

Understanding the Ideal Number of Children and Contraceptive Practices of Filipino Women through Generalized Linear Models

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MOTIVATION

Understanding the fertility preference and contraceptive behavior of women is important in calibrating the rationale and priorities of family planning programs to ensure women's **realization of their reproductive rights and improved reproductive health.**

MOTIVATION

As **declined fertility preference** and **contraceptive prevalence** provide the most widely accepted indicator of success of family planning programs¹, this study aims to provide a picture of the **current fertility trends** in the Philippines for the **improvement of local family planning programs**.

¹ *National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) report 2013*

MOTIVATION

While family planning programs in the Philippines recognize the right of couples to decide their own family size¹, there is **no sufficient literature** that discusses the **differences in dynamics** among those who have **achieved** or **have not achieved** their **desired family size**.

¹ *National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) report 2013*

MOTIVATION

This study hypothesizes that...



Achieved

Fertility Preference

vs.



Have not Achieved

Fertility Preference

Differences in:

- **perception** of ideal family size
- **family planning needs**

OBJECTIVES

Objective no. 1

Ideal number of children was examined under two cases:



Among women who have **achieved** their fertility preference
(*Actual = Ideal*)



Among women who **have not achieved** their fertility preference
(*Actual \neq Ideal*)

MOTIVATION

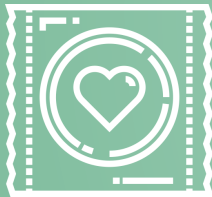
Suggesting that women who have **failed to achieve their fertility preference** have **more urgent need for family planning**, it is imperative to explore their fertility trend through the perspective of **contraceptive behavior**, most especially among non-users, as it is suggested that there is a presence of intention to use contraceptives among them².

² *Fayisetan and Casterline (1999)*

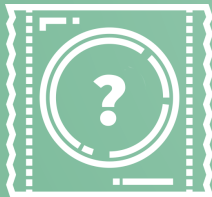
OBJECTIVES

Objective no. 2

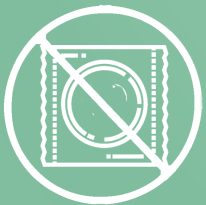
Contraceptive behavior of women who **have not achieved their fertility preference** was analyzed under three cases:



Among **contraceptive users**



Among non-users but with **unfulfilled intention**



Among non-users with **no intention**

MOTIVATION

With these scenarios explored, this study aims to provide better understanding of the current fertility trends and contraceptive intention and practice of Filipino women not only **vis-a-vis other countries**, but with a more **in depth analysis** of such perception and behavior across **different types of Filipino women**.

METHODOLOGY



2013 NDHS conducted by the
Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA)



Respondent Specifications

Women aged 15 to 49 and currently in a union
or living with a man



Sample size

7,861

METHODOLOGY

**Ideal number
of children**
(Count)



Case 1

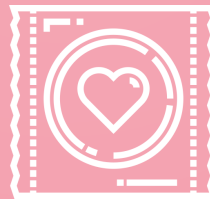
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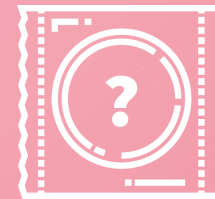
Case 2

Poisson loglinear models

**Contraceptive
Practice and
Intention**
(Binary)

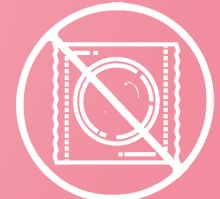


Case 1



Case 2

and



Case 3

Logistic models

METHODOLOGY

Variables of Interest

Women Empowerment Variables

Decision-making Variables

If respondent is the sole decider on:

Her earnings

Husband's earnings

Large household purchases

Small household purchases

Visits to her family or relatives

Spousal Violence Variables

If respondent justifies beating when she:

Goes out without telling her husband

Neglects their children

Argues with her husband

Refuses to have sex with husband

Burns the food

METHODOLOGY

Variables of Interest

Family Planning (FP) Awareness Variables

Discussed FP in the last 12 months with:

Her husband / partner

Her mother

Her father

Her friends / neighbors

METHODOLOGY

The following were also considered:

- Couple dynamic factors
- Demographic factors
- Psychological and social factors

METHODOLOGY

Additional Variables

Additional Family Planning (FP) Variables

Knowledge of a source of FP

Exposure to mass media:

