

The Influence of Economic Status, Social Networks, and Values in Family Planning Adoption among Low Income Mothers with Five Children Above

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Abstract:

Studies in the past about family planning adoption usually correlate with socio-demographic data like family income, educational attainment, religion, number of children, and occupational prestige (Ofugi, 1975; Ponce, 2012; Providencia, 1975; Zawacki, 2001). However, there has been minimal attention on correlating family adoption in social values and social networks. This paper aims to probe the relationship of social capitals and networks (i.e. husband, in-laws, neighbors, religious and charismatic affiliation, doctors, family planning personnel and friends), and social and economic values, vis-à-vis with the decision of low-income mothers with 5 children above in accepting and rejecting birth control methods. The study used analytic-descriptive and qualitative approach in gathering data particularly semi-structured in-depth interview. For continued adopters, it is economic reason affecting their decision. In contrast, it is personal, socio-cultural reasons, and influence from the non-kin based networks (testimonies from friends about the negative effects of pills) affecting

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the decision of drop-outs. For all key-informants, their husband had great influence to their family planning decision. On one hand, the distance of family planning center and exposure to family planning seminar of the key-informants also affect the family planning decision. Most of the drop-outs perceived that the family planning center is quite far from their home, so they failed to attend some family planning seminars and they did not avail some FM services. On the other hand, all continued adopters are willing to use birth control methods regardless of its costs and availability.

Key words: Social Networks, Family Planning Adoption, Drop-outs, Continued Adopters, Values, FM Services

1. Introduction

It is a recognized phenomenon that a high population growth rate consumes the vital resources of a country's economic development effort (Banerjee, et.al 2011). In Philippines where the resources are scarce and critical, a high population growth rate is untenable and therefore demands immediate solution (Concepcion, 1998). Cognizant of the effects of population growth as an impediment to economic growth and improvement of the level of living, Reproductive Health law was passed in 2013. Despite the fact that Reproductive Health Bill is now a law, still the two institutions- the church and the state always find themselves in the middle of a conflict. While much of the issue of family planning is centered on public and political turmoil with which the government is directly concerned, still church officials assume a responsibility to voice out their own perspective regarding such issue. One can assume that the church is already invoking too much presence in the development of the policy. Regardless of all these things stated, still at the end of the day the majority of the civilian community carries the brunt of decision- making as to which institution they should listen to. In present day, much has been done by

the state to lower birth rate. However, even if many couples have already accepted the use of birth control methods, still the number of mothers dropped out as family planning adopters increases. It is through this point that the researcher was prompted to undertake a study for the purpose of providing a scientific basis for the selection of appropriate ways and means of increasing the output of the population program and of effecting social change and development. So, the main focus of the present inquiry is to find out if social capitals and networks (i.e. husband, in-laws, neighbors, religious and charismatic affiliation, doctors, family planning personnel and friends), social and economic values affect the decision of low-income mothers with 5 children above in accepting birth control methods.

2. Review of the Related Literature - What Do I Know About Birth Control Adoption?

According to Zawacki (2001), reasons for practicing birth control can be reviewed from the three perspectives, namely: individual, community, and national welfare. From the individual's viewpoint he explained that birth control protects the health of the mother since frequent births weaken her. Moreover, through birth control an intelligent or talented mother is provided with opportunity to express herself in the home besides having more time for companionship with her husband. From the point of view of community and national welfare, (Zawacki, 2001: 7) he further elucidated that birth control helps avoid over population and enables the community or nation to meet demands for education and other social services. It also prevents the benefits of technological progress from being overtaken by the basic needs of a rapidly growing population thus helping the nation's progress.

In past studies and inquiries, economic factor like family income greatly affects the decision of the child-bearers in

adopting family planning methods (Ofugi, 1975; Ponce, 2012; Providencia, 1975). The studies indicate that the continuing adopters had generally better income than the discontinuing adopters.

