

Fertility Intention and Contraceptive Use among Males in Nigeria

Long Abstract

Despite the numerous reproductive health programmes on contraceptive use and the benefits of low fertility, many African countries still record low contraceptive prevalence and high levels of fertility. Several studies have shown mismatch in fertility intention and subsequent reproductive behaviour of women (Monnier, 1989; Withers et al, 2011). A possible explanation for the mismatch is the influence of male partners on female contraceptive behaviour since males exerts great influence on contraceptive use and fertility outcomes in households. For example, Doodoo (1998) found that in Kenya, a wife's intention to stopping childbearing does not translate into increased contraceptive use especially when the husband wants more children. Could the fertility intention of males therefore predict contraceptive use and eventual fertility outcome in Households?

There is a growing body of literature on the involvement of men in reproductive decision making (Doodoo 1993, Doodoo and Van Landewijk 1996, Ezeh 1993, Isiugo-Abanihe 1994). However, how men's fertility intention impacts their use of modern contraceptive is not well understood. Given that men in patriarchal societies as found in Nigeria make most of the decisions that shapes family formations, it is important to examine how men's fertility intention influences their contraceptive use in the households. We expect to find greater use of modern contraceptive among Nigerian men if it resonates with their intention for children.

Using the 2008 Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey data of sexually active, fecund 15-59 years-old men, this study investigates if and how fertility intention of males in Nigeria influences their contraceptive use. The analysis sample was 8,585. The dependent variable was current modern contraceptive use coded as 0 for non-use and 1 for use. The key independent variable is fertility intention (which is a prospective measure of birth). The study controlled for respondents' age, education, number of living children, region and occupation. Others are place of residence, wealth status and religion. Marital status was dropped from analysis because it was highly correlated with number of living children.

Results show that only 13.5% of the 15,486 men in the analysis sample were using modern contraceptive methods while 15.9% want no more children and 34.7% want to delay having a/next child. Fertility intention was found to be associated with use of modern contraceptive

methods at both bivariate and multivariate levels. Table 1 shows the multivariate results. Men who do not want a/another child are significantly more likely (OR= 2.19) to use a modern contraceptive compared to men who want a/another child within two years. Men who want to space childbirth (want after two years) are also more likely to use modern contraceptive (OR= 1.50) compared to men who want a child within two years.

Education, number of living children and wealth status were significant predictors of contraceptive use with the odds for use generally increasing as level of education, number of living children and wealth increase. Age of respondents was found to be negatively associated with modern contraceptive use and respondents that reside in rural areas were less likely to be users of modern methods of contraception.

This study shows that the fertility intention of Nigerian men is a driver of their contraceptive behaviour. The policy and programme implications of the finding are discussed

Table 1: MULTIVARIATE LOGISTIC

CURRENT CONTRACEPTIVE USE. Use Modern (1) Not using Modern (0)	ODDS RATIO (OR)	P > Value	[95% C I]
Fertility Intention:			
Want children within 2 years	RC		
Want children after 2 years	1.500*	0.000	1.1990 - 1.8769
Undecided	1.427*	0.020	1.0579 - 1.9242
Want no more children	2.195*	0.000	1.6803 - 2.8674
Education:			
No education	RC		
Primary education	1.798 *	0.001	1.2534 - 2.5817
Secondary education	2.301 *	0.000	1.6068 - 3.2958
Higher education	3.274 *	0.000	2.1936 - 4.8885
Age:			
15 – 24	RC		
25 – 34	0.768	0.236	0.4973 - 1.1875
35 – 44	0.621*	0.041	0.3945 - 0.9800
45+	0.392*	0.000	0.2395 - 0.6439
Region:			
North Central	RC		
North East	0.310*	0.000	0.2102 - 0.4578
North West	0.243*	0.000	0.1606 - 0.3668

South East	0.785	0.155	0.5625 - 1.0957
South South	0.811	0.127	0.6195 - 1.0617
South West	1.709*	0.000	1.3623 - 2.1445
Place or residence:			
Urban	RC		
Rural	0.808*	0.036	0.6621 - 0.9859
Religion:			
Catholic	RC		
Other Christian	1.199	0.195	0.9115 - 1.5761
Islam	0.806	0.188	0.5838 - 1.1113
Traditional	0.973	0.936	0.5067 - 1.8701
Wealth Status:			
Poor	RC		
Middle	1.166	0.286	0.8793 - 1.5468
Rich	1.467*	0.007	1.1095 - 1.9412
Occupation:			
Not working	RC		
Professional	1.345	0.399	0.6751 - 2.6811
Clerical and services	1.534	0.221	0.7737 - 3.0394
Agric employee/manual/sales	1.252	0.509	0.6425 - 2.4404
Number of living children:			
No children	RC		
1-2 children	1.987*	0.000	1.3567 - 2.9094
3-4 children	2.031*	0.001	1.3571 - 3.0390
5+ children	1.858*	0.005	1.2037 - 2.8663

*p<0.05

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