

The Role of Men in Family Planning Decision-Making in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Rapid population growth is critical especially in developing countries because rapid population growth is often time not matched with the socio-economic demands of the people. For instance prolonged high fertility rate may lead to a relatively high proportion of children and high dependency burden and eventual poverty and other social vices. Of the three major mean by which population size can change, fertility seems to be a bit difficult to influence. For instance family Planning methods were adopted as a panacea to reduce the high fertility rates and slow down the rapid rate of population growth, with women as the primary target due to the high level of maternal mortality and morbidity.

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Introduction

Population however continue to grow rapidly. For instance, as at today, Nigeria's population 177.50 million people, growth rate of 2.5% per year and total fertility rate of 5.6 is one of the fastest growing population in the world (NPC/FMOH, 2014). With this population size, Nigeria ranks the 7th largest population in the world and will rank 5th with a population of 443million in 2050 (Undelikwoet *al.*, 2013).

Ilorin West Local government Area of Kwara state the study area, also increased from 209,567(2000) to 365,221(2006) (NPC, 2010).

Research Problem

Fertility issues in not only about women.

It take a man and a woman through culture to produce babies.

Men are also crucial in influencing fertility level and trends.

The need to pay more attention to the role of men (male) in issues of family planning especially in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. This assertion was also echoed at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and that men need to be integrated into family planning programmes and jointly share the responsibility especially in contraceptive usage.

Buttressing this fact, Oni and McCarty (1991) in a study carried out amongst married women, concluded that husbands' objection is the reason for their non-use of contraceptive. As such there is, slow or non-use of contraceptives in some parts of the world. For example in Nigeria the contraceptive prevalence of all methods is 15%, resulting in the persistent rapid population growth rate (Ringheim, 1996; Pop. Ref. Bureau, 2014).

Research Questions

The following research questions are asked in order contribute to the knowledge needed to encourage and enhance men's understanding regarding the why they should be included/involved in the family planning programmes.

1. What are the men's level of understanding of family planning and its acceptability?
2. Does couples' level of communication affect family planning decision making?
3. Are men responsible for family planning decision?
4. What are the roles of socio-economic characteristics in fertility behaviour among men?
5. To what extent does place of residence influence on family planning practice in the study area?

General and Specific Objectives

This research work examine the role of men in decision family planning decision making. Specific objectives is intended to:

1. identify the major determinant of fertility behavior;
2. examine the factors that impacts men's adoption of family planning;
3. explain the relationship or effect of spousal communication and family planning practice;
4. examine the effect of socio-economic status of couples on family planning decision making; and
5. ascertain the influence of place of residence on family planning practice.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

The fertility rate in Nigeria has been persistently high 5.7%, despite the family planning programme adopted in the national population policy to reduce fertile levels. Probably because the targeting females was not good enough because in some cultures like the ethnic group in Ilorin, husbands (males) decides when to have children. It is therefore not surprising that Fakeye and Babaniyi (1998) in their study concluded that husband's opposition to family planning programmes is one of the commonest reasons for non-use of contraception in Ilorin. Furthermore, with respect to the wives involvement in family planning, one-third of all couples using family planning rely on a male method (condom, vasectomy, or withdrawal or no periodic abstinence) which requires full male co-operation (Osagbemiet *al.*, 1998).

Islamic religion gives room for polygamy, a source of large family size or more children. Islam however subtly supports family planning in the form of child spacing by ensuring that a woman breastfeeds for two full years.

Cultural as well as religious inclination may work against the full co-operation and practice of family planning. Caldwell (1976b) explain that wealth flow (up-down or down-up) is a direct link between family structure and fertility. In other words, in traditional society (Nigeria inclusive), wealth primarily flow upwards; children were sources of wealth and security in old age (to take care of the parent when they are old). This therefore could be one of the reason for large family size in Nigeria. The traditional family structure therefore shape individual spousal perception of child related process and affects individual's decision-making and actual fertility behavior.

