

4. Contraception and Fertility

4.1 Knowledge and Practices to avoid pregnancy

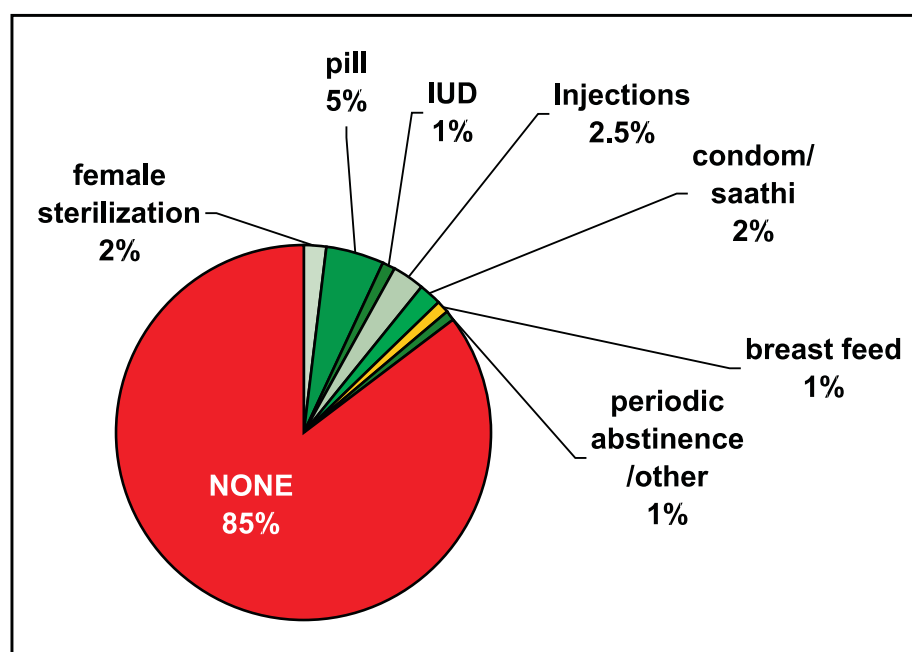
Of all married women aged 15-49 years, about 50% indicated they knew something about any method to delay or avoid pregnancy, with 77% in urban and 43% in rural areas. Far less - 16% - stated they had ever used a method (urban 40% and rural 12%) - Table 27.

4.2 Current use of contraceptives

In Balochistan, the current use of any contraceptive was 14%²⁶ and for modern contraceptives (sterilization, IUD, pill, injections and condom/sathi) was 13%, with much higher rates in urban areas as compared with rural. Modern contraceptive usage is highest in Quetta district (Quetta Chiltan 60% and Zarghoon 35%). Eight districts have a rate of 10-19% and a further 16 at less than 10% (see Map 11).

Of all methods used, the most popular is the pill (5%), followed by injections (2.5%) condom/sathi (2%) and female sterilization (2%) - see Figure 20 below.

Fig 20: Current Contraceptive Use



²⁶The question on ever used was asked of all women (including those pregnant, at the time), while that of current use was asked of non-pregnant women.

4.3 Fertility Rates

The information on fertility was collected on the number of children ever born for all mothers aged 15-49 years at the time of survey. The Mean number of Children Ever Born (MCEB) or average number of total births per women aged 15-49 years (in 5 year intervals) indicates their birth history at one point in time.

For all women aged 15-49, the MCEB is 3.19, more than that reported by the PRHFPS. (Table 28) Women in their early 30's have an average of 4.59 births, rising to 7.02 births for women aged 45-49 years. The MCEB was lower in urban as compared to rural areas. The MCEB for women towards the end of their childbearing, such as those aged 45-49 years, reflects a type of cumulative fertility over their reproductive lifetime²⁷. In table 28, these represent the column under 45-49 years – i.e. 7.02 for Balochistan compared with 8.07 for the PRHFPS. See Annex J, Summary Table 13 for district results.

