

ABSTRACT

Partner Support for Female Contraceptive Use

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The study of partner support for female contraceptive use was conducted in February 1989. This cross-sectional study focussed on the social and demographic variables of women who are currently users and non-users of contraceptives. The variables included education, occupation, age and fertility and their relationship to the level, intensity and quality of partner support they received from their male partners. The study sought to determine communication between the partners and the level of approval for contraceptive use, content of communication and the experience of side-effects.

Partner support for contraceptive use in the study was generally low. Practical support from the men to promote continuous method use being low. There is, however, a higher level of approval given by the men for contraceptive use.

The experience of side-effects from contraceptive methods, although not experienced by the majority has serious consequences for creating unmet needs for contraceptives among those so affected.

There is the need to develop relevant and accessible family planning services for men, while expanding those already in place for women, to address the new and ongoing issues in family planning.