

Factors Influencing the Choice of Family Planning (FP) Methods among Married Women

Department: Community Health Sciences

Project Sponsors: Merlin International

Duration: 15 Nov – 31 Dec 2012

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Objectives:

1. To determine the underlying factors (demographic, cultural, and religious) which influence the choice of selecting a FP method among married women in reproductive age group presenting to family planning clinics.
2. To explore the views why women opt for short term vs. long term FP methods.
3. To determine the perceptions and misconception regarding the use of FP methods with emphasis on long term methods.

Our proposed study design will be a method mix design having two arms; a quantitative arm and a qualitative arm.

Methodology:

1. Qualitative arm will comprise of focus group discussions of women who are users and non-users of family planning methods. The purpose of the qualitative exploratory arm is to gain insight into the understanding of women regarding selection and use of FP methods, their apprehensions for use and non-use and to understand how their choices are influenced and how these barriers could be removed. Altogether 8 FGDs will be conducted; 4 for the women and 4 for men, whereas each FGD comprise of 8 – 10 participants.
2. Quantitative arm: the objective of the quantitative arm would be to determine the effect of appropriate family planning counseling on selection of a FP method according to woman's fertility needs. A structured questionnaire will be administered on a sample of 400 married women presenting to the different family planning centers in Swat; sample would be equally divided into those ≤ 24 years and >24 years of age as an inclusion criteria.