

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MALE CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Low contraceptive uptake among men remains significant issues in Indonesia. Hence, this study seeks to understand the association between socio-demographic factors and men's contraceptive use in Indonesia by utilizing the 2012 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS), couple dataset. Bivariate analysis was conducted by performing a chi-squared test of independence to analyse the relationship between selected socio-demographic factors and the dependent variable. A binary logistic regression model was considered to identify the effects of covariates. Place of residence, husbands' approval on family planning, husbands and wives knew family planning from newspaper/magazine, and the perception that contraception is woman's business were significant predictors according to the IDHS. Programs related to gender-sensitive campaign about family planning and gender-sensitive curricula in schools are needed for encouraging men to use contraception.

Keywords: Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey, couple dataset, male contraception

INTRODUCTION

The involvement of men in reproductive health matters is crucial to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal number 5.6 of the SDGs has targeted for ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights¹. Moreover, the global commitment, which linked to the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action, has been declared to include men in family planning and reproductive health programs^{2,3}.

Although the Indonesia Government has ratified those global commitments, its National Development Policy has more focus on women. The 2010-2015 Indonesia National Development Plan had formally targeted male contraceptive prevalence rate to reach 5% in 2015⁴. Unlike the previous one, the 2015-2019 Indonesia National Development Plan's target has not clearly considered men to be the main part of the Family Planning program⁵. This condition has reinforced the believe that family planning is largely a woman's business while the man has a very peripheral role^{6,7}. Thus, most of the contraceptive services, research, and campaigns particularly for men tend to be lack behind^{8,9}.

The trend has also revealed that female has a higher prevalence than male to use a contraceptive. Only one man compares to twelve

women in Indonesia use contraception¹⁰. The prevalence rate for modern female methods had increased from 55.7% in 2007 to 55.9% in 2012^{10,11}. Nevertheless, the prevalence rate for male sterilization had steady in 0.2% from 2007 to 2012^{10,11}. Condom prevalence rate had increased slowly from 1.3% in 2007 to 1.8% in 2012^{10,11}. The rate for periodic abstinence decreased from 1.5% in 2007 to 1.2% in 2012 while withdrawal has also dropped from 2.1% in 2007 to 1.3% in 2012^{10,11}.

Determinants of male contraceptive use are varied and complex. Some researchers argued that the place of residence may influence the availability of male contraception as well as its services since most of the health providers tend to stay in urban areas¹²⁻¹⁵. The others suggest male contraceptive use depends on the husband's approval on family planning^{14,16} and positive perception regarding contraception towards family planning¹⁷⁻²¹. Furthermore, the exposure of couples on family planning issues through newspaper/magazine is associated with the increasing knowledge of contraception in Bangladesh and Indonesia^{22,23}.

Therefore, this study attempts to examine associated socio-demographic factors contributed to male contraceptive use based on the 2012 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. The findings of the study are expected to contribute to further intervention needed.

METHODS

Data are drawn from the couple data set based on the 2012 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS)¹⁰. The couple dataset was linked between 8,246 women aged 10-49 years' female samples and men aged 15-59 years who have married or living together for five years preceding the survey¹⁰. Weighted analysis was used to account for the complex survey design²⁴.

The independent variables of this study were place of residence, age of wife and husband, marital duration, number of living children, husband's approval on family planning, husbands and wives knew family planning from newspaper/magazine, and perception that contraception is woman business. The dependent variable was the current use of contraceptive reported by male's respondents. The current method use was classified into two categories: (0) currently not using any male method and (1) currently using any male methods. Male methods used in the study refer to a contraceptive method that men can use directly or need male cooperation to use such as condom, male sterilization, withdrawal, and periodic abstinence²⁵.

The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23 was used to analyse the data²⁶. Univariate analysis was used to analyse the frequency distribution of the respondent²⁷. In multivariate analysis, the logistic regression was applied in measuring the effect of several significant independent variables towards male contraception use²⁸. Multicollinearity issue will also be considered in the modelling process²⁸. Only the final model will be discussed in the study.

Ethical clearance of this study was obtained from the Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Indonesia on September 17th, 2018. Informed consent was obtained from all participants. All identifications in the questionnaires were excluded from the study to ensure confidentiality and privacy.

RESULTS

Table 1 revealed the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The result of the univariate analysis showed that the proportion of the couple lived in the urban area was similar to those living in the rural area (46.9% in urban and 53.0% in rural). Young married women (less than 20) represented only 2.9 of the respondents' whereas 48.6% of female respondents aged 20-34 and 50.1% of the female respondents aged more than 35 years old. Most (51.5%) of the male respondents aged 25-39 years old; 43.7% of them aged more than 40 years old and only 4.6% of the

male respondents aged less than 25 years old. Regarding marital status, the majority (61.6%) of the couples were married for more than 15 years while 18.6% of them were married for 5-14 years and 19.8% of them were married for less than 5 years. Nearly 55.9% of the respondents had 1-2 children while 28.2% of the respondents had 3-4 children, 7.7% of the respondents had more than 5 children and only 0.8 of the respondents had no children. Only 6.4% of the respondents rely on male methods while 93.6% of the respondents using other methods.

