



Analysis of the Participation of Reproductive Age Couples in the Family Planning Program in South Sulawesi Province

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyze the factors related to the participation of couples of childbearing age in the family planning program in South Sulawesi Province. This research is quantitative descriptive research using secondary data from the March 2020 National Socioeconomic Survey (NSS) compiled and obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) of South Sulawesi Province. The results showed that 48.2 percent of the 9,741 or equivalently 4,697 married women aged 15–49 years who participated in the family planning program had elementary school education or less, were aged 25–34 years, had an age of first marriage under 19 years, had an activity status of not working, lived with their husbands, and lived in a rural area. It is hoped that policymakers should increase socialization and counseling on family planning programs and contraceptive methods in urban areas and among women with high school education and above because women in this category have indications of low participation in family planning programs in South Sulawesi Province.



INTRODUCTION

The results of the 2020 Population Census (PC) recorded that the total population of Indonesia in September 2020 reached 270.20 million people (CSA, 2021). With this number, Indonesia is ranked as the fourth-most populous country in the world (Worldometers, 2021). Even though there was a slowdown in the population growth rate of 0.24 percent when compared to the population growth rate in the 2000–2010 period, which amounted to 1.49 percent, it has increased the total population by 32.56 million people, or an average of 3.26 million people every year.

Indonesia is still faced with the problem of high birth rates, which can trigger a population explosion. This has negative consequences because high birth rates can pose health risks to children and mothers, reduce investment in human capital, slow economic growth, and exacerbate environmental threats (World Bank, 2010). Thus, efforts to control population growth are very important because they will affect all elements of development and the life of the nation (BKKBN, 2018).

One measure of the birth rate is the Total Fertility Rate (TFR). Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children born to a woman during her childbearing years. The TFR trend in South Sulawesi Province from 1971 to 2017 tended to decrease from 5.71 children per woman in 1971 to 2.56 children per woman in 2000 and then fluctuated until it reached a TFR of 2.4 in 2017. Although the TFR continues to show a declining trend, if you look at the TFR figures in South Sulawesi Province from the 2017 IDHS results, it is very difficult to achieve the 2015–2019 Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Nasional (RPJMN) target, which is 2.30 children per woman in 2019. This indicates that South Sulawesi still needs to work on reducing the number of births.

One effort that can be implemented to reduce the birth rate is the Family Planning (FP) program. Family planning is an effort to space or plan the number and spacing of pregnancies using contraception. The general goal of family planning is to form a small family according to the socio-economic strength of the family by regulating the birth of children in order to obtain a happy and prosperous family that can meet their needs, including birth control, maturing the age of marriage, increasing family resilience, and increasing family welfare (Sulistiyawati, 2014).

Based on the results of the last four Indonesian Demographic and Health Surveys (IDHS) showing an increase in the prevalence of contraceptive use (Contraceptive Prevalence Rate/CPR) in South Sulawesi Province, which tends to increase very slowly, the prevalence rate of contraceptive use in 2002 amounting to 49.1 percent, then increasing to 53.4 percent in 2007, then becoming 55.8 percent in 2012, and only increasing by 1 percent to 56.8 percent in 2017. This very slow increase in CPR shows that public interest, especially among Couples of Childbearing Age (CCA) in using contraception is still not enough. Various attempts have been made to increase the participation of CCA in the family planning program. On the other hand, the participation of CCA in the family planning program is also influenced by many things. This study aims to analyze the participation of PUS in family planning programs in South Sulawesi Province. It is hoped that the results of this study can be used as a reference in making policies to increase the participation of couples of childbearing age in family planning programs.

METHOD

This study uses quantitative data in the form of secondary data from the March 2020 National Socioeconomic Survey (NSS) results compiled and obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CSA) of South Sulawesi Province. The unit of analysis in this study was all women of childbearing age who were married in the Province of South Sulawesi and who were in the March 2020 NSS-selected sample households in the Province of South Sulawesi of 9,741 people. The dependent variable used in this study was CCA's participation in the family planning program, while the independent variables used were education of women of childbearing age, age of women of childbearing age, age of first marriage, activity status of women of childbearing age, living with a partner, and area of residence. Univariate and bivariate analyses were performed using the chi-square test.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 1 Distribution of Research Samples Based on Characteristics

Characteristics	Amount	Percentage
Participation in the FP Program		
Not Participating in FP	5.044	51,8
Follow FP	4.697	48,2
Mother's Education		
Lower Elementary School	3.808	39,1
Junior High School	1.791	18,4
Senior High School	4.142	42,5
Age of Women of Reproductive Age (WRA)		
Under 25 years	1.039	10,7
25-34 years	3.083	31,6
Over 35 years	5.619	57,7
First Marriage Age		
Under 19 years	3.042	31,2
19-25 years	5.077	52,1
Over 25 years	1.622	16,7
WRA activities		
Doesn't work	6.733	69,1
Work	3.088	30,9
Living with Husband		
Not Living Together	611	6,3
Living together	9.130	93,7
Region		
Village	6.579	67,5
City	3.162	32,5

Source: NSS March 2020, processed

This study aims to analyze the determinants of the participation of couples of childbearing age in family planning programs in South Sulawesi Province. We found that the higher the education status of married women of childbearing age aged 15–49 in South Sulawesi Province, the lower the percentage of participation in the family planning program. The results of this study indicate that less than half of the respondents (48.2%) participated in the family planning program. Judging from the data, most of the women of childbearing age who are currently married have high school education and above (42.5%), are aged 35 years and over (57.7%), the age of first marriage is between 19 years and 25 years (52.1%), and some of them are not working (69.1%), live with a partner (93.7%), and live in rural areas (67.5%). The data is shown in Table 1. Bivariate analysis shows that all variables are related to the participation of couples of childbearing age in family planning programs in South Sulawesi Province (Table 2).



