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**MUSLIM WOMEN's ROLE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
DECISION MAKING AND THEIR VULNERABILITY TO STIs
AND HIV&AIDS IN ANKPA LGA OF KOGI STATE NIGERIA**



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Abstrak

Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) telah menamakan tahun 2000 sebagai tahun di mana kesaksamaan gender, pembangunan dan keharmonian terhadap wanita untuk abad ke-dua puluh dijamin. PBB menekankan bahawa isu-isu gender berhubung dengan pembangunan kehidupan wanita diberikan perhatian yang serius dalam meningkatkan Kesihatan Reproduksi Membuat Keputusan (KRMK). Kajian ini meninjau komunikasi isteri antara pasangan di Ankpa LGA yang mana gender menentukan kehidupan manusia. Pernyataan masalah mengandaikan bahawa wanita yang sudah berkahwin mudah terdedah kepada Jangkitan Penyakit Kelamin dan *Human Immunodeficiency Virus* (HIV) dan Sindrom Kurang Daya Tahan Penyakit (AIDS) kerana kurangnya penglibatan mereka dalam KRMK. Objektif kajian ini merangkumi: (a) menganalisis peranan wanita dalam proses KRMK; (b) menjelaskan faktor-faktor utama yang mempengaruhi penyertaan wanita dalam KRMK; (c) menentukan kesan penglibatan wanita dalam KRMK; d) menganalisis cabaran yang dihadapi oleh wanita dalam menyumbang kepada KRMK dan; (e) membangunkan satu model komunikasi yang memudahkan wanita dalam penyertaan KRMK. Melalui penyelidikan kualitatif yang berlandaskan kepada persampelan bertujuan, kajian ini memilih dua puluh wanita yang sudah berkahwin sebagai informan dan dua perbincangan kumpulan fokus. Temubual mendalam telah digunakan untuk pengumpulan data. Hasil kajian telah dianalisis melalui analisis kandungan tematik dan ia menunjukkan bahawa (a) Wanita agak jahil berhubung dengan pengetahuan seminar antarabangsa berhubung dengan populasi dan pembangunan; (b) Wanita menghadapi cabaran dalam usaha mereka untuk menyumbang kepada KRMK; (c) Wanita yang berkahwin tidak menyumbang kepada KRMK; (d) Mereka mudah terdedah kepada STI dan HIV & AIDS ini menghalang mereka terlibat dalam KRMK; dan (e) kajian ini dapat membentuk model komunikasi untuk meningkatkan sumbangan wanita terhadap KRMK.

Kata Kunci: Wanita, KRMK, Kesaksamaan gender, Komunikasi, STI dan HIV / AIDS

Abstract

The United Nations (UN) named year 2000 as the year in which gender equality, development and peace shall be guaranteed women for the twenty first century. The UN emphasized that gendered issues surrounding the reproductive life of women be paid serious consideration in promoting the Reproductive Health Decision-Making (RDHM) process. This study explored spousal communication between couples in Ankpa LGA where gender dictates the life of people. The presenting problem also implied how vulnerable married women were to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) due to their lack of contribution to RDHM. The studies objectives were to: (a) analyze women's role in the RDHM process; (b) explain the key factors influencing women's participation in RDHM; (c) determine the impacts of women's involvement in RDHM; (d) analyze the challenges faced by women in contributing to the RDHM and; (e) develop a communication model that facilitates participation RDHM. Through a qualitative research purposive sampling was employed to select twenty married women as informants and two focus group discussions (FGDs). The in-depth interviews were used for data collection. Findings were analyzed using thematic content analysis and showed that objective (1) the analysis of women's role RDHM showed lack of knowledge of RH and reproductive rights, (2) the key factors impeding women's participation in RDHM were explained in the findings of the study (3) for the third objective it was also agreed that married women do not contribute to RDHM due to the challenges faces as shown in the second objective and (4), and finally the fourth objective showed that women are vulnerable to STIs and HIV&AIDS, and finally (5) the study was able to design a communication model that can enhance women's communication ability and facilitate participation on RDHM.

Keywords: Women, RDHM, gender equality, communication, STIs and HIV/AIDS.

