

**Utilization of modern contraceptives among rural women in Uganda.**

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Modern contraceptives are one of the most affordable and high return investments for reducing Uganda's high maternal mortality ratio and downsizing fertility desires. Much as the Government of Uganda and other partners have played a great role in expanding the availability of family planning services, Total Fertility Rate (TFR) still remains high at 5.7 percent leading to the escalation of population growth especially in rural areas which is estimated at 40 million people. In addition, modern contraceptive rate (MCPR) still remains low at 39 percent and unmet need for family planning stands high at 28 percent. The purpose of this study was to examine the utilization level of modern contraceptives and to analyse the factors that influence the use of modern contraceptives among women who reside in rural areas in Uganda. Using secondary data of Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2016 (UDHS), the study uses a multivariate Probit analysis to examine the factors that influence the use of modern contraceptives among rural women. The results indicate that various socio-economic factors such as; education, age, wealth index of the woman, husband's education, husband's desire for children, number of living children and desire for children all significantly influence the use of modern contraceptives. To increase use of modern contraceptives among women in rural areas, investment in female education and involvement of religious leaders in family planning programs should be given prominent efforts. In addition, family planning programs and policies should target men, as well as advocate for and encourage women to have smaller and manageable families.