

## **AN EXTENDED ABSTRACT OF FAMILY PLANNING: WHO AND WHERE UNDER-SERVED**

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa and the seventh most populous in the world. Despite the low standard of living; high fertility rate of 5.5 per woman (peculiar with the rural areas) and an annual growth rate of 3.2%; contraceptive use rate is placed at 15% which is one of the lowest in the world. The objective of this study was to examine family planning in the under-served locations using a case study of selected coastal communities of Lagos State in Nigeria.

This was a cross-sectional study involving 400 married and unmarried males and females. A Purposive Sampling method was used to select people between the ages of 15 and 65. Seven LGAs out of the twelve coastline local governments in the State were sampled: Badagry, Epe, Eti-Osa, Ojo, Ikorodu, Apapa and Amuwo-Odofin. A systematic random sampling technique was used to select two communities from each LGA. A convenience sampling method was used to administer questionnaires which started with pure random selection of the first house and progressively at an interval of ten houses on a street. Data obtained from the study were analyzed using tables, charts, percentages and multiple regression analysis.

67.5% had their first sexual intercourse before the age of ten. 53% were not using any form of family planning method. 43.8% had used one form of family planning or the other but discontinued for reasons ranging from religious beliefs (38%); the need for more children (45%); fear of side effects (65%); partner disagreement (50%); it promotes unfaithfulness (55%); Not effective (25%). Regression analysis employed to predict what constrains the people from using family planning methods showed that 75.2% of the respondents agreed that the hostile attitude of the health care providers as many of them lacked good communication manner, most were often absent from their duty posts, excessive time wasting and even misdiagnosis has made most of their prospective patients to be discouraged from using family planning services.

By the distance of their residence to the closest health centre; 79 (19.7%) of the respondents residence is between 1 kilometer and 4 kilometers away from the community health centre, 100 (25.1%) of the respondents claimed that their

residence is 5 kilometers away from the community health centre, 92 (22.9%) of them reported that their residence is between 5 to 10 kilometers away from the community health centre while the remaining 129 (32.3%) of respondents claimed that their residence is above 10 kilometers to the community health centre.

120 (30.1%) of the respondents get to the community health centre by trekking, 178 (44.5%) of them transported themselves on boats while 102 (25.4%) of them transported themselves to the community health centre by the use of commercial transportation system

In a bid to examine the factors that influence adoption of family planning in the selected coastal communities in Lagos State, stepwise regression analysis was used as displayed in the Table below:

Variable	Parameter Estimates	Standard Error	R	R <sup>2</sup>	% of Contribution	Cumulative %
<b>Intercepts</b>	1.616	0.229				
X13	0.373	0.448	0.609	0.370	37.0	
X1	-0.006	0.427	0.687	0.472	10.20	47.2
X11	-0.023	0.411	0.731	0.534	6.20	53.4
X14	0.166	0.389	0.766	0.587	5.30	58.7
X3	0.265	0.382	0.779	0.606	1.90	60.6
X12	-0.437	0.365	0.787	0.619	1.30	61.9
X6	-0.099	0.343	0.793	0.629	1.00	62.9

The dependent variables (Y) represented decision of the people to adopt family planning while the selected independents variables are the socio demographics characteristics of the people, which includes: Age, Sex and partner agreement, Marital status, Types of marriage, religion, Education qualification, occupation group, income, Years in marriage, Age at first birth, Number of dependents, Interval between each delivery, Methods of spacing pregnancies, average family size, intention to have more children and number of children intended.

The results of the Multiple Regression Analysis selected seven (7) of the sixteen (16) socio demographics characteristics as having significant effect in predicting the decision of the people in adopting family planning. The selected variables

includes; Methods in spacing pregnancies (X13), sex (X1), intention to have more children (X14), number of dependents (X11), interval between each child delivery (X12), marital status (X3) and education attained (X6). All these seven (7) variables were able to explain 62.9% of the total determinants to adopt family planning.

From the regression table below; the dependent variable (Y) represents the decision of the people to adopt family planning while the independents variables are the factors that hinder utilizing modern family planning. These variables includes: Exorbitant costs of family planning services (X1), Inadequate modern family planning information dissemination (X2), parents unwillingness to discuss reproduction issues with children (X3), Inaccessibility to reproductive health care personnel (X4), poor health facility (X5), religious and cultural belief (X6), ignorance of available methods (X7), fear of side effects (X8).

Model	Estimated parameters	Std. error of estimates	R	R Square	% change	Cumulative %
<b>Intercept</b>	-1.327	0.296				
x5	0.329	0.861	0.673	0.453	45.3	
x4	0.472	0.704	0.799	0.638	18.5	63.8
x2	0.267	0.619	0.850	0.723	8.50	72.3
x8	0.195	0.532	0.893	0.797	7.40	79.7
x3	0.103	0.523	0.898	0.806	0.009	80.6

The results of the stepwise regression analysis selected four (4) cogent variables which are: Inadequate family planning information dissemination, parents unwillingness to discuss reproduction issues with children, Inaccessibility to reproductive health care personnel and poor health facilities, as having significant effect in predicting the decision of the people in adopting family planning. All the variables were able to explain 80.6%.

The Study concludes that there is a sharp demographic and socioeconomic differential in awareness and access to Family Planning among the sexually actives in the rural communities of Nigeria particularly its coastal area.