

RESEARCH BRIEF

Intrahousehold influence on contraceptive use among married Indian women: Evidence from the National Family Health Survey 2015–16

Intrahousehold dynamics can influence health behaviors of household members, but the role of living in household with multiple women of reproductive age on contraceptive behaviors has received limited attention. This study used nationally representative data in India to examine the potential influence of living in a household with other women on the contraceptive use among the youngest, most recently married woman in the same household.



Photo Credit: Population Council

RECOMMENDATIONS



Messages about contraception through more experienced married women in the same household may be effective for increasing voluntary contraceptive use for newly married women, especially where the reach of mass media is lower.



Results suggest that programs that focus on behaviors and attitudes of household members (e.g., mothers-in-law in Mission Pravar) may have an even broader impact on other women within the household.



Further research is required to understand the pathways through which other household members influence contraceptive use.



Photo Credit: Population Council

It is hypothesized that an individual woman's perceptions and use of contraception is influenced by the behaviors of other women in the same household.

FINDINGS

- Index women's modern contraceptive use was higher among women living with other modern contraceptive users-- 28% vs. 9% for women living with a peer; 23% vs. 9% for women living with a woman who was married between 5-19 years more than she was; and 20% vs. 12% for women living with a woman married more than 20 years more.
- After multivariable adjustment, index women living with a peer who was using a modern method were 2.86 times as likely to be using a method; 2.45 as likely if living with another woman who was using modern contraception; and 1.68 times as likely if living with an elderly woman who used contraception.

METHOD

Index women in households were identified as the youngest and most recently married, between 15-24 years. The "second woman" was a peer (married within 5 years of the index woman), a longer-term/elderly married women (married 20 years or more than the index woman), or other (married between 5-19 years more than the index woman). Multivariate logistic regression was conducted to examine whether modern contraceptive use of the index woman was associated with the behavior of the second woman.

RASTA

RASTA (Research and Analyses for Scientific Transformation and Advancement) is a multi-institutional research utilization initiative led by Population Council.

For more information please contact rasta@popcouncil.org

EVIDENCE

The Evidence Project uses implementation science—the strategic generation, translation, and use of evidence—to strengthen and scale up family planning and reproductive health programs to reduce unintended pregnancies worldwide. The Evidence Project is led by the Population Council

Ranjan M et al. 2020. "Intrahousehold influence on contraceptive use among married Indian women: Evidence from the National Family Health Survey 2015–16" *Social Science and Medicine, Population Health*. Full paper available at doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2020.100603

The Evidence Project is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of cooperative agreement no. AID0AA-A-13-00087. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Evidence Project and Population Council and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government
www.evidenceproject.popcouncil.org