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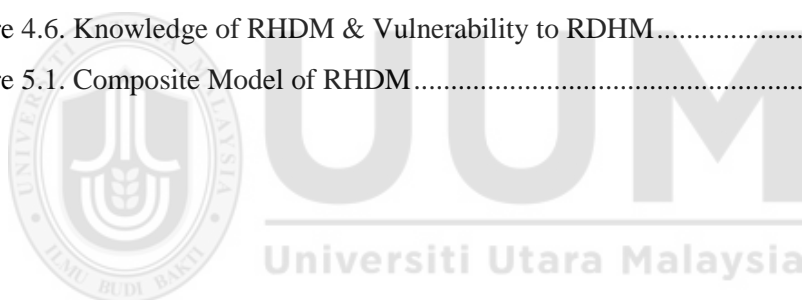
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List of Publications

- Baba, B. I., Rajwani, Zain, M.D. & Hussayn I. U. (2014). Women's role in reproductive health decision-making and vulnerability to STIs and HIV & AIDS infection in Ankpa LGA of Kogi State. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, 2 (2), 17-33.
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List of Abbreviations

AA	Action Aid
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante Natal Clinic
AURA	Auto Reinforcement Accompagne
AU	African Union
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CWD	Centre for Woman Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN)
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOS	Federal Office of Statistics (Nigeria)
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
GFR	General Fertility Rate
HBM	Health Behavior Model
HIV+	Human Immuno deficiency Virus +
HIV-	Human Immuno deficiency Virus -
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IDI	In-depth Interview
IGWG	Inter Governmental Working Group
JMTR	Joint mid-Term Review
KJV	King James Version
LGA	Local Government Authority
MCH	Maternal Child Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
NACA	National Agency for the Control of Aids
NDHS	National Demographic Health Survey
NPC	National Population Commission
NIV	New International Version

NSF	National Strategic Framework
NRR	National Response Review
PBC	Perceived Behavior Control
PLWHIV	People Living With Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
PRB	Population Reference Bureau
RSV	Revised Standard Version
RHDM	Reproductive Health Decision-Making
SCT	Social Cognitive Theory
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Commission
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TRA	Theory of Reasoned Action
TPB	Theory of Planned Behavior
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activity
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commission for Human Rights
UNICEF	United Nations Children Emergency Fund
WCW	World Conference on Women
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The revolution around the role of women in the social order has been a global one creating more awareness about gender roles in policy making and the need to adopt gender inclusive perspective goals for the purpose of empowering women. According to United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), (2005) when these goals are achieved then development, peace and the condition necessary for sustainable development would have been created.

Past United Nation's conferences such as the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979), the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna (1993), the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (1994), the World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995), and the Security Council Resolution of the United Nations (2000), have all paid serious attention to ensuring equal treatment of men and women.

The widespread existence of discrimination against women prompted resolution 12 of CEDAW in the area of equality of men and women in healthcare including those related to the family worldwide National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA, 2012). Beijing (1995) restates the commitment reached at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) with special emphasis on women's procreative health and rights. The ICPD (1994) saw procreative health as 'the state of

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List of Appendices

Appendix A

Ethics Approval

Dear Mr. Idris

Letter of support from Kaduna Polytechnic Social Development Department

This is a letter informing you of the approval of the ethics department of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, Kaduna Polytechnic conveying of the ethical consideration for your interview women in Ankpa LGA for the purpose of sampling their opinion in the conduct of your research on “The Role of Women in Reproductive Health Decision Making and their Vulnerability to STIs and HIV & AIDS in Ankpa LGA of Kogi State, Nigeria.”

We wish you the very best in your efforts and pray for a successful completion of the your programme

Accept the assurance of the director’s highest regards

Thanks and Regards, Gabriel Amana Ochimana

Appendix B

Consent Form

Title of the study:

Muslim Women's Role in Reproductive Health Decision Making and their Vulnerability to STIs and HIV & AIDS in Ankpa LGA of Kogi State, Nigeria.

Researcher:

Hussayn Umar Idris, School of School of Social Development, Awang Had Sallah Graduate College of ARTS and Sciences: yesminama@yahoo.co.uk (Mat N0 s95237, 2348060037498).

Supervisors:

Prof. Dr, Ismail Bin Baba School of School of Social Development, Awang Had Sallah Graduate College of ARTS and Sciences ibaba@uum.edu.my (+60124055315).

Dr Rajwani MD Bint Zain School of School of Social Development, Awang Had Sallah Graduate College of ARTS and Sciences rajwani@uum.edu.my (+60134830900).

Appendix C

Invitation to Participate:

You are invited to participate in a study conducted by Mr Hussayn Idris Umar, who is a student from Universiti Utara Malaysia, being supervised by the above named.

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of the invitation is to conduct an in-depth interview with you on your opinion and thoughts about women's role in reproductive health decision making knowledge of STIs, and HIV & AIDS and gender issues affecting women's matrimonial life generally.

Participation:

You will be asked to participate in a Focus Group Discussion/ with four other married Muslim women/ In-depth Interview, being involved in a discussion with other married women within reproductive age group. This will last for about an hour and half and will take place at the primary health care center in Ankpa there will also be provided refreshments and snacks.

