rural and urban Kaduna. Family planning programmers need to design effective and community focused interventions to continue to stimulate the family planning environment positively in Kaduna state.

More studies among men should be encouraged; to further identify the factors associated with their positive response to spousal communication in family planning issues in kaduna state.

Preferred Presentation Mode: Oral