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### The Role of Family Structure and Household Headship on Contraceptive Use among Currently Married Women in India

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#### ABSTRACT

Contraceptive use remains an important component in the reduction of fertility, maternal, infant and child mortality (Canning & Schultz, 2012).

Using data from the NFHS 4, the present study tries to see the role of household structure and the household headship on contraceptive use among currently married women in India.

The results of multinomial regression indicate that there is significant association between contraceptive use and household structure.

37.6% of women living in male nuclear households, 57.2% and 59.4% of females living in female nuclear household and female non-nuclear household are not using the contraception.

The study is one of its kind identifying the pathway through which contraceptive use operates.

Keywords

NFHS, Contraceptive use, Household structure, Household headship

#### BACKGROUND

The use of contraceptives gives couples the ability to space child births, thus improving infant and child survival.

Furthermore, contraceptive use prevents unintended pregnancies which may lead to unsafe abortions that usually have negative health consequences for women such as maternal deaths (Stover & Ross, 2010).

India was the first country to launch family planning programme way back in 1952, yet the population of the country has doubled since then making it the second most populous country in the world.

The contraceptive prevalence in India has always been at lower levels. The recent round of NFHS depicts that about 54% of the women are using contraception

Studies indicate that a host of socio-economic and demographic factors like caste, religion, place of residence affect contraceptive use among the females, particularly in developing countries.

Studies from South East Asian countries indicate that the household structure influences contraceptive use

Dearth of studies in India explaining the relation between household structure and contraceptive use.

#### OBJECTIVE

To study the association between household structure and contraceptive use in India

#### DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

National Family Health Survey 4 (2015-16)

The analysis has been done on 86811 currently married women in India

##### Description of the variables

Outcome Variable: Contraceptive Use

- Not Using
- Using Female Methods
- Using Male Methods

Main Predictor Variable: Household Structure

- Male Nuclear
- Male non-nuclear
- Female Nuclear
- Female non-nuclear

Chi-square test

The multinomial logistic regression was carried out to estimate the adjusted effects of family-headship structure and the contraceptive use

#### RESULTS

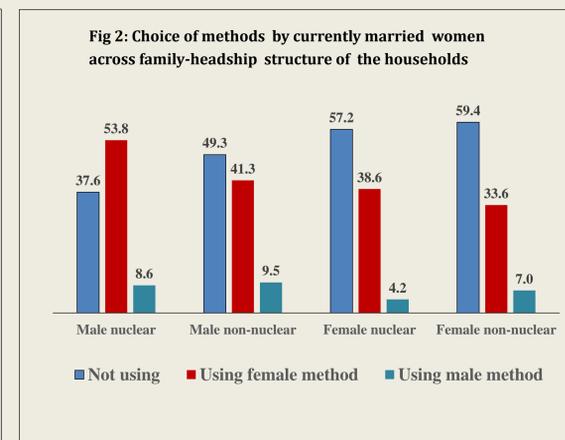
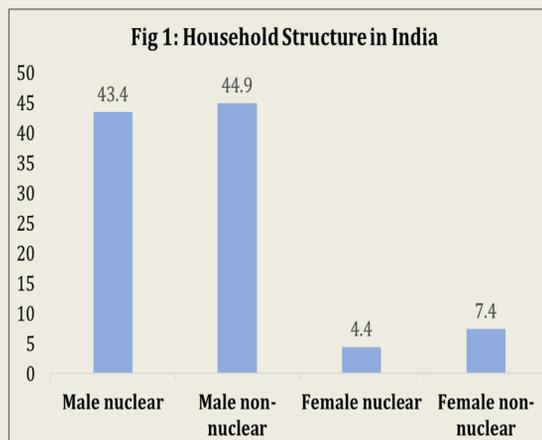


Table 2: Odds ratios of contraceptive use by family-headship structure of household for currently married women, India, 2015-16

