

STUDY ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES AMONG MARRIED FEMALE WORKERS OF A GARMENTS FACTORY OF DHAKA CITY

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ABSTRACT

Over the last decade, the number of garments factories in Bangladesh had increased and employed around 1.5 million women, most of them in their reproductive age, therefore, desired family size and child spacing influenced contraceptive prevalence among the married women.

This cross sectional study was conducted in Chancellor Garments Factory, Rayer Bazar, Dhaka, to find out the acceptance of contraceptive methods among the married female workers.

Out of 121 workers interviewed, the knowledge of respondents on contraceptive methods was found adequate in 83.47%, some knowledge in 15.70% and no knowledge in 0.83%. 27.5% respondents acquired their knowledge from clinics and 25.83% from health workers. Only 13.22% respondents had the knowledge on non contraceptive uses of condom and 50% of them got this knowledge from radio and television. Of the 88.43% respondents who used contraceptive devices, maximum number used oral pill (57.94%) and only 0.93% used condom. Among the non users of contraceptive methods, 28.56% did not use because their husbands did not agree. Among the contraceptive users, 90.65% had consent of both the partners and 2.8% had the desire of their husbands only.

Low income, lack of motivation by health workers, lack of information on contraception, less accessibility and availability of devices, cost of the devices, side effects, misconception, etc. have the impact on the contraceptive acceptance among the female garments workers.

Key words: Married female workers, Garments factory, Acceptance of contraceptive method.

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INTRODUCTION

Efficient use of contraceptive methods by the people of age group 20-30 years has a definite role in declining the population growth. In Bangladesh, those who use contraceptive devices are the women aged 30 years and above, who already have three or more children. Family planning practice is a key factor in declining fertility, particularly in developing countries.¹ In Bangladesh, the average age at marriage is 14.8 years, which is one of the lowest in the world.² Although contraceptive prevalence among the currently married women is increasing rapidly in many developing countries, the rate has not yet reached those of developed countries. The contraceptive use rate is gradually increasing in Bangladesh, yet it is still very

low compared with the many developing and developed countries.

The garments industry in Bangladesh is one of the first sections which provide cash employment outside the home to women who come from poor rural areas and often young and single. The abortion rate among the garments workers is also high with about 18% of the married workers having experience of at least one abortion.³

As the fertility rate of Bangladesh is still high and the female garments workers contribute a bigger portion of the fertile age group, there is a provision of a wide range of family planning activities to reduce the fertility rate of Bangladesh. It is seen that there are two indicators for contraceptive access: accessibility/availability of current modern methods and cost. Again, it is seen in the study that a higher score on contraceptive knowledge

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are in turn related to higher acceptance and prevalence rate of contraceptives. A study has shown that the acceptance of contraceptive increases with the educational level of primary to secondary and above and it is related with socioeconomic status and religion, and also higher the parity, the higher the acceptance of contraceptives.⁴

This study tried to find out some of the variables like socioeconomic status, knowledge and attitude towards contraceptive acceptance among female garments workers. The information gathered may be helpful for the exploration of the problems, situations and needs of the female garments workers and ultimately contribute in the reduction of the fertility rate.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It was a cross sectional type of descriptive study, carried out among the married female workers in a garment factory situated at Rayer Bazar, Dhaka. The size of the sample was 121. The accidental sampling method was followed to include the individuals in the sample. A questionnaire consisting of structured and open ended questions was used for collection of data. The collected data were scrutinized and compiled in a tabular form. The compiled data were processed using calculator and computer. Finally these data were analyzed, interpreted.

RESULTS

Out of 121 respondents, 101 (83.47%) had adequate knowledge on contraceptive methods, 19 (15.7%) had some knowledge and 1 (0.83%) had no knowledge (Table I).

Table I

Distribution of respondents on the basis of their knowledge on contraceptive methods (n=121)

Level of knowledge	Number of respondents	Percentage
Adequate knowledge	101	83.47
Some knowledge	19	15.70
No knowledge	1	0.83

Distribution of respondents on the basis of source of knowledge (n=120) were 33 (27.5%) from clinic, 31 (25.83%) from health workers, 21 (17.5%) from friends and relatives, 15 (12.5%) from husband, 9 (7.5%) from NGO, 6 (5%) from television and radio and 5 (4.17%) from others (Table II).

Table II

Distribution of respondents on the basis of source of knowledge (n=120)

Source of knowledge	Number of respondents	Percentage
Clinic	33	27.50
Health worker	31	25.83
Friends and relatives	21	17.50
Husband	15	12.50
NGO	9	7.50
Television and radio	6	5.00
Others	5	4.17

Regarding knowledge on non contraceptive use of condoms were 16 (13.22%) have knowledge and 105 (86.78%) no knowledge (Table III).

Table III

Distribution of respondents on the basis of knowledge on non contraceptive use of condoms (n=121)

Level of knowledge	Number of respondents	Percentage
Have knowledge	16	13.22
No knowledge	105	86.78

Distribution of respondents on the basis of source of knowledge on non contraceptive use of condom (n=16) showed that 8 (50%) were from television, 3 (18.75%) each from doctor and husband, and 2 (12.5%) from health worker (Table IV).

Table IV

Distribution of respondents on the basis of source of knowledge on non contraceptive use of condom (n=16)

Source of knowledge	Number of respondents	Percentage
Television	8	50.00
Doctor	3	18.75
Husband	3	18.75
Health worker	2	12.50

Distribution of respondents on the basis of use of contraceptive methods showed that 107 (88.43%) use and 14 (11.57%) no use (Table V).