Table 1. Religion Distribution

Ward	Religion		Total
	Islam	Christianity	
Adewole	16	4	20
Ajikobi	36	4	40
Baboko	8	8	16
Badari	16	4	20
Alanamu	20	20	40
Mogaji	12	4	16
Oloje	12	4	16
Ogidi	8	8	16
Oju-Ekun	20	8	28
Oko-Erin	16	8	24
Ubandawaki	4	4	8
Egbejila	16	8	24
Total	184	81	265

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Methodology

The Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula was adopted to select 265 males from the 2011 voters list of Ilorin West Local government, the study area. The voters list was used as the sampling frame because majority of voters are expected to be 18yrs and above and could be married going by the age of adulthood. This is addition to the fact that the breaking of the former Ilorin local Government Area into three (Ilorin West, Ilorin East and Ilorin South) is only on paper. And therefore difficult to disaggregate the population figures for the three local government areas.

Copies of questionnaire were administration on the sampled respondents to obtain the needed data for the study. Simple descriptive analysis and Multi Regression analysis was employed to explain the relation between the use of family planning methods and spousal communication for the research

Findings and Discussion

Socio-Economic Characteristics: Age Distribution

The age of the respondent was divided into five (5) major groups; from 18-60 years and above (Figure 1). Majority (39%) of the respondents falls within the range age range of 30-40 years, followed by 41-50 years that accounts 33.3%. with 10% of them above the age of 60 years. It can be concluded that about 78.2% of the respondents are in the reproductive age -19-49years, a momentum that will sustain a continuous and rapid population growth in the study area. Thus justifying the need to study population dynamic especially with the role of men in decision making on family planning programmes.

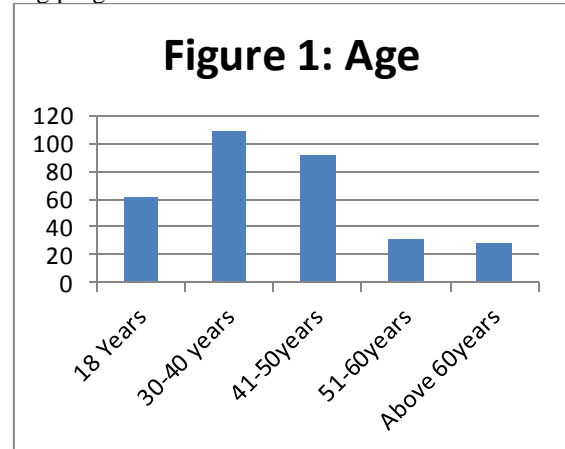


Figure 4.1. Age Distribution

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Table 2. Educational Qualification

Ward	No Education	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
Adewole	0	0	0	20	20
Ajikobi	8	4	0	28	40
Baboko	4	4	4	4	16
Badari	0	4	0	16	20
Alanamu	8	0	4	12	40
Mogaji	4	0	0	12	16
Oloje	0	0	4	16	16
Ogidi	0	0	0	20	16
Oju-Ekun	0	4	4	24	28
Oko-Erin	0	0	0	12	24
Ubandawaki	0	0	4	12	16
Egbejila	0	0	0	24	24
Total	24	16	20	216	265

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Distribution of Religion among respondents

Two major types of religion were identified; namely Islam 184 (69.4%), Christianity 81 (30.6%). Obviously from this analysis that Islamic group were more than Christianity twice (Table 4.2). Ajikobi ranks high in Islam denomination while Alanamu had higher proportion of Christian. Both account for 19.5% and 24.6% respectively from their groups.

