

Determinants of contraceptive practices among married women in a tertiary care hospital in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh.

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ABSTRACT

Background: India ranks the second most populous nation in the world. Currently, there are about 51 births in India in a minute. Most of the population, both men and women still lack access to adequate family planning method. **Objectives:** To estimate the extent of contraceptive practices among women in a tertiary care hospital and to determine the factors associated with contraceptive practices among the women. **Material and methods:** A cross-sectional study conducted in a tertiary care hospital, in the family planning unit of OBG department, for a period of three months (Jan 2019 to Mar 2019), among 432 married women. **Results:** About 70 (16.21%) women were not using any contraceptive, while 362 (83.79 %) women practiced any method of contraception (Prevalence). Female sterilization was the most common method practiced, 122 (33.70%), followed by IUD, 114 (31.5%). Emergency contraception and Male sterilization were the least, 7 (1.94%) and 10 (2.76%) respectively. The contraceptive use was significantly more in the age group of 40 – 49 years ($X^2 = 6.892$, $P = 0.031$), among Hindus ($X^2 = 7.787$, $P = 0.0506$), those living in nuclear family ($X^2 = 32.04$, $P = 0.000$), among literate women ($X^2 = 128.9$, $P = 0.000$), employed women ($X^2 = 13.17$, $P = 0.0002$), literate spouse ($X^2 = 73.45$, $P = 0.000$) and employed spouse ($X^2 = 70.57$, $P = 0.000$). Marriage and fertility related factors showed that the contraceptive use was significantly more in those with 2 or more children ($X^2 = 79.45$, $P = 0.0000$), preference for 2 or more male children ($X^2 = 16.34$, $P = 0.0002$), those with no history of abortion ($X^2 = 9.748$, $P = 0.0017$) and age of last child more than 5 years ($X^2 = 8.852$, $P = 0.0119$). **Conclusion:** About 16.21% women were still not using any contraceptive, which is a considerable number. The factors responsible are many. Such factors should be focused and prevented.

Key Words: Determinants, contraceptive practices, married women, Andhra Pradesh