

## **ABSTRACT**

Every year, Uganda loses about six thousand women as a result of pregnancy related complications. A significant proportion of these occur because women aren't able to have a health planned pregnancy. In Uganda (UDHS, 2005) ,41% of the married women wish to space their pregnancy or want to stop child bearing but they are not using contraceptives methods because they have unmet needs contraceptive use or because of various reasons including social cultural practices. This study was to determine the influence of cultural practices and other factors on contraceptive use in urban areas specifically lower cell 7 Nyamitwobora village, Mbarara municipality.

The main objective was to determine the influence of cultural practices and other factors on contraceptive use among women of reproductive age. A case study in lower cell 7 Nyamitwobora village, Mbarara municipality.

A cross sectional study was used. The women recruited in the study were of reproductive age from 18-45 years and were residents in local council 7 Nyamityobora village Mbarara municipality

A total sample population of two hundred and eighty respondents was used. Simple random sampling was used for the study was used to select the respondents. The methods used to enrich the study included questionnaire, interviews and observations. The analysis of the study involved tabulation of the frequencies to get the percentages and calculations using SPSS and excel computer programs.

The study revealed that cultural practices and other factors have a great influence on contraceptive use. It was evidenced with early marriage, male child preference, lack of autonomy for women on total number of children, community influence on contraceptive use, need for very many children and religious influence on contraceptive use which have led to decreased contraceptive use among women of reproductive age in lower cell 7.

The recommendations for the study involved male involvement in contraceptive use and need to educate the women about their reproductive health rights so that both the husband and wife have equal rights to decide on the total number of children they can afford, as well as education on equality of both the male and female child so as to avoid male child preference.