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of couples in Indonesia, 2012 (n=8,225)

Characteristics	N	%
Place of residence		
Rural	4,361	53.0
Urban	3,864	46.9
Age of wife		
Less than 20	242	2.9
20-34	4,122	48.6
35 and above	3,861	50.1
Age of husband		
Less than 25	339	4.6
25-39	4,233	51.5
40 and above	3,593	43.7
Marital duration (years)		
Less than 5	1,633	19.8
5-14	1,527	18.6
15 and above	5,065	61.6
Number of living children		
0	665	0.8
1-2	4,605	55.9
3-4	2,320	28.2
5 and above	635	7.7
Currently, use male contraceptives		
Not using	7,702	93.6
Currently using	523	6.4

Table 2 revealed the results of bivariate and logistic regression analysis. Place of residence, husband's approval on family planning, husbands' know family planning from newspaper/ magazine, wives know family planning from newspaper/ magazine and perception that contraception is woman business were found to be associated with male contraceptive use in Indonesia. Among those variables, approval from the husband had a significant correlation towards male contraceptives than other variables [2.1 (95% CI, 1.1-4.1)].

In 2012, the urban couple was more likely to use male contraception than their rural counterparts [0.6 (95% CI, 0.5-0.7)]. For husbands who approve family planning had greater odds to use male contraception than husbands who disapprove

family planning [2.1 (95% CI, 1.1-4.1)]. Among various sources of information, the results showed that couples whose husbands [1.6 (95% CI, 1.3-1.9)] and wives [1.7 (95% CI, 1.4-2.2)] knew family planning from newspaper/magazine had greater probabilities to use male contraception than the non-exposures. For perception, couples whose

husbands disagree that contraception is woman business had more likely to use male contraceptives [0.5 (95% CI, 0.4-0.6)] compared to those who agree with the perception. The result of multicollinearity test revealed that no inter-associations among the independent variables.

Table 2. Bivariate and Logistic Regression Predicting Male Contraception Use in Indonesia, 2012 (n=8,225)

Variables	Category	Male contraception		OR	95% CI	p-value
		Not using	Currently using			
Place of residence	Rural	4,183 (95.9%)	178 (4.1%)	0.6	0.5-0.7	0.01
	Urban	3,519 (91.1%)	345 (8.9%)			
Husband's approval on family planning	Disapprove	52 (81.3%)	497 (9.8%)	2.1	1.1-4.1	0.02
	Approves	4593 (90.2%)	12 (18.8%)			
	Don't know	3057 (99.5%)	14 (0.5%)			
Husbands knew FP from newspaper/ magazine	No	6,367 (94.6%)	363 (5.4%)	1.6	1.3-1.9	0.01
	Yes	1,335 (89.3%)	160 (10.7%)			
Wives knew FP from newspaper/ magazine	No	6,638 (94.5%)	386 (5.5%)	1.7	1.4-2.2	0.01
	Yes	1,064 (87.8%)	137 (11.4%)			
Perception: Contraception is woman business	Agree	3083 (91.5%)	127 (4.0%)	0.5	0.4-0.6	0.01
	Disagree	4092 (96.0%)	382 (8.5%)			
	Don't know	517 (97.5%)	3 (2.5%)			

FP: family planning. Data presented as Odd Ratio (95% CI). Statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

This study examined the associations between socio-demographic determinants and male contraceptive use among couples in Indonesia based on the 2012 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey. Male contraceptive use showed significant variation according to socio-demographic characteristics of Indonesia couples. Couples living in urban areas are more likely to use male contraceptive methods compared with couples living in rural areas. A similar finding was observed in studies conducted in Uttar Pradesh India that couples living in urban areas have positive gender-equitable attitudes in contraceptive intake²⁹. Moreover, couples living in rural areas had more difficulties in getting adequate access to male contraceptives availability and services³⁰⁻³².

Couples' whose husband approve family planning had greater probabilities to adopt male contraception. In patriarchy societies like Indonesia, where men have a dominant role over their wives' reproductive decisions, approval of family planning is a precondition for the successful practice of contraception³³. A study conducted in

Bangladesh also showed that approval of husbands on family planning indicates that women will get full support from her husband for use and when confronted with side-effects of contraception¹⁶.

Moreover, male contraceptive use is significantly higher among couples whose husbands and wives read family planning from newspaper and magazines than those who have not received it at all. This is because both husbands and wives who read newspaper and magazine tend to have better educational attainment which in turn might affect gender sensitive decision making on the number of children desired²².

Beyond the socio-demographic variables, negative perception that contraception is woman business has associated with the unwillingness of couples to use male contraception. Other perception that a woman has the capability to get pregnant, thus, a woman should be the one to get contraception. Some studies indicate similar findings^{34,35}.

This study is susceptible to several limitations. First, recall bias due to the history of retrospective contraceptive use among men. To attenuate this bias, we only included information from the

current use of male contraceptive method. Another limitation of this nation-wide study was the incomplete coverage of the system. The IDHS is only designed to represent national and provincial levels, limiting the ability of data users to provide data beyond those levels. Lastly, the 2017 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) had been conducted. Nevertheless, analyzing and cleaning the data need two years after the survey has been completed³⁶. Thus, timeliness is another concern of the survey.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that for more than a decade, male methods (condom, male sterilization, periodic abstinence, and withdrawal) were less popular compared to female methods. The perception that contraception is a woman's business has been found as the highest predictor of male contraceptive use in Indonesia. Place of residence, husbands approve family planning, husbands and wives knew family planning from newspaper/ magazine, and the perception that contraception is woman's business were significantly associated with male's contraceptive use. Hence, gender-sensitive campaign on family planning, as well as gender-sensitive education curricula in schools, need to be done to increase the male contraceptive use in the future.

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