- Watches TV at least once a week
- Listens to radio at least once a week
- Reads newspaper at least once a week

METHODOLOGY

Additional Variables

Additional Fertility Variables

Current number of living children

Ideal number of sons

Whether the respondent gave birth in the last year

Additional Couple Dynamics Variable

Spousal age difference

METHODOLOGY

Additional Variables

Additional Demographic Factors

Wealth index

- Poorest, poorer
- Middle, richer, richest

Employment status

DISCUSSION ON THE

Ideal
NUMBER
of **CHILDREN**

Women Empowerment



While women empowerment index is a significant predictor and usually the largest contributor in explaining women's fertility preference in most developing countries², this study **did not find any influence of the women empowerment index** in the case of the Philippines.

² *DHS Comparative Reports*

Women Empowerment



Instead of factors related to family planning, the ideal number of children for women who have unmet fertility preference is decreased by the women empowerment factors such as **disagreement with her husband on family size and her non-participation in making decisions regarding her family visits.**

Demographics



Just like in the other case, **Islamic affiliation** has the most effect among all other factors, however now constituting to as much as a **70% increase in her mean ideal number of children.**

Common Factors



Age in Years

2%

1%

Type of Residence

(Rural as baseline)

6.5%

7.9%

Islamic Affiliation

(Non-Muslim as baseline)

42.2%

72.5%

Age in Years of First Cohabitation

3%

1%

Discussed Family Planning in the last 12 Months with Neighbor

(Does not discuss as baseline)

5.01%

2.8%

Checks Email or Surfs the Internet at Least Once a Week

(<0 a week as baseline)

9.58%

3.92%

Distinct Factors



Discussed Family Planning in the last 12 Months with Husband

(Does not discuss as baseline)

7.1%



Number of Pregnancy Losses

3.6%

Consensus on Ideal Number of Children

(Both want the same as baseline)

3.1%



Person who Makes Decisions on Visits to Family or Relatives

(Woman participates in decision-making as baseline)

5.6%

Education





			
Respondent	No Education & Primary Education (Secondary education as baseline)	7.4%	5.8%
	Higher Education (Secondary education as baseline)	2.4%	1%
Husband	<i>No Education and Primary Education</i> (Secondary education as baseline)	7.5%	6.7%
	<i>Higher Education</i> (Secondary education as baseline)	1%	5%

