

Perception on the Use of Artificial Contraception Among Mothers in Jolo, Sulu: A Basis for Policy Implementation

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Abstract

Background: In Jolo, Sulu, mothers are advised to use artificial contraception to prevent unanticipated pregnancy and HIV infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other sexually transmitted illnesses. This study set out to determine the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu, and serves as a basis for policy implementation.

Method: This study utilized a descriptive predictive research design. Data analysis employed descriptive statistics. Version 21 of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for the statistical

analysis, was used. The threshold for statistical significance was a 0.05 p-value. confidence level.

Results: The mean (\pm SD) of perception on the use of artificial contraception was 4.40 (\pm .401). The majority (42.2%) of the participants were early adults. Perception on the use of artificial contraception was significantly influenced ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: Age 18-25 mothers more common on the usage of artificial contraception. The findings of this study have shown that the mothers in Jolo, Sulu has a very high perception on the usage of artificial contraception. Thus, age significantly influences the usage of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu, and serves as a basis for policy implementation.

Keywords: Artificial contraception, Perception, Mothers, RHCC, Jolo Sulu.

Introduction

Contraceptive method is a crucial component of health care that promotes the health and wellbeing of women, men, children, families, and communities at large globally (Akamike, Madubueze et al. 2020).

A contributing cause to the misuse of contraception in society may be a lack of education and awareness, as well as inaccurate attitudes of healthcare professionals (Ababneh, Ong et al. 2023). Couples now have more freedom over the number and spacing of their children because of the expanding use of contraception around the world, which has enormous life-saving advantages. Women in non-poor households (50.2%) are more likely than women in poor households (40.1%) to utilize family planning. This discrepancy is mostly brought about by non-poor women being more likely than poor women to undergo female sterilization (13.2% versus 5.1%) (Judith, Ikenna et al.).

SGD 3.7 in Asia addresses the use of modern contraception by women who are of reproductive age. This study investigated the role of women's education in the use of modern contraceptives and evaluation of indicator 3.7.3 development in 11 selected South and South-East Asian countries (Bajwa, Bajwa et al. 2012).

According to the 2013 Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 55% of Filipinos use contraception. The majority of people who use contraception rely on modern methods, although over the previous ten years, nearly a third of all people in the country have continued to utilize older methods (Marquez 2017). On this matter, Jolo, Sulu has been utilizing artificial contraception with the knowledge and information on its usage for all mothers. Artificial contraception used properly can stop undesired pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted diseases like HIV. ((Kara, Benedicto et al. 2019)).

In Jolo, Sulu, a large percentage of mothers still exhibit unintended pregnancies and unmet contraceptive needs. Improving access to adequate contraceptive usage was a major goal of this study. Contraceptive use has been recognized as a vital intervention to prevent complications and subsequent negative effects. With this, the study aims to define the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu, and serves as a basis for policy implementation.

Methods

Design:

Descriptive–predictive research design has been engaged in this study. Descriptively, this study has been designed at exploring and determining the perception on the use of artificial among mothers in Jolo, Sulu. Predictively as it intended at determining the significant influence on the perception of mothers on the use of artificial contraception according to age.

A descriptive study design's objective is to methodically collect data in order to describe a phenomena, situation, or population. More specifically, it helps in addressing the research problem's what, when, where, and how questions rather than its why (Siedlecki 2020). Predictive research's main objective is to foresee outcomes, repercussions, costs, or effects. This kind of research aims to forecast something that hasn't been attempted, tested, or recommended previously by extrapolating from the investigation of existing phenomena, policies, or other entities (Chancellor and De Choudhury 2020).

Locale:

This research was carried out in the Sulu province of Jolo. The southernmost portion of the Philippines is where the province of Sulu is located. It is almost halfway between the Tawi-Tawi and Basilan provinces. The Sulu, Mindanao, and Celebes seas border it on the west, north, and east, respectively. It has 157 islands and islets in it. The province's native name is "lupah sug"; lupah is the word for land and sug is the word for sea current; so, the name translates "land of the Sea Current."

The island province of Sulu contains the coastal municipality of Jolo. The provincial capital is housed there. There are four hundred and ten (410) barangays, eighteen (18) municipalities, and two congressional districts in the province. Eight (8) of the municipalities are on islands, and ten (10) are on the mainland. The county seat is Jolo Municipality (Archipelago and Street).

