

**Original article :**

**Current user and non-user of spacing methods amongst married women according to their age at marriage, education, occupation and place of residence in field practice areas of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur**

**Dr. Mona Narain\***

Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine,  
Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur  
Corresponding author\*

---

**ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** Current users / non-users of spacing methods amongst married women according to their age at marriage, education, occupation and place of residence in field practice area.

**Study Design:** Cross sectional setting; 400 married women each from Vatika Rural and Partap Nagar urban areas.

**Methodology:** Predesigned and pretested questionnaire.

**Results:** The married women in the higher age group of marriage (late marriage) use the contraceptives in more proportion as compared to those married women who get married in early age (97.26% in rural and 92.64% in urban areas). It was also observed that women who were more educated i.e. graduate and above were more who were using contraceptives than less educated illiterate married women in both rural and urban areas i.e. (89.4%) and 62.79%). It was also found that percentage of non users amongst married women was among illiterates (16.66% and 42.60%) respectively in rural and urban areas. Furthermore, it also came to the findings that the married women who were in government / private jobs, the use rate of contraceptives was maximum both in rural as well as in urban areas i.e. (100% and 97%) respectively while comparing to those who were housewives / non agriculture workers. In other words, the association between occupation and use of spacing methods was found significant both in rural as well as urban areas. It was further found that the use of contraceptives was more amongst married women belonging to rural areas (vatika) than those coming from urban area of Partap Nagar i.e. (85.5% and 74.75% respectively).

**Conclusion:** Study reveals that women who get married late, who are more educated, are in government / private jobs and belong to rural areas are those who have been using contraceptives more than those who get married in early ages, are illiterate, housewives / non agriculture workers and come from urban area of Partap Nagar.

---

**INTRODUCTION**

The world population is the total number of living humans on the planet earth currently reached to 7,02,18,13,36,029 as brought out by Matt Resenberg (current world population).<sup>1</sup> As per UNO estimates of 2000, the world human population increased by an average of 203800 people every day. Population has experienced continuous growth since the end of Bubonic plague, Great famine and hundred years wars in 1350, when it was about 300 million<sup>2</sup> while taking a glance on our own growth of population, it is quite frightening to note that 20<sup>th</sup> century had been a boom, from 2.38 million in 1901 to 846 in 1991 census and vide census India govt. 2011 results it has reached to 1,210,193,422 i.e. 17% of world population.<sup>3</sup>

Although the govt. has done well by implementing a number of national population control programme from 1952 till date but it is still struggling to contain the baby boom. A lot of efforts put in by the govt. in containing the growth, are most commensurate with the inputs. Unless and until, the young generation aged 18-25 years start

taking firm decisions on the fertility, it would remain a herculean impediment. The progress in this context can be easily assessed from the results of knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) in the concerned areas. Presently a wide range of contraceptives are available easily for use by married women, still there is ignorance and hesitance to use them. It has been due to age at the time of marriage education, occupation and source of information etc.

Keeping in view all the facts, this study was carried out to find out the users and non-users of contraceptives amongst married women and effects of socio demographic factors on their use in rural and township areas of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The present cross sectional study was carried out from October 2013 to March 2014 among 800 randomly selected eligible women out of a total of 4130 and 4821 women of Vatika (rural) and Pratap Nagar (urban) areas respectively from the field practice areas of Department of Community Medicine, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur. Willing 400 married women from rural and urban each area were interviewed based on predesigned and pretested questionnaire containing information regarding their age at the time of marriage, educational status, occupation and place of residence and were categorically asked about use and non-use and were specifically asked of spacing methods by each one of them. They were also enquired about the type of contraceptives they were using currently and which one was most popular. The data was collected by the author herself with the assistance of ANMs and anganwadi workers extensively trained for such data collection. To deduct the results in percentage, descriptive analysis was carried out.

