



Having No Son Impacts Unmet Need for Family Planning: Evidence Based on Demographic Health Survey Data of Bangladesh

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 13 June 2024

Reviewer:

The sentence "Reduction in fertility rate (3.44 in 1993 and 2.3 in 2014) is one of the reasons for achieving such economic development" needs further explanation. It would be beneficial to explain how the reduction in fertility rate contributed to economic development with specific examples or references.

You mention "unwanted pregnancy occurs due to non-use of contraceptives, contraceptive failure, and rape," but only focus on non-use in subsequent analysis. Consider addressing contraceptive failure and rape in the discussion or clarifying why these factors were excluded.

The summary statistics presented are comprehensive but lack any discussion of potential biases. Consider discussing any limitations or biases that might arise from the sample selection or data collection methods.

The interpretation of the odds ratios could be strengthened by providing more context or comparisons. For example, what does a 22% higher odds of unmet need mean in practical terms for policy implementation?

The discussion on the association between age gap and unmet need is insightful but could be expanded. Consider exploring why age disparity might create a communication gap within partners over FP and how this finding aligns with cultural or social norms in Bangladesh.

The adjusted effect of the number of living children on unmet need is mentioned briefly. It would be beneficial to explore this finding further, especially since it contrasts with the bivariate analysis results.

The impact of education on unmet needs is discussed, but the policy implications are not fully explored. Consider adding recommendations for educational interventions or programs that could address unmet need based on this finding.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 16 June 2024

Reviewer:

The statement "several studies found that higher parity had higher odds of unmet need" lacks specific citations. Please add references to support this claim and provide a brief summary of the findings of these studies.

The description of the sampling process mentions 600 clusters but does not provide details on how these clusters were distributed across the country. Consider including a map or table to illustrate the geographic distribution of clusters to enhance clarity.

The definition of the response variable (unmet need for FP) could benefit from additional detail. Consider expanding on how unmet need was operationalized and any challenges associated with this measurement.

The logistic regression model is well-described, but it would be helpful to include a justification for the choice of variables included in the model. Why were certain variables chosen over others?

The discussion around household wealth and unmet need could be expanded. Specifically, it would be useful to explore why wealthier households might have a lower unmet need and how this could inform targeted interventions.

You discuss the protective effect of NGO membership on unmet need. However, the potential mechanisms behind this effect are not fully explored. Consider discussing how NGOs might be influencing family planning practices.

The association between working status and unmet need is noted but could benefit from a deeper analysis. What are the potential reasons for this association, and how might employment status impact access to family planning services?

The conclusion about son preference impacting unmet need is compelling but could be strengthened by discussing the broader cultural context. How does son preference intersect with other socio-cultural factors influencing family planning in Bangladesh?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.