Respondents and Sample:

All mothers enrolled in Reproductive Health Care Center in Jolo, Sulu have been considered as the respondents of the study. The criteria in the selection of the respondents shall include those that are: (1) mothers that are currently enrolled in the Reproductive Health Care Center (RHCC) in the Jolo, Sulu (2) has been availing any artificial contraceptives, and (3) has been identified as residents within the province of Jolo, Sulu.

The sampling strategy employed in this study is total enumeration. All of the officially enrolled mothers shall be considered as actual respondents of the study. Based on the retrieved data available in the RHCC at Jolo, there is a total of 45 patients of which all are considered as respondents.

Instrumentation or Tool:

The questionnaire of this study is composed of two (2) parts. Part 1 considers the age of the respondents and Part 2 is all about the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers enrolled in RHCC Jolo, Sulu. It is composed of 15 positive statements measured via a 5-point Likert scale as follows: 1 = very low perception, 2 = low perception, 3 = moderate perception, 4 = high perception, and 5 = very high perception. The focus of the questions is on the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers enrolled in RHCC in Jolo, Sulu. The questionnaire used in the study consisted of two (2) parts which will be consulted by at least 3 experts. These experts have judged the content validity of the questionnaire which will be based on simplicity, clarity, and relevance. Hence, it is believed to be valid and reliable ($\alpha = 0.84$).

Data Gathering Procedure:

The Reproductive Health Care Center (RHCC) in Jolo, Sulu Province, where mothers are seeking artificial contraception, was identified as the starting point for the data collection. The researcher is chosen based on the RHCC's proximity to Jolo, where she will be stationed while collecting data.

Together with the allocated staff, the researcher initially went to the RHCC to begin the assessment process. The staff members confirmed their support when the researcher explained her goals and the nature of the study. They specifically consented to assist the researcher in describing the study's goal to the mothers in RHCC.

Data analysis:

The first part of the presentation and analysis of data dealt on the age of the mothers at Reproductive Health Care Centers (RHCC) of Jolo, Sulu. It is presented with a descriptive title of the variables, frequency, and percentage distribution. Then, the second part of the interpretation

dealt with the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers and presented with mean and standard deviation, the last problem of the study measures the significant influence through simple linear regression. Data has been analyzed using SPSS version 21 software which yielded results.

Ethical Consideration:

In establishing the goals of this study, the researcher takes into account the following factors: a) the respondents must be well-informed about the study, its goals, and the reasons for its conduct; b) the researcher must clearly explain the study's content to the respondents for them to understand the questionnaire that will be given, and for the researcher to accurately gather data; and c) after the respondents have voluntarily agreed to participate in the study, the researcher must be open to some questions about the study's findings. However, any study must ensure the security and safety of the data that participants will provide.

Result

Table 1 presents the respondents' age in the study. The first research problem this study sought is, "What is the profile of the respondents in terms of age among mothers in Jolo, Sulu?". 45 mothers participated in this study. Part 1 of the questionnaire yielded data that answered the research problem involving the age profile. Their age was subcategorized into; (1) 18 to 25; (2) 26 to 35; and (3) 36 to 45 years of age, and; (4) 45 and above. This shows the respondents' profile in terms of age. For the age 18 – 25 has a frequency of 19 and a percentage of 42.2% followed by 26 – 35 with a frequency of 16 and 35.6%, 36 – 45 years old has a frequency of 7 and 15.6%, and lastly 45 years old and above got a frequency of 3 and 6.7%.

Table 1. Respondents' profile in terms of age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 25	19	42.2
26 – 35	16	35.6
36 – 45	7	15.6
45 and above	3	6.7
Total	45	100

This section presents the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu. The second research problem this study sought to answer is, "What is the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu?". The survey questionnaire sought to determine the perception on the use of artificial contraception.

Table 2 reflects the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo , Sulu. There was a high level of perception on artificial contraception with an overall mean of 4.40 (\pm .401).

