

Family planning, economic constraints and the fertility transition: the case of Mwanga and Moshi urban districts, Tanzania.

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Abstract:

According to the 1991/92 Demographic and Health Survey, Tanzanian women at the current fertility and pattern will have an average of 6.3 children by the end of their reproductive period. In Kilimanjaro region, a study was carried out in Mwanga and Moshi urban districts to investigate the level of contraception awareness and to determine their effects on fertility decline. A sample population of 1255 respondents was involved, out of whom 956 were females and 299 were males. Overall, results indicated that 94.4% women in their reproductive age were aware of at least one contraceptive method. On the other hand, of the 743 women asked, only 37.9% confidently reported of current use of modern contraceptive method. It was also observed that those with secondary education and above had the highest prevalence of contraceptive usage at 50.2%. Hence, it was established that a significant association exists between awareness and acceptance of family planning methods with the level of education. Therefore, it is recommended that educational opportunities for women especially secondary education should be expanded; and that women be given a special priority in the allocation of places in secondary schools.