Table 2. Bivariate analysis of CRA participation in family planning programs in South Sulawesi Province

Characteristics	No		Yes		Sig
WRA Education					
Lower Elementary School	1.789	47	2.019	53	0,000
Junior High School	861	48,1	930	51,9	
Senior High School	2.394	57,8	1.748	42,2	
WRA age					
Under 25 years	569	54,8	470	45,2	0,000
25-34 years	1.455	47,2	1.628	52,8	
35 years and over	3.020	53,7	2.599	46,3	
First Marriage Age					
Under 19 years	1.438	47,3	1.604	52,7	0,000
19-25 years	2.592	51,1	2.485	48,9	
Over 25 years	1.014	62,5	608	37,5	
WRA activities					
Doesn't work	3.413	50,7	3.320	49,3	0,001
Work	1.631	54,2	1.377	45,8	
Living together					
Not living with husband	487	79,7	124	20,3	0,000



Lives with husband	4.557	49,9	4.573	50,1	
Region					
Village	3.270	49,7	3.309	50,3	0,001
City	1.774	56,1	1.388	43,9	

Source: NSS March 2020, processed

A good level of education indicates a decrease in participation in family planning programs. This result is contrary to the expectations of the government program, where the higher the level of education, the higher the participation of couples of reproductive age in family planning programs. This is partly because the higher the education, the better the knowledge and access to family planning information and services, so that they know more and understand more about the types of contraception and their side effects and can consider which contraception to use. These results are inconsistent with the theory that higher educational attainment is correlated with higher contraceptive use (Gafar et al., 2020) and also different from two previous studies conducted in Malawi and Bangladesh, which reported that education has a very significant effect on contraceptive use compared to those who are not educated (Islam et al., 2016; Adebowale, Adedini, Ibisomi, & Palamuleni, 2014).

The results of cross-tabulation between the age of WRA and the participation of Couples of Reproductive Age (CRA) in the family planning program showed that 48.2 percent, or less than half, of married women aged 15–49 years in South Sulawesi Province participated in the family planning program. The percentage of participation of married women aged 25–34 years in family planning programs is greater than that of married women who are younger (under 25 years) and older (35 years and over). According to previous research, married women aged 25-34 years have the highest use of contraception in most developing countries (Khan, Mishra, Arnold, & Nouredine, 2007; Ahmed Islam, 2016; Aviisah, P. A., Dery, S., Atsu, B. K., Yawson, A., Alotaibi, R. M., Rezk, H. R., & Guure, 2018; Wai et al., 2020). Umumnya karena wanita dengan umur yang lebih muda sedang dalam awal masa reproduksi sehingga sebagian besar tidak ikut serta dalam program KB dan pada wanita kawin dengan umur yang lebih tua kurang tertarik ikut serta dalam program KB karena menopause, jarang/puasa berhubungan seksual.

When viewed according to the age of first marriage, it can be seen that there were 52.7 percent of respondents who participated in the family planning program with the age of first marriage under 19 years, 48.9 percent who joined the family planning program with the age of first marriage 19–25 years, and 37.5 percent who joined the family planning program with the age of first marriage over 25 years. This is in accordance with research conducted by Malinda Yoni (2012), which states that age at first marriage is significantly related to fertility, which causes an increased risk of having larger children. WRA activity status is also significantly related to CRA participation in the family planning program. The percentage of participation of married women aged 15–49 years with working activity status in family planning programs is lower than that of married women who are not working (45.8 percent and 49.3 percent, respectively, $p = 0.001$). This shows that women's awareness of the need to participate in the family planning program is quite high, even though they are not working and efforts to delay or prevent pregnancy are still being carried out.

Based on Table 2, it can be seen that there were 20.3 percent of respondents who did not live with their husbands who participated in the family planning program, while 50.1 percent of the population who lived with their husbands participated in the family planning program. The results of this study are in accordance with



research conducted by Choiriyah, Armini, & Hadisuyatmana (2020), which states that a husband's support is considered quite a contributor to the decision to use contraceptive methods. This is also in accordance with the opinion of Hartanto (2004), who said that the contraceptive method cannot be used by the wife without the cooperation of the husband and mutual trust. The ideal situation is that a husband and wife should choose the best contraception together, cooperate with each other in using it, pay for the use of contraception, and pay attention to the effects of its use.

This study found that, in general, the participation rate of CRA in family planning programs in rural areas was higher than in urban areas (50.3 percent and 43.9 percent, respectively). This is quite interesting because it contradicts previous studies that stated that CRA's participation in family planning programs was higher in urban areas than in rural areas due to the fact that people's access to health services and information in urban Indonesia generally tends to be better than in rural areas (Laksono, Matahari, & Wulandari, 2020; Seran et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis, the characteristics of WRA, namely WRA education, age of WRA, age of first marriage, activity status, living with husband, and area of residence, significantly influence CRA's participation in the FP program in South Sulawesi Province. The results of the study suggest that policymakers should increase socialization/counseling on FP programs and contraceptive methods in urban areas and among women with high school education and above because women in this category have indications of low participation in FP programs in South Sulawesi Province. For further research, it is possible to use primary data so that the scope of analysis is broader and add other factors, such as factors related to socio-psychology and factors related to FP services, so that the analysis is more complete.

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