

RESEARCH BRIEF

Do Indian women receive adequate information about contraception?

High discontinuation rates of reversible contraceptive methods contribute substantially to India's high rates of unmet need and have become an important area for the Indian Family Planning Program. Providing adequate information on side effects, management of side effects and contraceptive options can improve voluntary contraceptive use and continuation. This paper explored the information received by contraceptive users in India.



Photo Credit: Population Council

RECOMMENDATIONS



All providers need to better inform all current and potential contraceptive users about side effects to expect, management of these side effects and all contraceptive options available.



Public sector providers need to a better job of informing women who voluntary select female sterilization that the method is permanent.



Information provided to contraceptive users needs to be monitored at the state level, not just nationally. Evidence suggests that information that current and potential contraceptive users received, declined in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh over a ten-year period.



Photo Credit: Population Council

To ensure that women and couples have voluntary and choice in contraceptive methods, health workers and family planning providers need to routinely offer information about side effects, management of side effects, and the full range of methods.

FINDINGS

- Nationally, receipt of complete information (side effects, management of side effects, and the range of contraceptive option available) increased from 16% in 2004-2005 to 31% in 2015-2016.
- By method, receipt of complete information was highest for IUD users while sterilized women were the least informed.
- Women with higher wealth, greater education and residing in urban areas were more likely to receive complete information at the time of contraceptive initiation.
- Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, the gap between information received by educated and uneducated women decreased, while the gap widened between the richest and poorest women.

METHOD

Secondary analyses of the NHFS-3 (2005-06) and NFHS-4 (2015-16) were conducted to assess completeness of information received. Logistic regression models were adjusted for socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

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

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