JOHNS HOPKINS
Center for Communication Programs

NURHI 2
NIGERIAN URBAN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INITIATIVE

Making Family Planning a Social Norm in Kaduna: A Religious Perspective

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INTRODUCTION

Religion and ethnicity are two most important factors that shape the behavioral pattern especially health seeking behaviors of the people of Nigeria.

Also, several studies conducted in the past have shown that public statements of religion leaders in support of family planning have a positive effect on peoples' contraceptive intention and use.

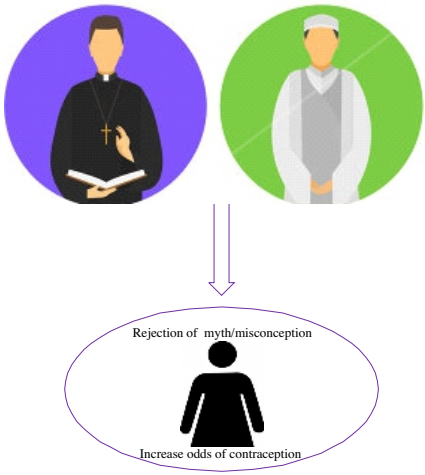
OBJECTIVE & METHODS

This paper seeks to examine the effect of religion on contraceptive use among men and women of reproductive age in Kaduna State.

Data for this paper is from the wave 4 of the NURHI 2 Flexi-Track Omnibus survey collected in September 2018 in three Nigerian States (Kaduna, Lagos and Oyo). Influence of public statements from religious leaders supporting family planning on contraceptive use in the survey data was the outcome measure . Data analysis was carried at Multivariate levels using the software STATA 14

RESULTS

Results of the regression analysis shows a positive association exists between rejection of myths & misconception held about Family Planning by women exposed to public statements of religious leader. Women who heard such statements are 59% more likely to use contraceptive than those who have not heard (OR=1.59; 95% CI, 1.01- 2.51; P<0.05).



CONCLUSION

Previous studies have documented the critical role of religious leaders in influencing decisions on contraceptive use in Nigeria. Continued strategic engagements with religious leaders especially in Kaduna state will go a long way in influencing positively contraceptive behavior of people under their influence.

To make family planning a social norm in Kaduna State, Programmers, Stakeholders and Government must continue to engage influential religious leaders and encourage them to publicly support family planning and the use of contraceptives.