Effects of Mortality of Contraceptive Use and Fertility Preference in Uganda

The recent Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2006 Uganda shows a low contraceptive prevalence of 24% coupled with high total fertility rate of 6.9 and a high under five morality rates of 136 deaths per 1000 live births. Though the mortality rates are still very high in Uganda most of the deaths due to easily preventable and public health seeking behaviors. Research has shown that the proportion of women wanting to have another child decreases with the increasing number of living children. Despite efforts made by the government to reduce the rates through improved immunization campaigns, PMTCT programs, provision of free education especially to the girl child and improved health care system the rates continue to remain high. It is possible that women with living children are more likely to post pone fertility preference compared to their counterparts.

Study objective

This study set out to examine the effect of under-five mortality on fertility preference and contraceptive use in Uganda

Study hypotheses

1. Women who gave birth to a live child who later died are more likely to not to use any contraceptives compared to those living children
2. Women who lost a child are more likely to prefer having another child compared to their counterparts.

Methodology

Data for this analysis were drawn on the Uganda demographic and heath survey of 2006 on a sample of 8531 women. The data used herein was selected based on birth and death histories as well as on reproduction and contraception information. The key variables used in the study included questions on whether women would want to have another child and whether they were using or intended to use contraceptives. Descriptive statistics and frequency distributions of respondents' background characteristics were generated. Logistic regression models were used to

examine the relationship between child survival status with whether a woman would want to have another child and whether they were using or intend to use contraceptives. The level of significance was fixed at 0.05 to accept the hypotheses set.

Findings

Findings showed high statistical significance between child survival and the independent variables which included; contraceptive use, fertility preference, education, religion and wealth status. The odds ratios from the logistic regression models present that women who had lost a child were three times more likely not to use contraceptives. In addition those women were more likely to prefer having another child.

Recommendations;

- Interventions should be made towards mortality reductions especially in vulnerable populations
- There is to improve access to health care and programs to target the vulnerable populations.