#### **Socio demographic characteristic of the study population**

**Table I**

**Age of the women at the time of marriage and current users (CU) and nonusers (NU) of contraceptives**

Age in years	Vatika rural (400 women)			Pratap Nagar (urban) (400 women)		
	CU	NU	Total	CU	NU	Total
15-17	67 (80.72)	16 (19.27)	83(100)	33(61.11)	21(38.88)	54(100)
18-22	198(83.54)	39(16.45)	237(100)	130(65.32)	69(34.67)	192(100)
23-25	71(97.26)	2(2.73)	73(100)	126(92.64)	10(7.35)	136(100)

Note: Figures in parentheses denote %

When the age at marriage of wives with regard to use of spacing methods was compared, it was found that the married women in the higher age group of marriage, use these methods in more proportion as compared to other groups (97.26% in rural and 92.64% in urban areas). The age at marriage was statistically also found highly associated with use of spacing methods for both rural and urban areas.

**Table II****Education of the women at the time of marriage and current users (CU) and nonusers (NU) of contraceptives**

Educational status	Vatika rural (400 women)			Pratap Nagar (urban) (400 women)		
	CU	NU	Total	CU	NU	Total
Illiterate	170(83.33)	34(16.66)	204(100)	31(57.40)	23(42.60)	54(100)
Class 1-5	68(86.07)	11(13.92)	79(100)	23(60.52)	15(39.47)	38(100)
Class 6-12	87(88.77)	11(11.23)	98(100)	114(55.33)	92(44.66)	206(100)
BA and above	17(89.47)	02(10.52)	19(100)	64(62.74)	38(37.25)	102(100)
Total	342	58	400	232	168	400

Note: Figures in parentheses denote %

The above table denotes that the married women users of contraception were those who were more educated i.e. graduate and above in rural as well as in urban areas (89.47% and 62.74% respectively). Further, it was also observed that percentage of non users married women was also more among illiterate / less educated (16.66%) and (42.60%) respectively from both rural and urban areas.

**Table III****Occupation of married women at the time of marriage and current users (CU) and nonusers (NU) of contraceptives**

Occupational status of married women	Vatika rural (400 women)			Pratap Nagar (urban) (400 women)		
	CU	NU	Total	CU	NU	Total
Housewife	321(84.93)	57(15.07)	378(100)	259(74.85)	87(25.14)	346(100)
Govt. / Pvt. Service	02(100)	-	2(100)	19(76.00)	06(24.00)	25(100)
Non agricultural worker	19(25.00)	01(5.00)	20(100)	21(72.41)	8(27.58)	29(100)
Total	342	58	400	299	101	400

Note: Figures in parentheses denote %

It was observed that women who were in govt. / private service, the use rate of contraceptives was more than housewives / non agriculture workers both in rural and urban areas (100% and 76%). The association between occupation and use of contraceptives was found significant both in rural as well as urban areas.

**Table IV****Current users / non users of spacing methods amongst married women by their place of residence.**

Residence	C.U.	N.U.	Total
Rural	342 (85.5)	58 (14.5)	400 (100)
Urban	299 (74.75)	101 (25.25)	400 (100)
Total	641	159	800

Figures in parentheses denote %

From the above table it is evident that percentage of users of contraceptives amongst married women was more in rural than urban areas i.e. (85.5% and 74.75%).

## DISCUSSION

If we go by region, Asia accounts for over 60% of the world population with more than 4 billion people. China and India together have about 37% of world's population<sup>5</sup> while taking a glance on our own population, it is quite disturbing to note that 20<sup>th</sup> century has been a boom from 2.38 million in 1901 to 846 in 1991 census. During first 50 years from 1901, the population added was 122.7 million. Vide census India govt. 2011/ results and also Wikipedia report, Indian population became 1,210,193,422 i.e. 17% of the world population. If the present trend of unchecked growth of population continues, India may take over China by 2045 to become the most populous country in the world.

