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EFFECT OF RELIGION AND GENDER ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING



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Abstract:The present study was undertaken to know the Effect of religion and gender attitude towards family planning. 120 male and 120 female were randomly selected as sample from Gulbarga district (Karnataka). The study revealed that there is a significant difference in the attitudes towards the Effect of religion and gender attitude towards family planning.

Keywords:attitude, family planning, religion.

INTRODUCTION:

Family planning is a key aspect of reproductive health and is also an important factor in individual and family well-being, with direct implications for overall physical and mental health and for general quality of life. Aristotle concluded that a large increase in population would bring, "certain poverty on the citizenry, and poverty is the cause of sedition and evil." To halt rapid population increase, Aristotle advocated the use of abortion and the exposure of newborns [1]. Family planning in India is based on efforts largely sponsored by the Indian government. In the 1965-2009 period, contraceptive usage has more than tripled (from 13% of married women in 1970 to 48% in 2009) and the fertility rate has more than halved (from 5.7 in 1966 to 2.6 in 2009), but the national fertility rate is still high enough to cause long-term population growth. India adds up to 10 lakhs (100,000) people to its population every 15 days [2-6].

Religion has immense socioeconomic and political significance in most societies and it plays an important role in sanctioning or promoting acceptance of or creating resistance to family planning (Pears 2001; Mistry:1999; Adioetomo 1995; Mullatti;1995; Davis et al 1993; Shrikanthan 1993; Islam et al 1991; Caldwell and Caldwell 1998 & 1987; Chamie 1981; Krik 1968). Sriya and Iyer (2002) investigated on effect of use of contraception in India and found that there is no significant difference between Hindus and Muslims in the effect of contraceptive adoption.

OBJECTIVES:

The following are the main objectives of the present study.

1. To assess the influence of religion on attitude towards the family planning and birth control of sample sub group
2. To examine the sex differences in the attitude towards family planning and birth control

Hypotheses:

The following hypotheses are set and attempts are

made to verify them.

1. There is an influence of religion on the attitude towards family planning and birth control of respondent
2. There will be significant in attitude towards family planning and birth control

Sample design:

Keeping in view the main objectives of the study, the sample design is formulated religion and sex has been taken as independent variables. Thus the study consists of 240 respondents distributed equally on two variables. This is done after collecting data on 400 samples selected randomly out of which 240 respondents were selected. The sample design is under

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

Hindu		Muslim		Total
male	female	Male	Female	
30	30	30	30	120
30	30	30	30	120
60	60	60	60	240

Tools

Family planning and birth control attitude scale designed, developed and validated by DR M Rajamanickam has been used in the present study in this scale there are 64 statements, and each statement expresses one idea about the family planning and birth control this scale consists of 8 areas or dimension viz, PP FP BC FC BCMA CM S and AM. These dimensions have significant inter correlation each dimension consist of 8 items with 5 response categories [strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree] the scoring is done following Likerts summated method. A score of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1, is assigned for responses to favorable [positive] items and scoring is reversed for negatives item. Then the scores added to get test score. High scores indicate favorable attitude and vice-versa.

Statistical analysis

To meet the objectives of the study and to verify the formulated hypotheses data were analyzed. As the purpose of the study was to find out the attitude of different sample subgroups towards the family planning and birth control practices, the mean, SD and T values were calculated to test the significant difference between the sample/sub groups.

DISCUSSION

Religion is considered as repository of beliefs and values with modern science and technology and ideas as progress

Table-1
Mean, SD and t values of attitude towards Family planning and Birth Control in Two religious groups (n=240)

		pp	Fp	Bc	fc	Bcma	cm	s	am	total
Hindu(n=120)	mean	35.01	34.12	33.12	34.19	33.09	34.52	35.09	33.09	272.23
	sd	5.21	5.22	4.91	4.45	4.38	4.54	4.99	4.77	38.47
T-value		6.03**	6.66**	6.79**	7.58**	3.48**	7.14**	8.33**	2.91**	2.57**
Muslim(n=120)	mean	31.09	30.12	29.18	30.02	31.21	30.09	29.92	31.23	242.86
	sd	4.91	4.11	4.01	4.09	4.09	5.11	4.69	5.19	36.02

**significant at 0.01 level

Table 1 shows high mean scores among Hindu respondent who have more positive and favorable attitude than Muslim respondent who have negative or unfavorable attitude towards family planning and birth control

The obtained t value also shows significant difference between the attitude of Hindu and Muslim respondent towards the family planning and birth control practices

The table also shows that there is a significant difference of attitude between the Hindu and Muslim on the different dimension like ppfpbc fc bcma cm s and am the obtained t values on deference dimension are significant at 0.01 level.

An attempt is made in the study to example the sex differences exist in the attitude towards family planning and birth control

Table- 2

Category		PP	FP	BC	FC	BCMA	CM	S	AM	total
Male(n=120)	mean	36.71	35.90	34.77	33.94	35.02	34.07	35.01	35.41	280.83
	SD	5.01	5.21	5.11	4.99	4.92	5.09	5.07	4.45	44.92
T-value		2.47*	4.03**	4.25**	5.52**	3.81**	3.83**	2.68*	3.72*	2.91**
Female (n=120)	mean	35.21	33.24	31.88	30.24	32.81	31.73	33.24	33.14	261.49
	SD	4.44	5.00	5.44	5.43	4.14	4.34	5.18	4.96	38.93

**significant at 0.01 level

*significant at 0.05 level

Table -2 shows high mean score among male respondent than female the 't' value is significant at 0.01 level indicating males have more positive or favorable attitude than female who have negative or unfavorable attitude towards family planning and birth control practices. They also reveals significant differences in other dimensions

of PP FP BC, FC, BCMA, CM, S, and AM, which shows male respondent have scored significantly higher on all on dimension of family planning and birth control practices than females

CONCLUSION

1. There is a significant difference of attitude towards family planning and birth control between male and female respondent.
2. The male respondent have positive or favorable attitude towards family planning and birth control than the female respondent.
3. There is a significant difference in the attitudes of different religious groups towards the family planning and birth control.
4. Hindu respondent have more positive or favorable attitude towards the family planning and birth control than the Muslim respondents.
5. There is a significant correlation between religion and sex attitude towards family planning and birth control.

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