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TITLE OF THE THESIS: ATTITUDE OF MUSLIMS TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EDUCATED AND UNEDUCATED MUSLIMS OF DELHI

ABSTRACT

Findings

Problem of population is a recognized fact and developing countries like India are particularly very vulnerable to this menace. Muslims in India are not untouched with this issue they being largest growing community in India in terms of population. Findings imply that though no religious text in Islam proscribes the use of contraceptives or limited families, but still Muslims seem to be averse to family planning.

The findings of literature review suggests that many scholars and researchers have identified multiple reasons for high fertility rate among the Muslim community and socio-economic conditions including education is one of the most important factors in this regard. The objective of the study therefore was to examine the affective, cognitive and behavioural components of the attitude of Muslims towards family planning in Delhi region of India.

The universe of study being Delhi, stratified random sampling for sample size 500, data was collected through a semi-structured interview schedule which included Likert type scale. Cronbach's alpha, mean, standard deviation, one way analysis of variance ANOVA, K Independent Samples Median Test, Independent Samples t Test, Pearson Chi-Square Test and Pearson Correlation were various statistical methods used in the present study.

The key finding of the study was that education and gender have influence on the attitude of the respondents towards family planning, nevertheless age, income, age at marriage as variables have no such sway. Additionally, the study finds that the educated Muslims have more incidents of using contraceptives as compared to the uneducated Muslims, who attach value to having more children.

The study infers that the Muslim community being studied relies more on barrier method, which is reversible and non permanent. It was found that most of the respondents despite of their level of educational achievement have knowledge of family planning (terming it good and necessary), though educated ones are more aware as compared to the uneducated ones.

Further, educated males as well as the uneducated females give value to larger families considering them to be culturally and politically as an advantage. Huge majority among all the respondents have not planned their first child therefore it can be established that there is large gap between marriage and the first child. There is a gap in the awareness level of the respondents on Islamic injunctions regarding family planning and allied concepts.

The study finds and suggests that the governments at central and state levels should not treat Muslim community as a monolith. Further, the study states that family planning schemes must be culturally sensitive so that they are acceptable to the community. The interventions should be women centric and easy availability, affordability and regular supply of contraceptives in Muslim dominated areas should be ensured by concerned agencies.