Table 28: Mean number of children ever born

| Mean number of children ever born (MCEB) - to all women by age group - Balochistan | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | Total |
| MICS | 0.18 | 1.22 | 2.89 | 4.59 | 5.75 | 6.65 | 7.02 | 3.19 |
| PRHFPS | 0.13 | 0.78 | 2.63 | 5.02 | 6.05 | 6.89 | 8.07 | 2.66 |

PRHFPS: Pakistan Reproductive Health and Family Planning Survey 2000-01

| Mean number of children ever born (MCEB) - to all women by age group – by area | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | total |
| BALUCHISTAN | 0.18 | 1.22 | 2.89 | 4.59 | 5.75 | 6.65 | 7.02 | 3.19 |
| Urban | 0.10 | 0.98 | 2.70 | 4.53 | 6.01 | 6.69 | 6.88 | 2.97 |
| Rural | 0.20 | 1.28 | 2.92 | 4.60 | 5.70 | 6.65 | 7.05 | 3.24 |

Total Fertility Rate

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) indicates how many children women are currently having. It is compiled from the Mean Number of Children Ever Born by age groups of women from 15-19 to 45-49, over a given time period, usually the past four years.

Indirect estimates for Total Fertility Rate (TFR) were derived, as it was not possible to collect information on the complete birth history for each woman. The Arriaga method was used to arrive at a TFR of 7.06. The Pakistan Reproductive Health and Fertility Survey (5.37) For Balochistan, Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) (births per 1000 women by five year intervals) and Total Fertility Rate for 15-49 year olds are shown in Table 29. Fertility peaks at age group 25-29 (263 births per 1000 women). The experience of young women up to the age of 30 years is conventional to reflect estimates of current fertility derived from the past fertility levels.

Table 29: Age Specific and Total Fertility Rates

| Age Groups | Age Specific |
|------------|--------------|
| 15-19 | 113 |
| 20-24 | 290 |
| 25-29 | 354 |
| 30-34 | 292 |
| 35-39 | 191 |
| 40-44 | 126 |
| 45-49 | 45 |
| TFR | 7.06 |

The results for MCEB and indirect estimates of Total Fertility Rates by Balochistan, major areas and Districts are included in the Annex Tables. For more details, refer to Technical notes in the Annex I. The estimates of Indirect TFR range from 4.5 to 9.6 children per women.

²⁷This cumulative fertility covers the lifetime reproductive performance of mothers and hence is limited to past fertility levels. It also has the limitation of possible understatement of children ever born due to recall problems of mothers at older age groups.

The relationship between MCEB (15-49 years) and indirect estimates of TFR by District is moderate, as shown in the Figure, where each point represents the district result for the two indicators. However, there is no relationship between the district results for either MCEB (45-49 years) or indirect TFR, with percent of contraceptives used (either modern or any) or with Literacy Rate of Married Women. One explanation may be that the survey did not ask about the frequency or duration of contraceptive use, important factors related to fertility. However, Literacy Rate of Married Women is moderately correlated with Contraceptive Prevalence Rates using district results (see Figure 21b below).

Figure 21 a: MCEB (15-49) and Indirect TFR

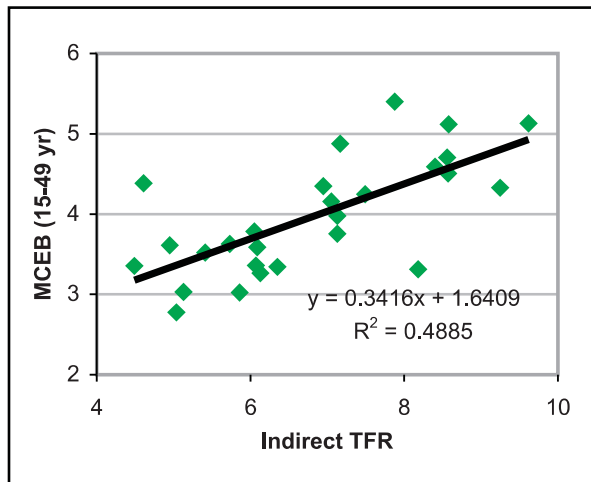


Figure 21 b: Literacy Rate of Married Women and Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Modern)

