

Title: Factors Associated with the Utilization of Family Planning Services Among Women Aged 15-49 in Côte d'Ivoire.

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Abstract:

Background: Primary healthcare is a driving force for improving access to healthcare services in a country. Family planning (FP), considered an essential component of primary health care and reproductive health, plays a major role in reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality and transmission of HIV (WHO and USAID, 2008). This paper aims to analyze the specific factors associated with the utilization of FP services among women aged 15-49 years in Côte d'Ivoire, to better design strategies and deal with this problematic.

Methods: This study was performed as a secondary data analysis of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) conducted in Côte d'Ivoire in 2021, carried out by the Statistical Office with support from the DHS program ICF. We analyze data from 14, 877 women aged 15 to 49 years old. The dependent variable is represented by whether (or not) the woman effectively uses any method of family planning (FP) method. Independent variables included demographic and socio-economic factors. Univariate analyses were used to provide a summary descriptive table of the study variables. Pearson's Chi-squared test of independence and bivariate logistic regression were used to assess the association between each of the covariates and the utilization of FP services. Significant variables were used to build the final model. Multinomial logistic regression was used to analyze factors associated with the utilization of family planning services. All analyses were performed using Stata 18.

Results: Results indicate that demographic factors and socio-economic factors contribute to the decision of whether to use folkloric methods, traditional methods, modern methods or not to use any form of FP methods. On one side, women living in urban area were more likely to use folkloric methods. On other side, women who were educated, working, never in union or married/living with a partner, Christian or without religion were more likely to use traditional or modern FP methods. In addition, women belonged from middle to richest economic class, had access to information on FP, and women wanted to defer or limit births or declared infecund were more likely to use traditional or modern FP methods.

Conclusion: Promoting women's education, by improving their access to formal education, popularising access to information on FP services and promoting women's empowerment can be government's strategies that can improve the prevalence of use of family planning services in Côte d'Ivoire.

Biography:

Dr. Sonia Angeline Wolo GBRATTO-DOBE is a Health Economist with a degree from the Inter-University Postgraduate Programme in Economics at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan. She also holds a degree in Public Health from Aix-Marseille University. She is currently a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics and Management at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan. Her research interests include health financing, access to primary health care, maternal and child health, mental health, and reproductive health. She is a member of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) and the International Health Economics Association (IHEA).