Seeing our share of 17% of the world population, only 2.4% of world land area and increased density of population from 117 in 1957 to 274 in 1991 to 365 in 2011,<sup>6</sup> the scenario appears to be scary for India's political, economic, environment and social development. On an average, 2.5 million couples are joining the reproductive category every year. About 20% of such eligible couples are found in the age group of 15-24 years.<sup>7</sup> Such couples being the potential beneficiaries need to be motivated to decrease birth rates by using spacing methods including biological signals of fertility and infertility to achieve or avoid pregnancy.

There are number of key factors which play their important roles towards planning development and use of different contraceptives towards birth spacing. Most important among them are social / cultural background, attitude, education, economic status, type of job, religion, demographic locations, type of health services and communication / publicity etc. The present study aimed to assess the current use and non use of spacing methods amongst married women according to their age at marriage, education, occupation and place of residence in the area of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur. The result showed that in the total sample of present study, the percentage of current users increased from (80.72%) to (83.54%) and then (97.26%) as the women age at marriage increased from 15-17 years to 18-22 years and thereafter 23-25 years in rural area of Vatika. In urban area of Partap Nagar also, the current use rate increased from (61.11%) to (65.32%) and then to (92.64%) in said age groups as the age of marriage increased. The study conducted in (1992) by Audinarayana and Shakila also showed that there was a significant association between age of marriage of females and acceptance of fertility control methods. The present study also revealed that the acceptance of spacing methods was very low when the age at marriage of females was below legal age (18 years) of marriage. It was therefore found that age at marriage has a correlation towards use of contraceptives.

Higher age at marriage is also significantly associated with higher education by which modern outlook of a female develops which increases the acceptance of spacing methods by them. During this study it was observed that married women with graduation and above education, their percentage of use of spacing methods was more i.e. (89.47%) and (62.74%) respectively in rural and urban areas. This proved that education status of married women definitely plays

very significant role in influencing the acceptance of spacing methods by them. The women who are more educated are also likely to be in a better position to discuss with their husbands, the ways and means of avoiding or delaying pregnancies since education reduces the communication gap between the couples resulting in type and use of contraceptives. The other studies conducted by various authors have also reported a positive association between the education status and acceptance of spacing methods.<sup>8</sup> In (1993), the NFHS survey also had found that there was a positive association between the education status and acceptance of use of spacing methods.<sup>9</sup> The present study also found that use of spacing methods was low among illiterate married women i.e. (83.33%) and (57.40%) respectively in rural and urban areas.

While going through the occupation / profession profiles of married women, under study, it was observed that (100%) married women in rural and (76%) in urban area among current users of spacing methods were those working as Govt. / Pvt. Employees. The ratio of users was low among women doing non-agriculture job in urban areas (72.41%).

In 1996, Audinarayana et al in his study had found that the use of contraceptives was low (30%) among married women doing non agriculture work.<sup>10</sup> In the present study too, it was found that there is a positive relationship between employment and use of spacing methods. The low level use among labourers / non agriculture workers could be due to the desire to have more children to increase more working hands, less access to information about spacing methods and poor socio economic status. This could be enhanced by affording them reasonable employment which would improve their socio economic status and knowledge towards use of contraceptives.

In this study, it was also observed that percentage of current users was more among married women from rural area (85.5%) than urban area of Pratap Nagar (74.75%). This shows that there is significant association between current users and place of residence. The survey in (1993) by NFHS had however brought out that the current use of spacing methods was higher in urban area (20%) than in rural area (6%).<sup>11</sup> But it is also true that the study in (1993) by NFHS was conducted some 19 to 20 years ago. In the present study, more use of contraceptives in rural area married women than urban could be due to more awakening, better education and work of most dedicated health personnel working in Vatika area besides wonderful role played by gram panchayats and village health and sanitary committees playing very active role in motivating the married women to use contraceptives to have small family norms. Besides this the interns and research students of Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur keep visiting the villagers frequently and promote the use of spacing methods to adopt small sized family norms.