Table 4. Occupation

Ward	Self-Employed	Business	Civil Servant	Farming	Unemployed	Other	Total
Adewole	4	0	8	0	0	8	20
Ajikobi	16	8	12	0	0	4	36
Baboko	4	0	0	8	0	4	16
Badari	4	0	12	4	0	0	20
Alanamu	4	4	24	0	4	0	40
Mogaji	4	4	8	0	0	0	16
Oloje	4	8	4	0	0	0	16
Ogidi	0	4	12	0	0	0	12
Oju-Ekun	8	12	4	0	4	0	28
Oko-Erin	4	0	16	0	0	0	24
Ubandawaki	8	0	8	0	0	0	16
Egbejila	0	8	16	0	0	0	24
Total	60	124	48	12	8	0	268

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Education Distribution

About of the respondents with no education were 9%, primary 6.0%, secondary 17.5% and 77.5% had tertiary education. It could be deduced from Table 2 that majority of the respondents had higher educational qualification especially those in Ajikobi, Alanamu, Oko-erin and Egbejila

Employment Status

Result showed that about 82% of the respondents were gainfully employed in one service or the other while the rest, about 18% were not employed. Alanamu and Ajikobi account for the highest number of respondents that are employed, followed by Oko-erin and Egbejila respectively. The highest number of unemployed respondents was found in Ajikobi, Baboko, Alanamu and Oju-ekun. And that all respondents in Badari, Ogidi, Oko-erin and Egbejila were employed (Figure 2).

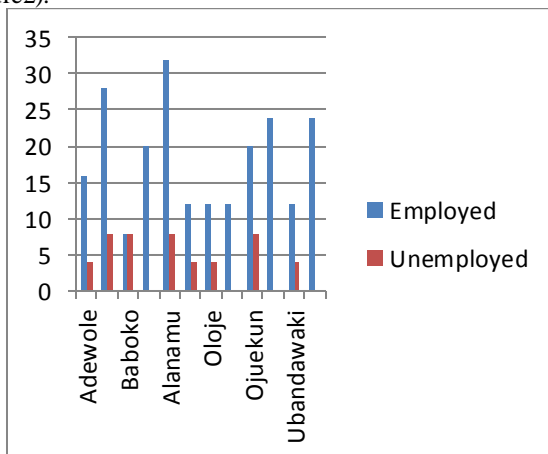


Figure 2. Employment Status

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Occupational Distribution

Among the respondents majority were civil servant (46%) while the self-employed accounted 22% and traders 18%. Alanamu had the highest number of civil servants (19%) out of the total civil servants in the study area. Oju-ekun had the highest number of traders while Ajikobi had higher number of self-employed, (Table 4).

Monthly Income

Considered monthly income ranges from less than 10,000 -100,000 and above. Result shows that respondents within the range of 100,000 and above on monthly basis were the highest (32%). This was followed by those between the ranges of 31,000-50,000, 10,000-30,000 on monthly basis (Table 4). Ajikobi accounts for the ward with the highest monthly income of 100, 000 and above (19%).

Table 5. Monthly Income (000)

Ward	<10,000	10-30	31-50	51-100	Above 100	Total
Adewole	0	8	0	4	8	20
Ajikobi	4	20	0	0	16	40
Baboko	0	8	4	0	0	12
Badari	4	8	4	4	0	20
Alanamu	8	12	8	4	8	40
Mogaji	0	4	4	0	8	16
Oloje	0	4	8	0	4	16
Ogidi	0	4	4	0	8	16
Oju-Ekun	0	0	20	0	8	28
Oko-Erin	0	0	12	0	12	24
Ubandawaki	0	8	0	0	4	12
Egbejila	0	0	16	0	8	24
Total	16	76	80	12	84	265

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Men adoption of Family Planning Factors.

Table 6 shows that majority 176 (66.4%) of men had discussion on family planning with their wives while 100(33.6%) of the respondents were not. Ubandawaki and Egbejila among the selected wards account for the highest (27.3%) while Adewole was the least (2.3%) in terms of family planning discussion.

Apart from majority of men that discussed the family planning issue with their wives, result also indicates that about 67% of the respondent used to one of the family planning methods, while the remain 33% were not. Those families without any methods of family planning may be attributed to the young couples within the reproductive period and people of religion bias.

