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PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY PLANNING TECHNOLOGY AMONG STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA: A CASE OF EMMANUEL ALAYANDE UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, OYO

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Abstract

The modern and sophisticated way of birth control and sexual gratification has been a burning issue in the mind of the researchers since its inception and full adoption into the Nigeria's families. The researchers intend to examine the perception of students in higher institution of learning about the use of modern day family planning technology. Emmanuel Alayande University of Education, Erelu, Oyo was taken as a case study for this study. Only 200 students from the five schools of the College formed the target population. A questionnaire is designed to collect relevant information from students. The researchers [redacted] postulated some research questions which were later analyzed using descriptive techniques and content analysis after collecting data from the field through administration of questionnaire forms. Simple percentage methods were used to interpret the collected data in the final analysis.

Keywords: Perceptions, Tertiary Institutions, Family Planning, Nigeria, Technology.

Introduction

The way the population of the world is increasing it is likely that one day either we would have major scarcity of food and shelter or if we follow the process of constantly clearing jungles and provide food for the people in the world, we would over exhaust nature and that would lead to a grave natural

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Various works and researches have been done on perception and attitudes of people to family planning technology, but emphasis is always on the role of married women only without taking cognizance of young (unmarried) women, especially students of higher institution, whether or not they are involved in the family planning syndrome. In spite of the introduction of family planning services as a means of curbing high fertility rate in Nigeria, the population is still rising at an alarming rate. In 1991 the Population figure of Nigeria was put at 88.5million. In 2006 the figure was put at 150 million. The figures almost double the earlier figure just in 15 years interval. This is too much. The issue of family planning all over the world has attracted much attention from scholars and international organizations due to its importance in decision making about population growth and development issue. (Olawepo, 2003).

The World Health Organization (2022) defined Family Planning as the practice that helps individuals or couples, to attain certain objectives such as avoiding unwanted pregnancies, regulating the interval between pregnancies, controlling the time at which birth occurs in relation to the ages of the parents and determining the number of children in the family. Elgamal (2013) stressed that, Family planning implies that a couple discuss when and how many children they can have so that they can give the utmost care to the child, financially, psychologically and socially

United Nations (UN) (2022) figures show that worldwide, about a two thirds of all coupled practicing family planning rely on methods that require male cooperation, including modern methods such as the use of condoms and male sterilization. Danforth (1999) indicates that overwhelming reliance on female methods has led to the believe that contraception is only for women. This resulted in women being the most family planning providers and they do not involve men because of the perception that the family planning technology is only easier to use among women than men.

The closing decades of the twentieth century saw important developments in reproductive medicine and these have, in turn, impacted the meaning and experience of conception, pregnancy. labour and delivery and mothering. Scientific developments and medical technology for example, have opened a multitude of choices for childbearing women that were not available to them until relatively recently. The future may expand the potential for this considerably

further. However, the extent to which increased technological intervention in reproductive process has been a friend or foe to women has been the subject of much debate amongst feminists (Corea, 1985; Griffin, 1983, Oakley 1976, 1984, 1993). These writers have suggested that technological intervention has a two-edged sword for women. On one hand, it has enabled women to control their fertility in ways never before possible. On the other hand, women who otherwise may not have been able to produce a child to become mother, and contributed to reduce maternal and infant mortality, morbidity and suffering.

Population policy cannot be considered apart from many other values and goals of society. Availability of birth control knowledge been listed as a means for population policy because it is required to materialize the principle of voluntary parenthood, for use or nonuse according to the individual couple's own judgment. In some instances, however, an offspring is too undesirable that even a democratic state will want to enforce limitation of parenthood. Negative eugenics has its place as a means for population policy. The necessity of enforcing a radical elimination of extremely unfit and worthless individuals through sterilization is generally recognized, while the domain for compulsory sterilization is still limited, voluntary sterilization ought to be provided for by legislation. When birth control has been spoken of as a means for population policy, only preconception control through sterilization or anti-conception devices have been envisaged. Birth control which realizes itself through terminating an already incurred pregnancy by induce abortion has no place in a population programme that prides itself on rationality.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

This paper is aimed at examining the perception of family planning technology among the students of tertiary institution zeroing down on a College of education in Oyo State. The following are the specific objectives of the study, which are to:

(i) examine the relationship between family planning techniques and sexuality?.

(ii) assess the cases of pregnancies and the use of family planning technology among the students

(iii) examine the need for sex education in the school curriculum of tertiary institution

Research Questions

The three research questions were stated as follows:

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(i) Is there any strong relationship between family planning techniques and sexuality?
(ii) Are there any cases of pregnancies and the use of family planning technology among the students?
(iii) Is there any need for sex education in the school curriculum of tertiary institution?