Household Structure	OR(95% CI)	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted <sup>a</sup>
Male nuclear®		
Male non-nuclear	0.68***(0.66 - 0.70)	0.84***(0.82 - 0.87)
Female nuclear	0.53***(0.50 - 0.57)	0.48***(0.45 - 0.52)
Female non-nuclear	0.47***(0.44 - 0.49)	0.58***(0.55 - 0.62)

\* p<0.1; \*\* p<0.05; \*\*\* p<0.01

Table 1: Multinomial Logistic Regression showing adjusted percentage of contraceptive method choice by currently married women across family-headship structure of the households, India

Explanatory variables	Not using	Using female method	Using male method
Household Structure			
Male nuclear®	44.8(44.3 - 45.2)	44.9(44.4 - 45.3)	10.4(10.0 - 10.7)
Male non-nuclear	48.4***(47.9 - 48.9)	41.6***(41.1 - 42.1)	10.0*(9.7 - 10.3)
Female nuclear	60.1***(58.7 - 61.5)	33.9***(32.5 - 35.2)	6.0***(5.3 - 6.8)
Female non-nuclear	56.1***(54.9 - 57.3)	35.3***(34.1 - 36.4)	8.6***(8.0 - 9.3)
Regions			
Northern region®	40.8(40.1 - 41.5)	43.0(42.3 - 43.7)	16.2(15.7 - 16.7)
Central region	49.0***(48.3 - 49.6)	39.2***(38.6 - 39.9)	11.8***(11.3 - 12.3)
Eastern region	50.7***(49.9 - 51.5)	40.6***(39.9 - 41.4)	8.7***(8.2 - 9.2)
Western region	49.9***(48.9 - 50.9)	43.8(42.8 - 44.7)	6.3***(5.8 - 6.8)
South region	45.3***(44.5 - 46.2)	52.8***(52.0 - 53.6)	1.9***(1.6 - 2.1)
North-east region	54.0***(53.0 - 55.1)	36.2***(35.2 - 37.2)	9.8***(9.1 - 10.4)
Place of residence			
Urban®	48.4(47.7 - 49.0)	41.3(40.7 - 41.9)	10.3(10.0 - 10.7)
Rural	47.6*(47.2 - 48.0)	42.8***(42.4 - 43.2)	9.6***(9.3 - 9.8)
Wealth Index			
Poorest®	55.0(54.1 - 55.9)	37.6(36.7 - 38.4)	7.5(6.9 - 8.0)
Poorer	48.9***(48.2 - 49.6)	42.9***(42.2 - 43.6)	8.1***(7.7 - 8.6)
Middle	46.5***(45.8 - 47.2)	44.0***(43.3 - 44.7)	9.5***(9.1 - 9.9)
Richer	45.4***(44.7 - 46.1)	44.0***(43.2 - 44.7)	10.7***(10.2 - 11.1)
Richest	44.4***(43.6 - 45.3)	43.7***(42.9 - 44.6)	11.8***(11.3 - 12.3)
Age of the respondent			
Below 20®	61.2(58.6 - 63.7)	23.1(20.5 - 25.7)	15.7(14.0 - 17.5)
20-24	62.6(61.6 - 63.5)	26.8***(25.9 - 27.7)	10.6***(10.1 - 11.2)
25 & above	45.5***(45.2 - 45.9)	44.7***(44.4 - 45)	9.8***(9.5 - 10.0)
Religion			
Hindu®	45.3(44.9 - 45.6)	45.5(45.1 - 45.8)	9.3(9.0 - 9.5)
Muslim	55.4***(54.5 - 56.3)	29.9***(29.1 - 30.8)	14.6***(14.0 - 15.3)
Christian	62.5***(61.1 - 64.0)	31.7***(30.3 - 33.1)	5.8***(5.0 - 6.6)
Others	45.3(43.8 - 46.8)	45.5(44.0 - 46.9)	9.2(8.4 - 10.0)
Caste			
Scheduled caste®	47.3(46.5 - 48.0)	42.3(41.6 - 43.0)	10.5(9.9 - 11.0)
Schedule tribes	50.4***(49.6 - 51.3)	41.2*(40.4 - 42.0)	8.4***(7.8 - 8.9)
Other backward class	48.1*(47.6 - 48.6)	42.4(41.9 - 42.9)	9.4***(9.1 - 9.8)
Others	46.1***(45.4 - 46.7)	43.4***(42.7 - 44.0)	10.6(10.2 - 10.9)