Regarding their awareness or knowledge, the respondents identified three common methods of family planning; namely use of condom (36%), vasectomy (21%) and natural system (43%), table 7. When compared with total number of the men interviewed, 28.7% were using natural method, 24.2% used condom and 13.6% adopted vasectomy 13.60% (figure 3).

Table 6. Discussion on Family Planning

Ward	Yes	No	Total
Adewole	4	16	20
Ajikobi	20	20	40
Baboko	8	8	16
Badari	8	12	20
Alanamu	32	8	40
Mogaji	12	4	16
Oloje	16	0	16
Ogidi	12	4	16
Oju-Ekun	20	8	28
Oko-Erin	20	4	24
Ubandawaki	48	16	64
Egbejila	48	48	96
Total	176	100	276

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Table 7. Use of Family Planning Methods

Ward	Yes	No	Total
Adewole	12	8	20
Ajikobi	28	12	40
Baboko	8	8	16
Badari	8	12	20
Alanamu	24	16	40
Mogaji	12	4	16
Oloje	16	0	16
Ogidi	12	4	16
Oju-Ekun	20	4	24
Oko-Erin	20	4	24
Ubandawaki	12	4	16
Egbejila	12	12	24
Total	184	88	276

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

The adoption of natural method over others may be linked to financial and health implication of the other methods. The use of condom and natural methods can easily be controlled without the involvement of medical personnel compared to the vasectomy which is not even reversible.

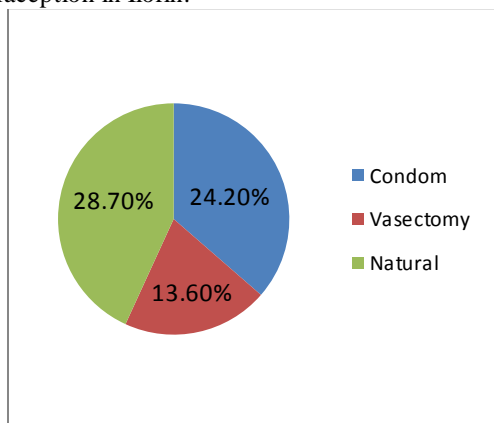
Also according to Osagbemi et al. (1998), one-third of all couples using family planning rely on a male method (condom, vasectomy, or withdrawal or no periodic abstinence) which requires full male co-operation.

Table 8. Awareness of Methods of Family Planning

Ward	Condom	Vasectomy	Natural	Total
Adewole	4	0	4	20
Ajikobi	8	4	8	36
Baboko	0	4	0	16
Badari	4	4	4	20
Alanamu	12	4	12	40
Mogaji	0	4	0	16
Oloje	0	0	0	16
Ogidi	12	0	12	12
Oju-Ekun	12	0	12	28
Oko-Erin	8	8	8	24
Ubandawaki	4	0	4	16
Egbejila	0	8	0	24
Total	64	36	76	176

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Further investigation as to non-adoption of any method of family planning revealed the following reasons; desire for male children, religion/culture and other reasons which were personal to the individuals. The personal reasons ranked highest accounting for 72 (51%), followed by religious reasons, about 60 (43%) and desire for male children amount to 8 (6%) of the respondents (Table 9). It is worthy of note that part of personal reason may likely synonymous with their interest in the male children. Regarding religion, Islam gives room for multiple wives which is the source of more children. Culture as well as religious inclination may work against the full co-operation and practice of family planning. Male opposition to family planning according to Fakeye and Babaniyi (1998) is one of the commonest reasons for non-use of contraception in Ilorin.

**Figure 3. Methods of Family Planning**

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

In the African cultural setting, man is the dominant force in family issue (Muhammad, 2005).

