

## **A COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF MUSLIM WOMEN REGARDING TEMPORARY CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS IN SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN AREA AT TIRNELVELI DISTRICT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The health and happiness of families depend on the family size. The aim of family welfare is to bring down population growth. The study was proposed to assess and compare the knowledge of Muslim women regarding temporary contraceptive methods in rural and urban area. The study was a descriptive comparative design. The study was carried out at rural area Pathamadai Village, Tirnelveli District. Urban area was Melapalyam Town, Tirnelveli District, with the sample of 100 Muslim women by using non probability convenient sampling technique. The inclusion criteria were Muslim women who were eligible couple and willing to participate in this study. Most women were in the age group between 21 to 30 years in rural and urban areas. Majority of them were self employed in both areas. Out of 50 rural Muslim women 82% had adequate knowledge, 18% had moderately adequate knowledge and no one had adequate knowledge. In urban Muslim women 10% had adequate knowledge, 54% had moderately adequate knowledge and 36% had adequate knowledge. The statistical analysis showed significant difference in the knowledge among rural & urban Muslim women. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

**KEYWORDS:** Knowledge, Women, Temporary Contraceptive Methods

### **INTRODUCTION**

Family is the basic unit of community. The health and happiness of families depend on the family size, i.e., the number of children, the family has. The total fertility rate gives the approximate magnitude of completed family size. According to UNICEF (2004), the total fertility rates in India are 3.9 in 1990 and 3.1 in 2002. The decrease in family size does not appear to be due to any reduction in fertility, rather it appears to be due to the result of deliberate family planning.

### **Need for the Study**

The aim of family welfare is to bring down population growth, so as to ensure better standard of living. There are about 5, 85,000 maternal deaths each year through the globe of which 99% occur in developing world. MMR and morbidity could be reduced significantly by effective use of contraception (Dutta D. C. 2001).

Historically Muslim group consistently showed higher population growth than many other religious groups (Malika Mistry 1999). So the investigator felt that to create awareness about contraceptive methods by assessing the knowledge of Muslim women in rural and urban area regarding temporary contraceptive methods to reduce maternal, foetal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

## Objectives of the Study

The study was proposed to

- Assess the knowledge of Muslim women regarding temporary contraceptive methods in rural and urban area.
- Determine the association between the knowledge of Muslim women regarding temporary contraceptive methods in rural and urban area and selected demographic variables.
- Compare the knowledge of Muslim women in rural and urban area regarding temporary contraceptive methods.

## Alternative Hypothesis

There is a significant difference in the knowledge of rural Muslim women and urban Muslim women regarding temporary contraceptive methods.

## Review of Literature

The study was conducted on increasing contraceptive use in Pakistan: an evaluation of the lady health worker programme. Past efforts to promote family planning in Pakistan have been disappointing, but between 1990-91 and 2000-01 contraceptive use has more than doubled. This rise coincided with a concerted effort on the part of the Pakistan Government to increase contraceptive services, particularly in rural areas (Douthwaite & Ward 2005).

## METHODS

The study was a descriptive comparative design. The study was carried out at rural area Pathamadai Village, Tirnelveli District. Urban area was Melapalyam Town, Tirnelveli District, South India with the sample of 100 Muslim women by using non probability convenient sampling technique. The inclusion criteria were Muslim women who were eligible couple and willing to participate in this study. The exclusion criteria were Nulliparous and who were undergone sterilization.

## Description of the Tool

The tool consists of three parts, i.e. Part 1 -Related demographic variables which included age, educational status, occupation, monthly income, type of family, number of living children & sources of health information, Part 2 - Structured interview tool on temporary contraceptive methods (Condom, Copper-T, Oral pills and Safe period and Part 3 - Pamphlet includes health education on (Condom, Copper-T, Oral pills and Safe period).

The score interpretation of the knowledge tool part was < 50 % considered as inadequate knowledge, 51 – 75 % is moderately adequate knowledge and > 75 % is considered as adequate knowledge.

## Content Validity

Content validity was obtained from nursing and medical experts.

## Reliability

Computed by split half method ( $r = 0.9$ )

## Procedure for Data Collection

Prior to data collection, permission was taken from the Incharge Medical Officer from both rural and urban areas. Informed consent was obtained from the Study participants. The data was collected from 100 Muslim women on Condom, Copper-T, Oral pills and Safe period methods. Then pamphlet provided on that particular topic.

## RESULTS

Most samples of the study were in the age group between 21 to 30 years in rural and urban areas. Majority of the mother were self employed in both areas. Average monthly income was above Rs.3000. Out of 50 rural Muslim women 82% had adequate knowledge, 18% had moderately adequate knowledge and no one had adequate knowledge. In urban Muslim women 10% had adequate knowledge, 54% had moderately adequate knowledge and 36% had adequate knowledge. The statistical analysis showed significant difference in the knowledge among rural & urban Muslim women. Hence the hypothesis is accepted. There is a significant association between the knowledge on Temporary contraceptive methods with age and educational status among Muslim women at  $P < 0.05$  level.

## Recommendations

- A similar study can be done on large number of samples as longitudinal prospective cohort study.
- An experimental study can be continued.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study concluded that comparing with rural Muslim women Urban Women had more knowledge on Temporary contraceptive methods. Hence necessary measures are needed to be taken to create awareness on contraceptive methods among Muslim community especially in rural areas.

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