

A comparison study: Risk factors of unplanned pregnancies in a group of Iranian and New Zealander women

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Abstract

Introduction: Despite a substantial rise in contraceptive use around the world, unplanned pregnancies and induced abortion continue to occur. Each year an estimated 19 million abortions are carried out outside the legal system, often by unskilled practitioners or under unhygienic conditions. This paper explores the relationship between contraceptive use and unplanned pregnancies in two completely different groups; Iran as developing region and New Zealand as developed region with different family planning services and different culture. Materials and Methods: This is a cross sectional study That aims to investigate the extent and the causes of unplanned pregnancies, the use of contraceptive methods and the reasons for not using them in order to explore the risk factors of unplanned pregnancies and measuring the rate of unmet needs that all affect on the control of population growth rate. A random sample of 336 pregnant women (168 of each of the countries) was interviewed using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaires were completed by the participants. The data were analysed by Fisher Exact Test, χ^2 , Logistic Regression using SPSS software program and the significance level was based at $P < 0.05$. Result: According to the results, the response rates were 89.3% and 70.0% in the group of Iran and New Zealand respectively. Among the respondents, 47(36.0%) and 46 (31.3%) said that their pregnancy had been unplanned. About 22 (49%) and 36 (78.3%) of respondents were using contraception to prevent this pregnancy and the current pregnancy is from the failure of the contraceptive method or the users of contraceptives. Also 24 (51.1%) and 9 (19.6%) of them said that they did not plan to pregnant but they were not using contraception for some reasons. The low prevalence of contraceptive use in Tehran's sample indicates the failure of family planning clinic to motivate their target group. Also the high prevalence of unplanned pregnancies while using contraceptive methods In Wellington indicates the need for education to improve the women knowledge about how to use the methods. Depending on the condition of the societies, the risk factors of unplanned pregnancies are different. For example, in Wellington some demographic characteristics of women (age, marital status, and education) were associated with their unplanned pregnancies. Therefore the role of women in using family planning programmes is still very important. In Tehran, as a theocratic state, the demographic characteristics of women were not associated with unplanned pregnancies. The partner's educational status was the only risk factor from the demographic variables. In Iran, family planning programmes are based on the religious support of the leaders and the flexibility of Islam in dealing with social issues that is one of the most important reasons for the growth of the family planning programmes in the country. Therefore the role of the government is more important than of the individuals. © EuroJournals Publishing, Inc. 2009.

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