Table 9. Reason against the Use of Family Planning

Ward	Religion	Male Child	Other	Total
Adewole	0	0	12	16
Ajikobi	8	0	12	24
Baboko	8	0	4	12
Badari	4	4	0	8
Alanamu	8	0	16	24
Mogaji	0	0	8	8
Oloje	8	0	4	24
Ogidi	4	0	4	8
Oju-Ekun	4	0	0	12
Oko-Erin	0	4	4	8
Ubandawaki	4	0	4	8
Egbejila	12	0	4	16
Total	60	8	72	140

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015.

In family planning, regardless of who uses the family planning method, the man often has a major say in decision on childbearing and family planning (Osagbemi et al., 1998). Therefore there is a need to involve men in family planning practices

Effect of Spouse Communication on Family Planning

To verify the relationship on the effective of spousal communication on family planning issue, two (2) questions that addressed the content were subjected to correlation analysis. The result in Table 10 indicates that the rate at which men discuss family planning issue with their wives and their visitation to health center for family planning service is positively and moderately correlated ($r = 0.50$) at 95% level of significant. This may be attributed to the number of those who allow their wives to participate in family planning.

Determinant of Fertility Behaviour in Family Planning

Concerning the determinant of fertility behaviour, the age, employment, occupation, monthly income, duration and age at first marriage were considered as determinant. However, duration of marriage contributed the highest contribution (0.633), followed by the age of the respondents. Monthly income (0.346) and age at the first marriage (0.431) also play prominent roles in the determinant of fertility behaviour.

Table 10. Correlation on Spousal Communication on Family Planning

		Discuss of family planning with wife	Health centre for family planning service
Discuss of family planning with wife	Pearson Correlation	1	.493**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	69	67
Health centre for family planning service	Pearson Correlation	.493**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	67	67

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

The nature of occupation (0.028) has the least contribution among the examined factors (Table 11). Generally, most family planning policies are targeted against women, however, traditionally, Nigerian men take most decision affecting the family including the fertility of their women, because they are seen as the dominant source of authority and also as the head, protector and main breadwinner of the family (Osagbemi et al., 1998). Odusola et al. (2001) states that other important influences on fertility changer include religion, urbanization, sex preference and others.

Subject to factor analysis, three (3) factor from the total variance explained table explained 74.1% of factors that determine fertility behaviour in men. They are mainly age, monthly income and duration of marriage. Rotated factor matrix (Table 13) indicates the contribution of each variable under individual factor. Factor 1 explained three (3) variables which were age, duration of the marriage and monthly income of the respondent. Factor 2 explained two (2) variables namely age at the first marriage and actual age of the respondents and factor 3 explained employment and nature of occupation as the determinant of fertility behavior in family planning.

Table 11. Communalities

Factor	Initial
Age	.615
Employment Status	.098
Occupation	.028
Monthly Income	.346
For how long have you married	.633
What was your age at the first marriage	.431

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring

Effect of Socio-economic Status on Family Planning

Prominent among the socio-economic status on family planning were subjected to factor analysis from Table 14 to 16. Communalities indicate that form of education, level of education and monthly income were the most influence socio-economic status in family planning. This could also be attributed to the literacy level. According to Boseup, (1985); Odusola et al. (1998), residential location and level of income and other are socio-cultural factors affecting fertility contraceptive use. From the total variance explained table, three of them account for about 63.93% of the factors under consideration. Others contribution were less than 1 under eigenvalues. Rotated matrix table clearly shows that all the variables were reduced to three major factors (Table 16). Under the first factor, seven (7) variables explained the impact of socio-economic status of family planning. All eight (8) variables responsible for factor 1 except the nature of occupation. Second factors were religion, monthly income and age of the respondent. The only variable explained in the third factor was the nature of the respondent occupation.