Risks:

Participating in this study might make you feel uneasy and uncomfortable because you will be asked questions about (RHDM) family planning and life as a married wife in a house. Talking with the researcher might take some time away from household duties. But, you are assured by the researcher Mr. Hussayn Idris Umar that you don't have to answer any questions that you are not comfortable about. You can stop the interview anytime you want.

Benefits:

Talking with you will help the researcher understand better life as a married wife and how women take care of their health and it could also help learn things that you didn't know that you ought to know.



Appendix D

Confidentiality and anonymity:

The researcher Mr Hussayn Idris Umar has assured you that whatever information divulged during the interview will not be told to anyone else. Your name or any information that can be used to identify you or family will not be asked or noted down. Everything that you say will be recorded so that we can listen to the tape and write down what you said. Instead, if the researcher wants to use something you have said then he will use the fake name assigned to you. Only the researcher his assistant and his study “ supervisor will actually know your identity and they will not reveal that to anyone or write it down anywhere. If you participate in the FGD, the other discussants may know you are, and you will know who they are too. But you will take care about not telling our family members or other friends about who said what during those discussions.

Conservation of data:

The information collected will be kept on computers and notes, questionnaires and other documents will be locked away in the researcher’s office only the researcher and his thesis supervisors will be able to have that information. This information will be stored for 3 years but after that will be deleted.

Compensation:

No form of material compensation will be offered for participation in the exercise nor will any material inducement will be given to anyone for participant other the snacks that will be provided.

Voluntary Participation:

You are not being forced or coerced or induced to participate in this study. You know that you can stop talking at any point you wish and you can choose not to give answers to questions that make you uncomfortable. You will not have problems at home if you participate in this study because they have permission from your husband and mother-in law if you choose to stop midway all the information you have provided will be destroyed and used.

Acceptance:

I, (Name of participant), agree to participate in this study with Mr. Hussayn Idris Umar, who is a student from Malaysia and who is here with the Kaduna Polytechnic as a lecturer. If you have any questions about this study, you can contact Mr.Hussayn Idris Umar (080 60037498).

If I have any concerns or requests regarding ethics of the study, I can also contact the Ethics officer at the Kaduna Polytechnic.

There are two copies of the consent form, one is for you and the other is for Mr Hussayn Idris Umar

Participant's signature:

Date:

Witness (needed in the case where a participant is illiterate, blind, etc.):

Signature

Date:

Researcher's signature: (Signature)

Date



Appendix E

Verbal Recruitment Script

You are invited to participate in a study regarding your life as a married wife. If you agree to participate, then you will talk with Mr Hussayn Idris Umar who works in Kaduna Polytechnic but is a student in UUM. Your participation will involve giving us an interview, which will last for around an hour. We will interview you at the primary health care clinic in Ankpa you will participate in the In-depth interview or the Focus Group Discussion. The FGD will last from an hour to an hour and half, and it will take place in the same venue. Participating in the interview and the group discussions may make you feel uncomfortable because we will ask you some personal questions about reproductive health, your relationship with your husband and in-laws, and your ability to take decisions for yourself and your health. However, if you feel uncomfortable or if you don't want to answer the question, you can refuse. If after starting the interview, you feel like you don't want to participate anymore, we will stop it and we won't use any of the information you provided. Also, if you have any problems or if you need any help, we will provide you with more information regarding some of the issues discussed. Would you like to participate in this study?

We are using the term "family planning" instead of sex and reproduction in the verbal recruitment. This is because within the social context of rural Ankpa, the terms "sex", "sexuality" and "reproduction" are considered too direct and almost invasive. "Family Planning" on the other hand includes reference to sex and "reproduction" as well as pregnancy and childbirth issues and overall as a term is less offensive to people's sensibilities.

Appendix F

Verbal Assent Script

I (name of participant) agree to participate in the study with Mr Hussayn Idris Umar who is a student from UUM and who is working here with the Kaduna Polytechnic. I am not being forced to participate in this study. I know I can stop talking at any point I wish and I can choose not to give answers to questions that make me feel uncomfortable. If I chose to stop the interview and decide that I don't want to participate anymore, all the information I have given to them will not be used. If I have any questions about health or anything else, and I need more information or help, I can contact Mr Hussayn Umar Idris. If I have any questions regarding the study, I can contact.



Appendix G

Debriefing Text

Thank you very much for your participation in this study. Your insights are invaluable and they will help us understand better the lives of married women like yourself and their health. You are reassured that all information shared will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to anybody else except the Researcher and his supervisors in Malaysia. At no point will we use your real name or any information that may reveal your identity. The information that you have provided us will be used to write a report on married women and their life, especially their ability and opportunities to make decisions regarding their health. We will share this report with the UUM and Kaduna Polytechnic. If you have any questions regarding the study, please contact the Researcher or his supervisors and the Director College of Arts and Social Sciences, Kaduna Polytechnic.

Thank you for your participation!