Respondent's education level			
No education®	48.9(48.3 - 49.5)	44.6(44.0 - 45.2)	6.5(6.2 - 6.8)
Primary	44.5***(43.7 - 45.3)	47.5***(46.7 - 48.3)	8.0***(7.5 - 8.5)
Secondary	47.2***(46.7 - 47.7)	41.6***(41.1 - 42.1)	11.2***(10.9 - 11.5)
Higher	54.3***(53.2 - 55.5)	29.5***(28.4 - 30.6)	16.2***(15.3 - 17.0)
Working status of respondent			
No®	49.3(48.9 - 49.6)	40.8(40.5 - 41.2)	9.9(9.7 - 10.1)
Yes	43.4***(42.7 - 44.0)	46.9***(46.3 - 47.5)	9.8(9.3 - 10.2)
Person who takes decision on respondent's health care			
Respondent alone®	47.6(46.7 - 48.5)	43.3(42.4 - 44.2)	9.0(8.5 - 9.6)
Respondent and husband/partner	46.9(46.6 - 47.3)	43.0(42.6 - 43.3)	10.1***(9.9 - 10.3)
Husband/partner alone	50.1***(49.4 - 50.7)	40.3***(39.7 - 41.0)	9.6(9.2 - 10.0)
Others	52.7***(50.6 - 54.7)	38.2***(36.1 - 40.3)	9.1(8.1 - 10.2)
Respondent allowed to go to the market			
Not at all®	48.8(47.4 - 50.3)	41.0(39.6 - 42.5)	10.2(9.1 - 11.2)
Alone	47.3*(46.8 - 47.9)	42.7*(42.2 - 43.2)	9.9(9.6 - 10.3)
With someone else only	48.3(47.6 - 49.0)	42.0(41.3 - 42.7)	9.7(9.2 - 10.1)
Respondent allowed to go to the health facility			
Not at all®	50.7(48.9 - 52.4)	40.8(39.0 - 42.6)	8.5(7.4 - 9.6)
Alone	47.1***(46.6 - 47.7)	43.0***(42.4 - 43.5)	9.9***(9.6 - 10.3)
With someone else only	48.3***(47.7 - 48.9)	41.8(41.1 - 42.4)	9.9***(9.5 - 10.3)
Exposure to family planning through media			
Unexposed®	50.8(50.3 - 51.4)	39.9(39.3 - 40.4)	9.3(8.9 - 9.7)
Partially exposed	45.1***(44.7 - 45.6)	44.6***(44.2 - 45.0)	10.3***(10.0 - 10.5)
Fully exposed	49.8*(48.8 - 50.8)	41.1***(40.1 - 42.1)	9.1(8.5 - 9.6)
Number of living children			
None®	90.7(90.0 - 91.4)	4.2(3.7 - 4.8)	5.1(4.6 - 5.5)
1 to 2	47.9***(47.4 - 48.3)	40.2***(39.7 - 40.6)	12.0***(11.7 - 12.3)
3 and above	39.2***(38.6 - 39.7)	52.1***(51.6 - 52.7)	8.7***(8.3 - 9.0)

#### CONCLUSION

The main aim of the study was to assess the role of family structure and household headship on contraceptive use among currently married women in India.

The result of the study indicates that the non-use of any method of contraception is higher among the respondents residing in families headed by females.

The possible reason for this may be that female headed households do have less frequent sexual intercourse compared to male headed households.

The use of male method of contraception is more among female non-nuclear families compared to those among female nuclear families.

of different contraceptive preferences and choices across different women groups.

The family planning program should be more effective and strengthen to address the different preferences and choices in an efficient yet cost effective manner.