Table 12. Total Variance Explained

Factor	Initial Eigenvalues			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2.060	34.334	34.334	1.800	30.002	30.002
2	1.232	20.534	54.868	.946	15.774	45.776
3	1.158	19.307	74.174	.486	8.097	53.873
4	.894	14.900	89.074			
5	.468	7.796	96.870			
6	.188	3.130	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Table 13. Rotated Factor Matrix^a

	Factor		
	1	2	3
Age	.955	.161	.134
For how long have you married	.729	-.564	
Monthly Income	.587		-.321
What was your age at the first marriage		.776	
Employment Status			.558
Occupation			.218

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring.

Table 14. Communalities

	Initial
Location	.141
Age	.436
Religion	.120
Level of Education	.503
Form of Education	.516
Employment Status	.383
Occupation	.160
Monthly Income	.484

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring.

Table 15. Total Variance Explained

Factor	Initial Eigenvalues			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2.364	29.551	29.551	1.841	23.011	23.011
2	1.539	19.236	48.787	1.152	14.404	37.414
3	1.211	15.143	63.930	.806	10.077	47.491
4	.893	11.159	75.089			
5	.771	9.636	84.726			
6	.598	7.481	92.207			
7	.395	4.940	97.147			
8	.228	2.853	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring.

Source: Author's Data Analysis, 2015

Table 16. Rotated Factor Matrix^a

	Factor		
	1	2	3
Form of Education	-.786		-.112
Level of Education	.715		.203
Employment Status	-.599		.157
Location	.357		
Religion	.311	-.148	-.198
Monthly Income	.317	.756	
Age	-.168	.740	
Occupation			.821

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring.

Summary of Findings

In conclusion, the results of the both descriptive and inferential analyses proved beyond the reasonable doubt that the role of men in family planning decision-making is influenced by religion, cultural and socio-economic factors in society. Nigeria is one of the most religious countries in the world, and so people usually hide under religion to act against the rules and regulations of population control policies. Generally, most family planning policies are targeted towards women; four (4) children per woman transcend far beyond immediate consequences. For instance a man especially muslim can under religious understanding, marry more than one wife and therefore have many children. From the Islamic respondents, majority of them above the age of 41-50 years have more than a wife compared to their Christianity counterpart. Also majority of men married under 30 years of age with average children of more than four per woman. Some

of the respondents even do not to discuss such issue with their wives, talk of the adoption of any methods by either of the both party. In agreement with this view Osagbemi et al., (1998), concluded that traditionally, Nigerian men take most decision affecting the family including the fertility of their women, because they are seen as the dominant source of authority and also as the head, protector and main breadwinner of the family. Oduola et al. (2001) states that other important influences on fertility changer include religion, urbanization, sex preference and others. The role of men in family planning decision-making cannot be ruled out of formulation and implementation of population control policies.

Education attainment of the respondent played prominent role in the adoption of family planning service. Monthly income, occupation and employment status of the people also have their influence the rate at which people subscribe to the family planning. Worthy of note is the adoption of natural system of family planning compare to the use of condom and vasectomy among married men. Finding from this study shows that majority of men married under 30 years of age with average children of more than four per woman.

Conclusion

Generally, most family planning policies are targeted against women, however, traditionally, Nigerian men take most decision affecting the family including the fertility of their women, because they are seen as the dominant source of authority and also as the head, protector and main breadwinner of the family (Osagbemi et al., 1998). Oduola et al. (2001) states that other important influences on fertility changer include religion, urbanization, sex preference and others.

Even those who use some forms of family planning methods it's the male type (condoms) or traditional which are both controlled by men.

Recommendations and Policy Implication

Since men dominate decision making in the family, they should therefore be involved in the planning and implementation of family planning programmes; educate men on the benefits of family planning probably at work place, sports viewing center.

The men will in turn encourage their partners to use contraceptives and therefore reduce the total fertility rate and eventually slow population growth.

Consultation with the religion leaders and sensitized husbands about the implication of large number of children on society.

If these suggestions or recommendations are made use of, there will be a major decline in fertility rate and eventual slowing down of population growth, a demographic dividend for Nigeria.

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