

Women status and modern contraceptive use: a case study in Kilimanjaro Region

Janet Amedeus Ringia

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University of Dar es Salaam, College of Social Science, 1994

This Study attempts to examine the relationship between four aspects of woman's status. (Education employment status). Income and her position in decision making on matters concerning Family Planning in the family) and the use of modern contraception in Kilimanjaro region. The influence of education on spouses relationship on matters concerning Family Planning and Fertility control has also been studied. The objective of the study was to ascertain this relationship and to examine the extent on which each aspect affects the use of contraceptives. The data was collected from 899 women respondents in Kilimanjaro region. 447 from Moshi urban District and 452 from Mwanza District. The target population for the study was women of child bearing ages (15-49 years) with at least one live birth. It was found that all variables, education. Employment status, income and communication between spouses affected modern contraception use among women of reproductive ages. More educated women particularly those with secondary and tertiary education were associated with modern contraception. The level of income was also found to influence contraceptive use. Majority of women in the low income group did not use modern contraception while the prevalence was high in high income class. Wage employment was also among the factors which favored modern contraception. Contraceptive prevalence was higher in women who were on wage employment basis compared to those who were not employed in wage income. Communication between spouses favored modern contraception and education was found to enhance such communication. A higher percentage of women with no formal education and with primary education admitted that they had not communicated with their spouses on matters concerning Family Planning and fertility control. Some recommendations have been advanced. They include expansion of women education, introduction of family life education in schools, increasing employment opportunities for women and introduction of special programmes either by the Government or NGOs. These programmes will provide women with some knowledge and skills which can be used by the women in various projects to raise their income and reduce their dependency on children.