

A STUDY INTO THE ATTITUDES OF THE TWO AGE GROUPS OF FEMALES TOWARDS FERTILITY CONTROL IN RURAL SARGODHA

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The study was conducted in rural areas of district Sargodha. The respondents were classified into two age groups i.e., 15-49 and more than 50 years. The main objective was to explore whether or not there exists a significant gap between knowledge, attitude and practice about family planning in young and old females separately, and to look into the factors which affect the attitude of rural married females towards fertility control. The results showed that in case of age group of 15-49, education has a strong relationship with attitude towards fertility control whereas in case of age group (50 +) education has no significant relationship. No significant relationship was found between income level, age at marriage and attitude towards fertility control.

INTRODUCTION

The problem of increasing population has become a serious challenge throughout the world. It is now universally recognised that over-population leads to pressure on land, unemployment, inadequate facilities for education, health and recreation for the ever increasing numbers. The problem has alarmed not the social scientists alone, but also the planners, politicians and all those who are interested in enriching the quality of life. Though, this issue has significance for the whole world but it is a challenging problem for the countries of the third world. In such countries increasing birth rates and rapidly decreasing death rates have been given boost to the natural growth rate of population.

The latest report of the United Nations Fund while forecasting that mankind will swell to six billion by the end of the 20th

century, maintains that human population is increasing by 2,20,000 every day and over 80 million a year and 90% of this demographic upsurge is in the developing countries. According to Chaudhry (1976), Pakistan is passing through the second stage of declining mortality rates, unaccompanied by a corresponding decline in fertility according to the Demographic Transition Theory. The reason for this is the control over the erstwhile deadly diseases like malaria, smallpox, tuberculosis and typhoid through the use of modern antibiotics and other medicines. According to population Reference Bureau Inc. (1988), total fertility rate in Pakistan is 6.6 which is much higher as compared to other developing countries like India and Sri Lanka where it is 4.3 and 2.8, respectively. This proves that we are yet a long way off from attaining our objectives and that our efforts have not succeeded in breaking supporting high fertility in our agrarian econ-

omy. The present study is also an effort to look into the attitude of females of different age groups towards fertility. The main objectives of the study are to explore whether or not there exists a significant gap between knowledge, attitude and practices about family planning in your and old females separately, and to look into the factors which affect the attitude of rural married females towards fertility control.

selected randomly. The respondents of the study were classified into two age groups. The first consisted of married females aged 15-49 years whose spouses were alive and had at least one child. The second group consisted of married females of age 50 years and above. The total sample size was 150 by taking 75 randomly selected respondents from each age group. As literacy level is very low so it was decided to conduct face to face

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents of age group 15-49 years with respect to attitude towards fertility control by level of education

Level of education	Attitude toward fertility control					
	Favourable		Unfavourable		Total	
	n	Per cent	n	Per cent	n	Per cent
Illiterate	8	47.06	9	52.94	17	22.66
Literate	49	84.48	9	15.52	58	77.34
Total	57	76.00	18	24.00	75	100.00

Chi square = 10.47, df = 1.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents of age group 50 years and above with respect to attitude towards fertility control by level of education

Level of education	Attitude toward fertility control					
	Favourable		Unfavourable		Total	
	n	Per cent	n	Per cent	n	Per cent
Illiterate	16	36.36	28	63.64	44	58.66
Literate	13	41.94	18	58.07	31	41.34
Total	29	38.66	46	58.07	75	100.00

Chi square = 0.2388, df = 1.

THE SAMPLE DESIGN

The present study was conducted in two rural communities of Sargodha district

survey by using well designed interviewing schedule. The interviewing schedule was in English but interviews were conducted in the native language (Punjabi). Percentages

and Chi-square values were calculated to ascertain the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics and attitude towards fertility control of the respondents. The significance of relationship was assessed at 5% level.

creases, attitude towards controlling fertility also increases. The value of Chi-square is 10.47 which is significant at 5% level of significance. Hamid (1962) and Khan (1966) also found the same results.

The information given in Table 2

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents of age group 15-49 years and above with respect to attitude towards fertility control by level of income

Level of education	Attitude toward fertility control					
	Favourable		Unfavourable		Total	
	n	Per cent	n	Per cent	n	Per cent
Low	28	84.85	5	15.15	33	44.00
Medium	9	56.25	7	43.75	16	21.33
High	20	76.92	6	23.08	26	34.64
Total	57	76.00	18	24.00	75	100.00

Chi square = 3.85, df = 2.

Table 4. Distribution of the respondents of age group 50 years and above with respect to attitude towards fertility control by level of income

Level of education	Attitude toward fertility control					
	Favourable		Unfavourable		Total	
	n	Per cent	n	Per cent	n	Per cent
Low	18	31.58	39	68.42	57	76.00
Medium	7	58.33	5	41.67	12	16.00
High	4	66.66	2	33.34	6	8.00
Total	29	38.66	46	61.34	75	100.00

Chi square = 5.147, df = 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Educational level by attitude towards fertility control: The information given in Table 1 indicates that education plays a very vital role in determining the attitude towards fertility control. As the level of education in-

creases, attitude towards controlling fertility also increases. The value of Chi-square is 0.2388 which is non-significant at 5% level of significance. Giri (1966) also favoured the above mentioned results.

Table 5. Distribution of the respondents of age group 15-49 years and above with respect to attitude towards fertility control by age at marriage

Level of education	Attitude toward fertility control					
	Favourable		Unfavourable		Total	
	n	Per cent	n	Per cent	n	Per cent
15-19 years	37	74.00	13	26.00	50	66.64
20-24 years and above	20	76.00	5	20.00	25	33.33
Total	57	76.00	18	24.00	75	100.00

Chi square = 0.3288, df = 1.

Table 6. Distribution of the respondents of age group 50 years and above with respect to attitude towards fertility control by age at marriage

Level of education	Attitude toward fertility control					
	Favourable		Unfavourable		Total	
	n	Per cent	n	Per cent	n	Per cent
15-19 years	19	35.18	35	64.82	54	72.00
20-24 years and above	10	47.62	11	52.38	21	28.00
Total	29	38.66	46	61.34	75	100.00

Chi square = 0.9854, df = 1.

Income level by attitude towards fertility control: The information given in Tables 3 and 4 shows that there is non-significant relationship among the various income groups and attitude towards fertility control for both of the age groups. The value of Chi-square for both the age groups gave non-significant association among various income levels of the respondents with respect to attitude towards fertility control at 5% level of significance. The findings of the present study are in line with the studies of Ahmad (1960) and Saeed (1962).

Age at marriage by attitude towards fertility control: The information given in Tables 5 and 6 also revealed non-significant differences among the respondents categorized by age at marriage with regard to the attitude towards fertility control. The value of Chi-square test is non-significant for both of the age groups at 5% level of significance. The present findings are in line with the findings of Qureshi (1974) and Rehman (1978) who also found that the age at marriage is not correlated with the attitude towards fertility control.

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