DISCUSSION ON

Contraceptive
**PRACTICE &
INTENTION**

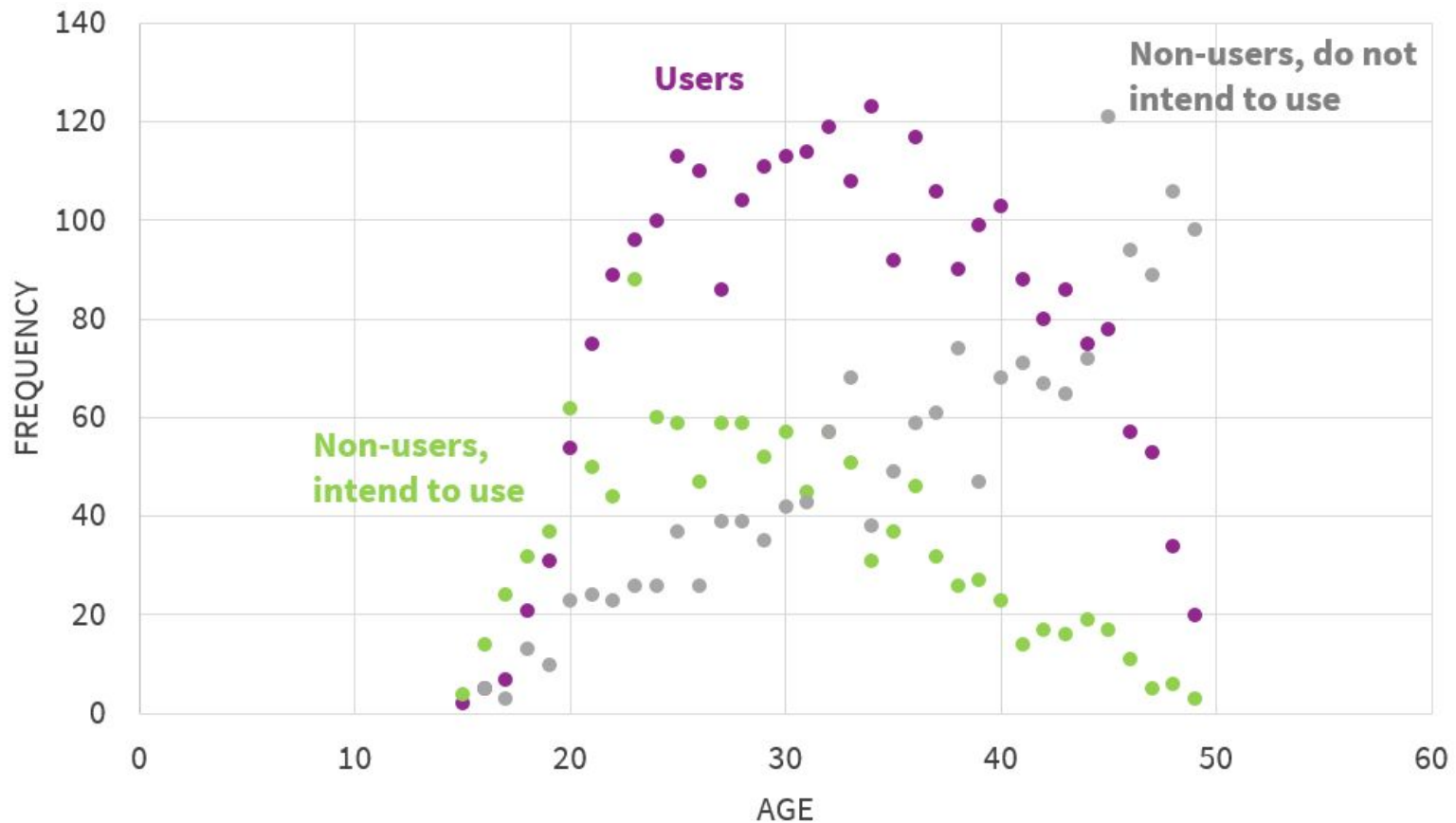
DESCRIPTIVES

Contraceptive Use and Intention of Women Grouped by Their Achievement of Fertility Preference

	Contraceptive Use and Intention	Percent
 <i>n=2113</i>	Contraceptive user	63.9%
	Non-user, has intention to use later	14.1%
	Non-user, has no intention to use	22.0%
 <i>n=5708</i>	Contraceptive user	48.3%
	Non-user, has intention to use later	21.6%
	Non-user, has no intention to use	30.1%

DESCRIPTIVES

Frequency of Contraceptive Users and Types of Non-Users by Age



New Significant Variables

Contrary to the results of analysis on ideal number of children, the following:

Women Empowerment Index

Spousal Violence Justification Variables

Family Planning Awareness Variables

were found to be **significant factors in explaining contraceptive behavior.**

Women Empowerment



Women Empowerment Index

Decides on:

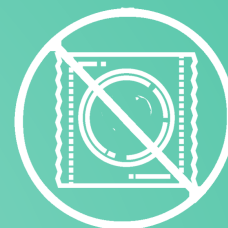
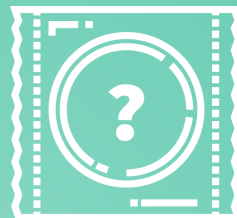
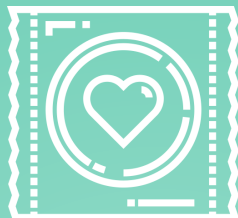
- Her own earnings
- Her husband's earnings
- Her visits to family or relatives
- Large household purchases
- Household purchases for daily needs

6.8%

8.8%

This suggests that women who are **empowered** are more likely to **realize their intention of using contraceptives.**

Spousal Violence Justification



Beating justified if wife

goes out without telling husband

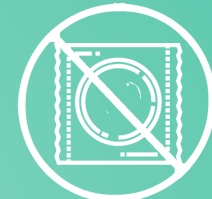
23.1%

73.7%

refuses to have sex with husband

84%

Family Planning



Discussed FP in the last 12 months with	Husband	94%	47.5%
	Neighbor	38%	49.5%
Knows of any source of FP			79.2%
Watches TV at least once a week		29.8%	22.8%

Major Findings



A woman has higher odds of being a contraceptive user only until the **age of 29**, when from then on she is more likely to be a non-user (either with intention or not).

