

The influence of female labour force participation on contraception practice
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The aim of this study was to find out if female labour force participation has any influence on contraception practice and hence fertility among Married women. In Order to obtain relevant data a sample of six hundred currently married women; three hundred being workers in the formal sector of the economy and another three hundred being only housewives were interviewed in the City of Dar es Salaam* The research focused on the number of children both ever born and surviving for each respondent# the number of children they desired# contraceptive methods they knew# their attitude towards contraception# their communication with their husbands on desired family size and type of contraceptives they preferred and for those who were practising contraception the devices or methods they used , Analysis of the data obtained proved that female labour force participation in Dar es Salaam has a remarkable influence on knowledge, attitude and practise of contraception. The data shows that working women rather than non-working women had wide knowledge of contraceptive methods. This was not only on modern contraceptives but also on traditional contraceptive methods. They also desired few children and they favoured more contraception practice to maintain their desired family size. Also the data show that there was more flow of communication between working women and their husbands than in the case on nonworking women and their husbands on desired family sizes and type of contraceptive methods which should be adopted. Due to all that more working women practised contraception and had lower fertility than non-working women. Therefore, among other things this study recommends creation of more employment opportunities for non-working urban women where incompatibility between their working role and md'thers¹ role can easily arise. Hence that can be one of the means of increasing contraceptive prevalence in urban areas. Moreover, it has also been demonstrated in this study that among the six antecedent variables namely respondent's age, age at marriage, level of education attained by respondents and their husbands, parity and current family size which were tested to detect their influence on both the pre condition factors towards contraception and its practise for both working and non-working women, education indicated to be more significant to most of those factors than any other variable. Therefore, it is recommended in this study that among other things, more education, both formal and informal, should be given not only to women but also to

men in order to make a break-through on contraception practice.