

Contraceptive uptake among women of reproductive age in Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana County, Kenya

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Abstract:

Contraceptive prevalence rate is the proportion of women of reproductive age who are using (or whose partners are using) contraceptive method to prevent conception at a given point in time. Family planning promotion is a unique medical intervention because of its potential benefits, which include reduction of poverty, maternal and child mortality among others. Despite increasing contraceptive availability, unintended pregnancy remains a global problem, representing as many as 30% of all known pregnancies. Various strategies have been proposed to reverse this disturbing trend. However, several factors affect uptake of contraceptives. Little is known on the factors affecting uptake of contraceptives in Kakuma Refugee Camp. This was a cross-sectional study employing quantitative and qualitative designs to investigate the factors affecting uptake of contraceptives among women of reproductive age in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The study investigated the effect of demographic, socio-economic and cultural factors affecting use of contraceptives. The research instruments were a structured questionnaire, Focus Group Discussions and key informant interviews. The study subjects were 487 women in their reproductive age (15 - 49 years). Data was analysed using PAS software and descriptive statistics generated. In addition, chi square test and logistic regression analysis were used to determine the factors affecting uptake of contraceptives. Content analysis was employed on qualitative data. Findings showed that the current contraceptive prevalence rate was at 19.2 % with majority using the pill and injectable contraception. A total of 32.4 % did not know any method of contraception, and 10.7 % had heard of one method, 32.0 % had heard about two methods and 24.8 % had heard of about three or more methods. Results of logistic regression revealed that: the age of women, their education level, inter-spousal communication about family planning, awareness of contraceptive methods, and husband disapproval of family planning services had positive significant effect on contraceptive uptake. Those who belonged to the Muslim religion were more likely to use contraceptives (OR 2.1, chi square = 10.137, $p < 0.002$). Women with no education were OR 2.6 times more likely to use contraceptives ($p < 0.0001$). Age group between 15-19 years old had positive significant effect on contraceptive use ($p < 0.0094$) OR 1.9. Married women had negative significant association with contraceptive use than unmarried women with significant $p < 0.001$ and OR 0.238. Contraceptive uptake remains low; therefore, effective educational and counselling interventions will improve consumers' knowledge and subsequent uptake of contraceptive usage.