

Predictors of the correct use of contraceptive pills among urban and rural Iranian females

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Abstract

Introduction: Human population growth control is one of the most important health priorities in developing countries, including Iran. The correct use of contraceptive pills can play an important role in family planning programs. Therefore, the present study with an ecological design looked at the predictors of the correct use of contraceptive pills among urban and rural Iranian females.

Materials & Methods: This study uses data from the Iranian nationwide Demographic Health Survey (DHS), which took place in both urban and rural communities in the year 2000. The data for urban and rural populations were analyzed separately, employing SPSS (Version 13) to design a multivariate logistic regression model which reports both odds ratio and 95% confidence intervals. In this method the proportion of the correct use of contraceptive pills among females has been considered as a single dependent variable and the effects of five independent variables, that follow, have been determined on it. 1- The proportion of females who have been taught to use contraceptive pills correctly. 2- Mean age of marriage in these females. 3- The proportion of illiteracy among married females, aged 10-49. 4- The proportion of immigration among married females, aged 10-49. 5- The proportion of employment among married females, aged 10-49.

Results: The findings of this survey reveal that in both Iranian urban and rural populations, only one of the independent variables _ i.e. the proportion of females who have been taught to use contraceptive pills correctly _ can predict the variations of the correct use of the contraceptive pills among females.

Conclusion: Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that any educational program aiming to increase the knowledge of Iranian females on the correct use of contraceptive pills, will be more effective than the other variables under study.

Key Words: Family planning, Contraceptive pills, Health promotion, Ecological Study, Iran.

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