

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	International Health Development (MPH)	Name	Takyi Amy
Thesis Title	A qualitative study on factors that influence contraceptive use among women 35 to 49 years and their male partners in Gomoa West District, Ghana.		
<p>Objective :</p> <p>The objective of the study is to describe factors that influence contraceptive use among women aged 35 to 49 years and their male partners in Gomoa West District, Ghana.</p> <p>Method :</p> <p>A total of forty-four informants participated in the study. In-depth interviews using a semi structured interview guide were conducted remotely for twenty-two women, fifteen male partners of women interviewed, and seven family planning service providers. Twenty-one informants participated in four focus group discussions organized for users and non-users of modern contraceptive methods (MCMs). Data analysis was done concurrently with data collection in a flexible and iterative process. Thematic analysis was adopted following six steps presented by Braun and Clarke (2006) using Nvivo12 qualitative data analysis software.</p> <p>Result :</p> <p>The decision to use contraceptives is influenced by a desire to space or limit childbirth, perceived susceptibility, partner support or opposition to MCMs, and the nature of work of the husband. Factors that influence the use of contraceptives are achieved desired family size, communication among spouses, influence of the male partner, counselling/health education by health professionals, difficult economic situation, and the experience and/or fear of side effects.</p>			

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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<p>Barriers to using modern contraceptives include the cost of long-term contraception, distance to a health facility, religious/socio cultural reasons, rumours/misconceptions, contraception considered a matter for women, and the experience/fear of side effects. Providing health facilities with phones, improving MCMs to reduce side effects, including the cost of MCMs in the National Health Insurance Scheme, training Community Health Nurses on contraceptive implants, intensifying health education and increasing male contraceptive methods could improve modern contraceptive use.</p> <p>Conclusion :</p> <p>This study described factors that influence contraception among women 35 to 49 years and their male partners. All informants used some form of contraception. Strengthening male involvement in family planning activities, encouraging spousal communication about contraceptives, providing telephone/mobile phone for health facilities, and training Community Health Nurses on contraceptive implants could increase access to MCMs, alleviate fear, and reduce misconceptions about using modern contraceptives.</p>			

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