CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN PAKISTAN: COUPLE PREFERENCES, PERCEPTIONS AND PRACTICES

International FP Conference, Senegal
29 Nov -2 Dec, 2011
Background

- Stagnating CPR ~ 30 percent
- Increasing unmet need ~ 25 percent
- More and more women reporting ‘Husband disapproval’ as reason for non-use
- Lack of data on men’s fertility preferences and practices
- Difficult to assess the accuracy of women’s perceptions regarding their husbands’ attitudes
Framework

- To what degree are women’s perceptions of husband disapproval true?
- Does inter-spousal communication regarding FP influence contraceptive use?
- Does concordance influence the type of method used?
- Explanatory variables:
  - Discussion on FP
  - Approval of FP
  - Perception of spouse’s attitude
  - Fertility desire
Data and Methods

- **Data**
  - FALAH data from 29 districts across Pakistan
  - Sample size of 5208 matched couples

- **Methods**
  - Descriptive statistics for contraceptive use and variables of interest
  - Multivariate analysis to determine relative strength of variables of interest in explaining contraceptive use
Sample Characteristics

- **Region**
  - 72 percent live in rural areas

- **Education**
  - 35 percent of men never went to school
  - 72 percent of women never went to school
  - Most men marry women with equal or fewer years of education

- **Employment**
  - 29 percent men in agriculture; 27 in manual labor
  - 29 percent women engaged in paid labor

- **Fertility**
  - Average family size: 3.8 children
Universal knowledge of FP?

Modern Method

Women: 98%
Men: 82%

Traditional Method

Women: 63%
Men: 45%
Contraceptive Use

- **Contraceptive Use**
  - Women: 30%
  - Men: 31%

- **Female-based**
  - Women: 52%
  - Men: 56%

- **Male-Based**
  - Women: 48%
  - Men: 46%
Concordance in Contraceptive Use Report

- Concordance between husband and wife’s reported contraceptive use status ~ 79 percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Husband’s Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife’s Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Concordance goes down to 71 percent for type of method reported
Perceptions, Attitudes and Preferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crystallography</th>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perceptions:
- 75% Women, 74% Both perceive spouse's approval of family planning.
- 86% Women, 82% Both approve of family planning.
- 48% Women, 38% Men, 34% Both want no more children.
- 43% Women, 48% Men, 28% Both discussed FP w/ spouse.

Population Council
Discussion of FP

Spouse Reporting Discussion of FP w/ Partner

- Neither: 37%
- Husband only: 20%
- Wife only: 15%
- Both: 28%
Do perceptions reflect reality?

- 1 in 4 women perceives her husband to disapprove of practicing family planning

- Out of these women 61 percent *wrongly* perceive disapproval

- Out of the women who perceive husband approval, 89 percent are right
Does discussion improve concordance between perceptions and reality?

Wife's Correct Perception of Husband's Attitude regarding FP

- Both: 90
- One spouse: 72
- Neither: 69

Population Council
# Multivariate Analysis (current use)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables of Interest</th>
<th>Odds Ratios</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uncontrolled</td>
<td>Controlled##</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman approves of FP</td>
<td>2.9***</td>
<td>2.6***</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Woman’s perception of husband approval</td>
<td>4.2***</td>
<td>3.6***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman’s report: Discussed FP</td>
<td>2.0***</td>
<td>2.1***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s report: Discussed FP</td>
<td>1.8***</td>
<td>1.7***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire to limit childbearing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband only</td>
<td>2.0***</td>
<td>1.8**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife only</td>
<td>2.1***</td>
<td>2.0***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>5.1***</td>
<td>4.2***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Controlling for: region; woman's education; HH wealth; number of living children

** p< 0.05 ***p<0.001
## Multivariate Analysis (base=no use)

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female based</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woman approves of FP</td>
<td>3.5**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woman’s perception of husband approval</td>
<td>3.1***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woman’s report: Discussed FP</td>
<td>1.6***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s report: Discussed FP</td>
<td>1.3**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire to limit childbearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
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** p< 0.05 ***p<0.001
Discussion

- Evidence of discordant attitudes and perceptions among couples
- Perceptions play a strong role in determining contraceptive use
- Inter-spousal communication reduces the discrepancy between perceptions and reality
- Policy Implications
- Potential for further research