Effect on the odds

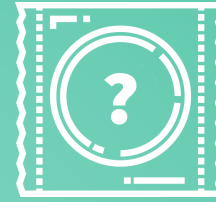


- The more children she has
- Currently employed



- Gave birth in the last year

Major Findings



Effect on the odds

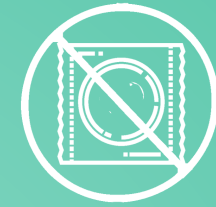


- Belongs to the poor sector



- Knows of any source of FP

Major Findings



Effect on the odds



- Islamic affiliation
- Larger spousal age difference
- Woman having attained a higher education



- The higher their number of living children

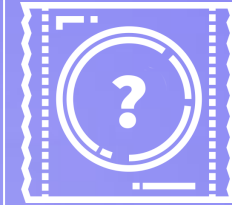
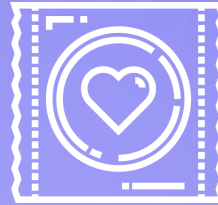
CONCLUSIONS



The factors influencing the ideal number of children for women who have and have not achieved their fertility preference are indeed **found to be different.**

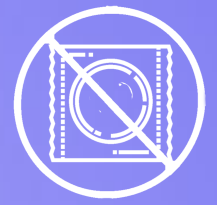
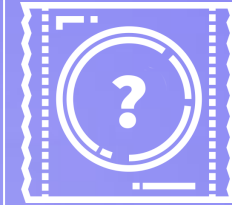
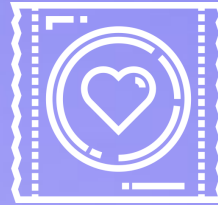
However, unlike other developing countries, there was **not found to be any influence of women empowerment index** on the ideal number of children in the case of the Philippines.

CONCLUSIONS



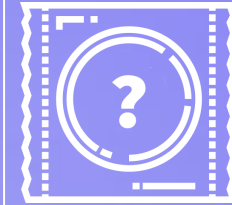
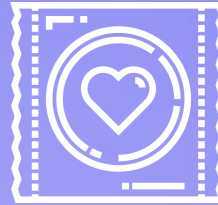
It was found that the range of factors that significantly characterize **contraceptive use is more broad than of non-use**, which is arguably more difficult to capture.

CONCLUSIONS



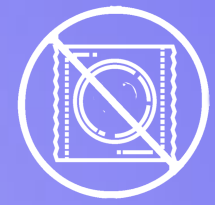
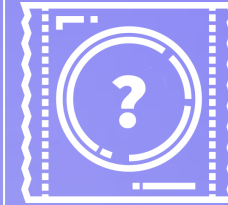
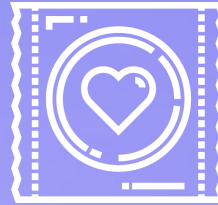
In light of the large positive effect of Islamic affiliation to the desire of having many children and contraceptive non-use with no intention, results provide strong evidence that this is **due to the religion's pronatalist ideology rather than its followers' low socioeconomic status.**

CONCLUSIONS



In general, an **urban or rural setting** was **not found to be a significant factor** in explaining the contraceptive use of women whose ideal number of children is not met. Instead, results suggest that their **non-use of contraceptives** may not be due to where they live in but in their **ability to afford it**.

CONCLUSIONS

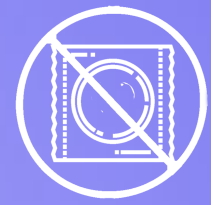
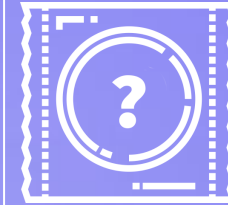
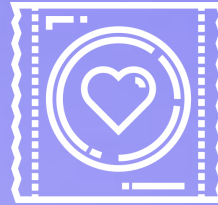


**Have not
Achieved**
Fertility Preference

As a response to these findings, some things the government may be able to do are:

- 1) Raise further **public awareness** of family planning
- 2) Lower the cost or provide free **access to contraceptives**, especially to those who belong in the poor sector
- 3) Promote family planning projects that help women hold the same sense of entitlement as their husband

CONCLUSIONS



With the study's results, policymakers may be able to create fertility-behavior relevant policies from an individual behavior point of view, and implement family planning programs **better tailored to meet the needs of the Filipino women**, especially those who have **unmet fertility preference who may need them the most.**