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Barriers to modern contraceptive use among women seeking abortion care service in public hospitals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A case control study

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Background: Globally, about 80 million pregnancies end in stillbirth or induced abortion each year. Due to high unmet need for family planning and its subsequent effects, many women in Ethiopia are experiencing the challenges of abortion and unwanted child birth. As a result, the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia has designed the distribution of contraceptives in all health facilities including drug stores and the provision of safe abortion services in medical setup for those who demand the service based on the legal background of the country. However, despite these provisions, the problem of unintended pregnancy and abortion remained unsolved.

Objective: To identify barriers to modern contraceptive use among women seeking abortion services in Addis Ababa.

Method: A hospital based case control study was conducted in Addis Ababa at four selected hospitals. The case group (190 women) consisted of patients who came for seeking abortion service and the control group (190 women) who are sexually active girls but do not use contraceptive method. A pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaire was administered to each individual to collect information on identification data, socio-demographic profile, and different barriers to contraceptive use. Odds ratio and their 95% confidence intervals were estimated using binary logistic regression, with contraceptive use as an outcome in the multivariate regression analysis. In addition, in depth interviews were conducted with the service provider using in depth interview guide.

Results: A total of 380 women were interviewed. Among the sociodemographic variables, contraceptive nonuse was higher among illiterate and those with primary education level. After adjustment for potential confounders, being married (AOR = 3.35; 95% CI: 1.18, 6.74), hearing about side effects from others rather than experiencing or seeing it (AOR = 2.75; 95% CI: 1.56, 4.92), knowing contraceptives can be utilized from health centers (AOR = 1.65; 95% CI: 1.24, 3.15; P, 0.02) increased the use of contraceptive method. In contrary, switching contraceptive methods before will reduce use contraceptive methods (AOR = 0.61; 95% CI: 0.45, 0.89; P, 0.001).

Conclusion: Women related, partner related and social and service related factors were found to be important factors of contraceptive use. The study gives useful information to organizations working on SRH to introduce measures that could improve the utilization of contraceptives.

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