

ABSTRACT

The study was designed to assess the factors influencing the uptake of FP among married couples in Yei Town Payam, Central Equatoria State, South Sudan.

The objectives of the study were; to estimate the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) among the married couple, to determine the socio-cultural and economic factors influencing the uptake of FP services, to establish the access factors to FP and to examine the knowledge level of the married couple on FP uptake..

The study design was a cross-sectional survey which was both qualitative and quantitative with the sample size of 168 respondents mainly married individuals between 15 – 49 years. Data was collected by questionnaires, interview guide and Focus Group Discussion. The data was analyzed by use of SPSS 16 computer software.

The results obtained were in line with the research questions as follows: For this study, demographic factors were found significant in influencing the use of FP by couples except age which had insignificant association with the uptake of family planning.

For the sample size of the study, the contraceptive prevalence rate was 37.5%. Socio-cultural variables among couples were found to influence FP uptake. Economic variables included in the study were significant in determining the uptake of FP services among the married couple.

Access to FP centers had greater influence on the uptake of FP by the married couple. Knowledge level on family planning was found to be considerably high among the married couple including those staying as single.

Conclusion: Health education and involvement of men in FP yields positive results in relation to increase in the CPR, population growth as well as progress in development with reduced dependency ratio amidst period of austerity measures and economic recession. Above all, the main outcome of reducing maternal and infant/child mortality rates is eminent.

The following recommendations were made to government, NGOs and CBOs: new policy development that involves men in FP uptake, increasing awareness level on FP, consideration of FP by government in school programs for sustainability reasons and increasing the school enrollment of both boys and girls in-order to delay marriage at an early age. .