Table 2. Perception on the use of artificial contraceptive among mothers in RHCC in Jolo, Sulu

Items	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Artificial contraception reduces maternal morbidity and mortality.	4.31	1.12	High Perception
2. The use of artificial contraception enables individuals and couples to plan the number of children they desire to have.	4.24	1.15	High Perception
3. Artificial contraception has greater effectiveness in preventing unintended pregnancies.	4.71	.726	Very high perception
4. Artificial contraception use is associated with health problems such as infertility.	3.06	1.48	Moderate Perception
5. The use of artificial contraception prevents unsafe abortions and infant mortality.	3.86	1.42	High Perception
6. Women’s education and occupational status influences their utilization of contraception.	3.13	1.57	Moderate Perception
7. Male Condoms are a sheath placed over an erect penis and blocking sperm.	4.62	.833	Very high perception
8. Pills are taken orally once a day before bedtime. failure to take a single pill leads to direct pregnancy.	4.71	.626	Very high perception
9. Combined Oral Contraceptive (COC) is a type of Pill that is taken orally and is suitable for non-breastfeeding mother.	4.62	.805	Very high perception
10. Progestin Only Pill (POP) is a type of pill that is suitable for breastfeeding mothers only and is taken orally.	4.62	.805	Very high perception
11. Depo - Provera Injection has an effectivity of three (3) months only and the need to take another depo-provera injection before the due date is required to reinforce the efficiency.	4.80	.404	Very high perception
12. Intra-Uterine Device or IUDs can provide protection up to 12 years.	4.71	.588	Very high perception
13. Intra-Uterine Device (IUDs) is inserted through the opening of the cervix into the uterus and is done during the menstrual cycle.	4.57	.722	Very high perception
14. The insertion and removal of IUDs is done by clinical trained/expert personnel only.	4.91	.358	Very high perception
15. Progestin subdermal implant or Implanon is effective to prevent pregnancy for three (3) years only.	4.80	.404	Very high perception
16. Progestin subdermal implant or Implanon is being inserted under the left arm of right –handed woman and vice-versa.	4.80	.457	Very high perception
Weighted Mean	4.40	.401	Very high perception

To ascertain whether age significantly influenced how artificial contraception was used, a correlation was explored. A significant value of 0.001 is displayed in the results, which is less than the alpha value of 0.05 and indicates that age significantly influenced the usage of artificial contraception.

Table 3. Correlation, Respondents Gender and their Perception on the Use of Artificial Contraception

Correlated Variables		Corr. Value	Sig. (p-value)	Interpretation
Age	Perception on The Use of Artificial Contraception	0.492	0.001	Significant

Discussion

This study was conducted to assess the perception on the use of contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu. The findings of this research indicate that participants had a very high perception on the usage of condoms, pills (COC and POP), depo-provera injections, IUDs, and subdermal implants. These results are in line with the study conducted in 2019 by Benedicto, which revealed that the participants' ages were 27.4 (5.7) on average. 96% of the participants tend to be very knowledgeable about artificial contraceptives. Only 47.4% of students said they had ever used at least one form of contraception, while 64.6% felt embarrassed to ask for or purchase it, and 32.3% cited different religious beliefs as the reason they had never used contraception (Kara, Benedicto et al. 2019).

The correlation was used to determine whether the model had a significant influence on how artificial contraception was perceived. The result is a 0.001 is the significant value, which is less than the 0.05 alpha value and suggests that age has a significant influence on the use of artificial contraception. According to Waheeda Kara's research, the age, marital status, and religion of the participating students were all substantially correlated with their awareness of contraception (p0.0001, p0.00001). In addition, in 2019, 1.1 billion of the 1.9 billion women worldwide in the reproductive age group (15–19) would need family planning, according to a separate World Health Organization (WHO) study. (Kara, Benedicto et al. 2019).

The study highlights that the perception on the use of artificial contraception among mothers was very high. They have a thorough understanding of the significance and effectiveness of artificial contraception. This study can serve as the foundation for a national investigation into mothers' perceptions of the use of artificial contraception and the potential inclusion of advanced contraceptive education.

Conclusion

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Artificial contraception is more common in early-aged adults, particularly among mothers in Sulu Province, Philippines. The respondents have a very high perception of the usage of artificial contraception and that artificial contraception are essential to keep them safe from unwanted pregnancies and prevent increasing the number of their children.

Moreover, it also reveals that age significantly influenced the perception of the use of artificial contraception among mothers in Jolo, Sulu.

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