Population and Sampling Technique

The target population for this study is two hundred (200) students from Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo. The college comprises five schools, and each of the school was allocated 40 questionnaire forms to administer. Table 1 shows this. Only 300 level students formed the respondents for the study. The students were randomly selected for administration of questionnaire. Majority of the respondents falls within the age bracket of 22-25 years. On the average, only 65% of the total respondents constituted females while 35% were males.

Method of Data Collection

A questionnaire is designed to elicit relevant information from the respondents, that is, students.. A total of two hundred questionnaire forms were produced, distributed and administered accordingly. All the administered questionnaire forms were collected after giving adequate time for the respondents to fill. The administered questionnaire forms were collected the following day. Table 1 shows the name of the selected Schools and number of questionnaire forms allocated to each.

Table 1: Name of Schools and Number of Questionnaire Forms Allocated

S/N	Name of Faculty	No. of Questionnaire forms
1.	Faculty of Arts Social Sciences	40
2.	Faculty of Education	40
3.	Faculty of Social Sciences	40
4.	Faculty of Science	40
5	Faculty of Vocational and Technical	40
	Total	200

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Findings and Discussions

This aspect of the study discusses the research questions earlier put forward.

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Research Question Number 1: Is there any strong relationship between family planning techniques and sexuality?

From the raw information collected from primary source, that is, through the use of questionnaire (item number 1 of section B), it is confirmed that many of the respondents do have sexuality without necessarily engaging in family planning technology. In fact, those who responded 'NO' to this question (82%) is greater than their counterparts who responded 'YES' which is only 18%. Therefore the research question is accepted because of the respondents declared no relationship between family planning technology and sexuality. This emphasizes the fact that whatever happens, sexuality abounds among the selected respondents (students) even without family planning method of birth control. Further still, based on item number 2 of section B of the questionnaire, it is rightly observed that 65% of the total respondents disagree to have enjoyed sexuality if they use condom/cervical cap. This means that the respondents do not regard family planning method when sexuality arises.

Research Question Number 2: Are there any cases of pregnancies and the use of family planning technology among the students?

The data collected for the study indicate that the STD cases, contacted by the respondents is quite infinitesimal and very minute that is, 5%. This is confirmed through item number 5 of section B of the questionnaire which asks whether or not a respondent has contacted any STD. From the total responses, only 5% had ever contacted STD though claimed to have been treated while 95% are free from such upsurge. The researcher therefore asserts that as at the time of fielding this research work there is little or no cases of STD among the students of the study college.

Research Question Number 3: This question states that: Is there any need for sex education in the school curriculum of tertiary institution?

It is realized from the data collected that a larger percentage that is, 58% of the total respondents considered sex education very important in the school curriculum. Although majority of them do not practice family planning technology but viewed that the only benefit derivable from sex education is to avoid unwanted pregnancy and to have a minimum of 3-4 children in one's family life. This according to them would give prospective parents adequate attention and care on the little children they might have.

However, only 33% said sex education is not important and should be neglected in the school curriculum. They argued, when interviewed through field survey, that it will be too ridiculous and anti-cultural, to expose young people to sex education on which the society placed high

The remaining 9% were neither support sex education in the school curriculum nor against it. Moreover, those who support the view of having sex education in the school curriculum observed that through sex education one will know the rudiment of family affairs and how to handle sexuality wisely. They believe only in using condom/cervical cap if it is mandatory for them to have any sex.

The fact that those who supported this research question are more than those opposing it makes the question to be accepted. The researcher also accepts the question in support of the Federal Government Campaign for sex education in the school curricular at all levels of Education in Nigeria

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is gathered from the study college that family planning technology has nothing to do with sexuality. So majority of the targeted population do not dare engage in any family planning technology. It is however believed that, sex education is important in the school curriculum and will only help in the area of preventing unwanted pregnancies and to have a minimum number of children that a parent can adequately cater for.

Recommendations

Since there was demand, every expansion of access to service has led to increase in uptake of family planning. The introduction of family planning in Nigeria as a maternal and child health intervention programme, including the mother could bring a child to the clinic for vaccination and also receive injectable contraceptives herself helped its widespread acceptance with no obvious link to fertility. The following strategies could also help to family planning prograramme in Nigeria by strengthening health systems capacity, improving information for priority setting, mobilizing political will, creating supportive legislative and regulatory frameworks, and strengthening monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

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