## **CONCLUSION**

The present study has proved that late age marriage, better education, govt. / private jobs and place of residence play a very significant role for married women in enabling them to use contraceptives not only to get suitable gap between their two children but also to have smaller family norms which definitely is the best funda to lead a happy married life.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Current world population by Mat Resenberg 2011. Geography.com 2012 Jul 22.
2. World population estimates. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.mhtml.file:/ newfolder (2011)
3. Current world population (ranked (org/earth/population.aspx retrieved 2010-08-01 via-mhtml.file:k:/newfolder 201 (p8 of 206) 7.6.2011.
4. Census India govt./ and wikipedia. The free encyclopedia – 201/7/6/2011 (P/6 of 26-wikipedia).
5. World population prospective/the 2008 revision population data base retrieved 2010-12-29 via m.html; file:j:/newfolder(2011) world population. Wikipedia 201-7/16/2011 (P/2).

6. Govt. of media, health information of India 1995-96. New Delhi Director General Health Services, 1996. P1-22 and P/8 of 26 of wikipedia, the free encyclopedia 201-7/6/2011 (popdensityind 2011)
7. Park K. Text book of preventive and social medicine. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Jabalpur. M/s. Banarsidas Bhanot, 1997 p.311-41.
8. Singh P, Kumar P, Goel U, Yadav RJ, Agarwal A. Adoption of family planning practices and associated factors in Paharganj area of New Delhi. The Journal of Family Welfare 1990;36(2):36-42.
9. Population research centre Chandigarh India. National family Health Survey, Punjab 1993. Bombay International Institute for Population Science, 1995, p.13-16.
10. Audinarayana N, Shakila Rani R. Socio economic and demographic factors influencing the use of fertility control regulating method in a Tamil Nadu village. Health population perspective and issues 1996, 19(4) 9.200-11.
11. Population research centre Chandigarh India. National family Health Survey, Haryana 1993. Bombay International Institute of Population Science, 1995, p.13-7.

They feel that arranged marriages deny them their fundamental right to choose, even if they make a bad decision. However, if we are honest about it, we might acknowledge that some parents organise their children's lives in such a way that they are likely to meet and marry partners the parents approve of. It could be said that this is, to some extent, similar to an arranged marriage. People for whom arranged marriages are the cultural norm often argue that the likelihood of the marriage lasting is greater when it is set up in this manner. Such women have no option but to opt for the arranged marriage. On the other side, love marriages are common because of a lot of travel and cross-cultural exchanges. This pollination results in long term relationships. (current language). Facebook. Twitter. The European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to marry for those of "marriageable age" according to national laws (Article 12). In General Comment No. 4, the CRC Committee recommends setting the minimum age for marriage with and without parental consent to 18 years, for both girls and boys. Only Estonia sets the minimum age at 15 years. In Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg and Slovenia, no minimum age for marriage is stipulated in the legislation. Poland's legislation makes a distinction between men and women " a woman may request to get married at 16 years, however, there is no such exception for men. Some Member States provide for certain exceptions to the minimum age. As most of the modern contraceptive method users obtain services through the private sector in Pakistan the lack of financial resources at the individual level can be a major impediment in acquiring FP services [2,4]. ... Methods A quasi-interventional study with pre- and post-phases was implemented across an intervention (Chakwal) and a control district (Bhakkar) in Punjab province (August 2012-January 2015). An average married woman in Pakistan still experiences a total of at least seven children if she survives and completes her reproductive periods. (1998) for details] is to determine whether there are any differentials in fertility levels by age at marriage, educational level, occupation, region of residence (province), place of residence (urban or rural) and economic class. Brides uses cookies to provide you with a great user experience. By using Brides, you accept our use of cookies. According to April Davis, the founder of LUMA Luxury Matchmaking, "There isn't necessarily a best age to get married, but there definitely is a best time to get married. The best time to get married is when you feel comfortable and confident in your job and personal life." "At age 28, my soon-to-be-brides exhibit self-awareness and confidence in their choice of a mate. Most 28-year-olds have had the time to successfully explore who they are on a personal and professional level, discover the qualities they desire most in a life partner, and learn from mistakes they made in previous relationships.