

## SUMMARY

This study was a community based descriptive cross sectional study to determine the prevalence of non users of modern family planning methods and to describe factors associated with non use, among married women in the reproductive age, living in district-1 of the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC). The objective of the study was to collect information on prevalence and factors associated with non use of modern family planning methods with regard to demographic, socio-economic, reproductive characteristics of the study population and to describe factors associated with non use of modern family planning methods. The aim was to recommend measures, which could be taken to improve the use of modern family planning methods among eligible families.

To achieve first three specific objectives of the study, the sample was selected using systematic sampling method. The maximum sample size was calculated as 400 families having a married woman in the reproductive age, in the study area. Data collection commenced on the first of August 2002 and was carried out for a period of one month by using an interviewer administered questionnaire.

The highest ethnic proportion was Tamil then Sinhala. Religion wise more Christians were living in the study area, than the Buddhists. Ethnic wise Moor population had the highest unmet need for family planning, but religion wise Christians showed the highest. The study observed that there were nearly 50% of less educated, engaged in unskilled work, low income families live in the area. Mean age of the study population was 34 years.

Seventy four percent of women were married before the average age at marriage in Sri Lanka (24.6 yrs.), where as, 20% of study population delivered there first baby when they were teenagers. Total fertility rate was high (2.9%) in the area and the average child space was more than two years. Percentage of induced abortions was high (2.1%) in the study area.

The study results showed that the family planning prevalence for any method was 64.7% which is lower than the national figure of 71%. The prevalence for modern methods was 47.5% and for natural and traditional methods being 17.2%. Injectables were the most accepted modern method while female sterilization was the next. Unmet need for modern methods was higher among teenagers and women above 35 years of age. Twenty four percent had unmet need for modern methods.

The study was observed that 18% of the current users are not satisfied with the method they use mainly due to side effects. Similarly, ten percent of study population with unmet need, had previously used a modern method but dropped due to dissatisfaction. Contraceptive method failures were higher among Condoms, Injectables and Oral Pill users.

Seventy one percent of factors associated with non use of modern methods were related to community factors, such as, lack of awareness, lack of motivation, fear of side effects, and husband's disapproval. Service factors (29%) were mainly related to low post partum care, side effects due to Injectables and IUCD, and fear of IUCD implanting procedure.

The study recommends to allocate adequate man power and other resources, update knowledge of field staff by essential training, introduce quality management system, enhance health promotional activities, and future community studies to improve family planning program.