Table V*Distribution of respondents on the basis of use of contraceptive methods (n=121)*

Use of contraceptive methods	Number of respondents	Percentage
Use	107	88.43
No use	14	11.57

Type of contraceptive method used by the respondents (n=107) were 62 (57.94%) oral pill, 21 (19.63%) injection, 9 (8.41%) each safe period and Norplant, 5 (4.67%) IUCD (copper T) and 1 (0.93) condom (Table VI).

Table VI*Distribution of respondents according to type of contraceptive methods they use (n=107)*

Types of method	Number of respondents	Percentage
Oral pill	62	57.94
Injection	21	19.63
Safe period	9	8.41
Norplant	9	8.41
IUCD (Copper T)	5	4.67
Condom	1	0.93

Reasons for not using contraceptive methods (n=14) were 4 (28.56%) due to husband's not interested, 3 (21.43%) each due to side effects and irregular menstruation, and 2 (14.29%) each wants conception and not living with husband (Table VII).

Table VII*Distribution of respondents on the basis of reasons of not using contraceptive methods (n=14)*

Reasons of non use	Number of respondents	Percentage
Husband's not interested	4	28.56
Due to side effects	3	21.43
Irregular menstruation	3	21.43
Wants conception	2	14.29
Not living with husband	2	14.29

Desire of use of contraceptive methods (n=107) were 7 (6.54%) respondent herself, 3 (2.8%) were desire of husband and 97 (90.65%) were desire of both partners (Table VIII).

Table VIII*Distribution of respondents on the basis of their desire of use of contraceptive methods (n=107)*

Desirous person	Number of respondents	Percentage
Desire of the respondent	7	6.54
Desire of husband	3	2.80
Desire of both	97	90.65

DISCUSSION

The knowledge on contraceptive method of the garments workers were studied. It was found that 83.47% workers had an adequate knowledge, 15.7% had some knowledge and 0.83% had no knowledge. This finding showed consistency with Bangladesh contraceptive prevalence report by corporate authors of Bangladesh National Institute for Population Research and Training (NIPORT) of 1981 where they showed that 95% of the women had the knowledge on contraceptive method.⁵

These source of knowledge of the employees on contraceptive methods were found 27.50% from clinics, 25.83% from health workers, 17.50% from friends and relatives, 12.50% from husbands, 7.50% from NGO workers, 5% from television and radio, and 4.17% from other sources.⁹ Ali from Pakistan showed in her study that many unmarried women learnt family planning at her early age from the community based family planning workers, female relative and media.⁶ The Bangladesh demographic health survey in 1993-94 showed that 100% women knew the modern method of contraception. In a study by Amin *et al.*, it has been shown that female garments workers had been clearly exposed to information about contraception from different media, married friends and relatives, which is consistent with our study.³ In the study by Roberts, the educational session and other IEC activities took place at the factory during the lunch hours in the form of slide shows, audio stories on reproductive and general health issues, such as ante and post natal health, oral contraceptives, use of condom to prevent STI and HIV/AIDS, nutrition and personal hygiene.⁷

The 13.22% garment employees had knowledge on non contraceptive use of condoms and 86.78% had no knowledge about it. This finding is not consistent with the Roberts study where he showed that under the factory health insurance scheme, the workers were given

health education on reproductive health and 100% of the workers had the knowledge.⁷

As the source of knowledge on non contraceptive use of condition, 50% employees said that they got this knowledge from television and radio, 12.5% from health workers, 18.75% from doctors and other 18.75% from their husbands. In the study by Roberts, it has been shown that the respondents got this knowledge from slide shows and audio stories, delivered by the doctors during their visits in their own clinics.⁷

It has been found that 88.43% respondents used contraceptive methods and 11.57% did not use any of the methods. In the study by Mitra *et al.* showed that only 33.4% had ever used at least one method of which 23% ever used a modern method and the result of this showed a difference from our study.⁸

In a study by Rahman *et al.* the type of contraceptive methods used by the respondents are oral pills (57.94%), injection (19.63%), Norplant (8.41%), safe period (8.41%), IUCD (4.67%) and condom (0.93%).⁹ In the study by Ali, it has been shown that oral contraceptive pills were the most widely used method of contraception as compared to other methods; 40% of all contraceptive users used oral pills, 92% used DPMA and condom use was under reported or very low which showed consistency with our study.⁶

The reasons of not using the contraceptive methods by the respondents were 21.43% due to side effects, 14.29% wanted conception, 21.43% due to irregular menstruation, 28.56% due to husband's desire and 14.29% due to not living with husbands.

It has been found that 90.65% garments employees use contraceptive methods with the desire of both husband and wife, 6.54% due to self desire and 2.8% due to desire of their husbands. In a study by Ali, it has been shown that only 10% respondents used contraceptive methods due to their husband's desire.⁶ It is a bit higher than our study findings. Study by Ali also showed that the use of contraceptive methods were one and half time more among the women whose husbands has secondary or higher secondary level of education than those whose husbands had no formal education which is consistent with our study.⁶ The use of

contraceptive methods is higher among the women who discuss family planning with their husbands than those who do not.⁶ It is also consistent with our study.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded from this study that most of the married female garments factory workers were inclined towards OCP, the major reasons identified were: low cost and sometimes its availability at free of cost, advantage of self administration, sometimes delivered at home by the health workers and have less side effects. Condom was found as the least adopted method, the reasons being low level of education, allergy to rubber and chemicals and misconception towards condom.

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