In furtherance also, in the previous study entitled “Factors Influencing Continued Adoption of Birth Control Methods Among Child-Bearing Mothers in Valenzuela City” conducted by the proponent of the present study (Ponce, 2012) he found out the following findings: 1) **Educational attainment** was found to be significantly related to continued adoption with an obtained chi-square value of 49.45 which is much greater than the critical value of 13.277 at 0.05 level with 4 degrees of freedom, thus, continuing adopters have better educational attainment than the drop-outs; 2) **Number of children** was found to be not significantly related to continued adoption of birth control methods; 3) **Religion** was also found to be not significantly related to continued adoption of birth control methods, majority of the respondents are Roman Catholics and as we all know the church has strong opposition in usage of artificial family planning methods, still the catholic child-bearing mothers in the study did not listen and follow the teachings of the church in terms of birth control adoption; 4) When grouped by **occupational prestige** the obtained chi-square value was 18.87 which is greater than the critical value of 11.345 at 0.05 level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom. Therefore, occupational prestige of the respondents is significantly associated with continued adoption of birth control methods, hence, the higher the occupational prestige, the higher chance of adopting birth control methods among child-bearing mothers; 5) When grouped by **family income**, the obtained chi-square value was 38.70 which is very much bigger than the tabular value of 15.086 at 0.05 level with 5 degrees of freedom. Therefore family income is significantly related with continued adoption of birth control methods. Hence, continuing

adopters of birth control methods have better income than drop-outs.

Variables	Degree of Freedom	Critical Value	Computed Chi-square	Null Hypothesis H_0	Interpretation
1. Educational Attainment	4	13.277	49.45	Rejected	Very Significant
2. Number of Children	1	6.6355	0.19	Accepted	Not Significant
3. Religion	3	11.345	5.61	Accepted	Not Significant
4. Occupational Prestige	3	11.345	18.87	Rejected	Very Significant
5. Family Income	5	15.086	38.70	Rejected	Very Significant

What Do Not I Know About Birth Control Adoption?

Prescinding the reviewed literature, generally economic (i.e. family income and occupational prestige) and some demographic factor (i.e. educational attainment) influenced the decision of the child-bearing mothers in adopting birth control methods. However, in the previous study, religion and number of children did not find significantly related with family planning adoption. In present study, the researcher would like to primarily answer the question, “Is it really economic factor greatly influenced the decisions of mothers in birth control adoption?” Also, the researcher also draws upon Granovetter’s notions of ties (Granovetter, 1973). In this research, taking into account Abad (2006) in social capital, he identified two major forms, namely networks and trust. Focusing on social networks, he defined it as “sets of linkages an identified group of people” (Bowling, et. al. 1991 as cited in Abad 2006), or “patterns of relationships connecting organizations, groups, and individuals” (Stockard, 2000: 101-102). Abad particularly focused on “personal social network” which may be understood as the set of ties an individual has with organizations, groups, or other individuals. These ties may be strong or weak: “strong

ties” are contacts people characterized by high levels of emotional intensity and intimacy, and “weak ties” are contacts to people not necessarily characterized by high levels of emotional intensity and intimacy (Granovetter, 1973 as cited in Abad 2006). In social capital literature, strong ties are synonymous with the notion of “bonding social capital,” while “weak ties” represent “bridging social capital.” Bonding social capital cover ties to people with similar demographic characteristics such as family members, close friends, neighbors and work colleagues, while bridging social capital mean ties to more distant associates and colleagues who have dissimilar demographic characteristics (Gittel and Vidal, 1998, cited in Grootaert, et. al. 2004; Narayan, 2002; Woolcock, 2002, all are cited from Abad 2006). In light, the researcher wishes to explore how social capital and networks do influence decisions in family planning among low-income mothers with 5 children above. Moreover, the present research would also like to explore the values (economic, social and national) valued by the low-income mothers with 5 children above and how it affects their decisions in family planning method.

Research Questions

To specify the things that I don’t know about the topic, the following research questions are asked:

1. Is it really economic factor mainly affects the decisions of low-income mothers in continued or discontinued adoption of family planning?
2. How do social networks and capital (husband, parents, siblings, in-laws, doctors, family planning personnel, neighbor, friends and among others) influence the decisions of low-income child-bearing mothers with 5 children above in adopting birth control methods?

3. . Do economic values (cost of living i.e. food, shelter), social and cultural values affect the decision of child-bearers in FP adoption?
4. Are availability of family planning materials and services and even its costs affecting the family planning decision of the key-informants?
5. What is the economic value or benefit when people are able to plan the number of children and they can make an informed choice on family planning methods.

Research Hypothesis

Assuming that economic factor is not the main reason for drop-out and continued adoption of family planning decision among low-income mothers with 5 children above, the following hypothesis were advanced by the researcher:

1. The values and testimonies of respondents' social networks and capitals affect their family planning decisions.
2. Fear from side effects is one of the main reasons why most child bearers dropped-out in birth control methods.
3. Personal and social values and norms of the respondents affect their family planning decisions.
4. The cost of family planning materials also affect their birth control decision
5. The husbands had great role in their family planning decisions

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

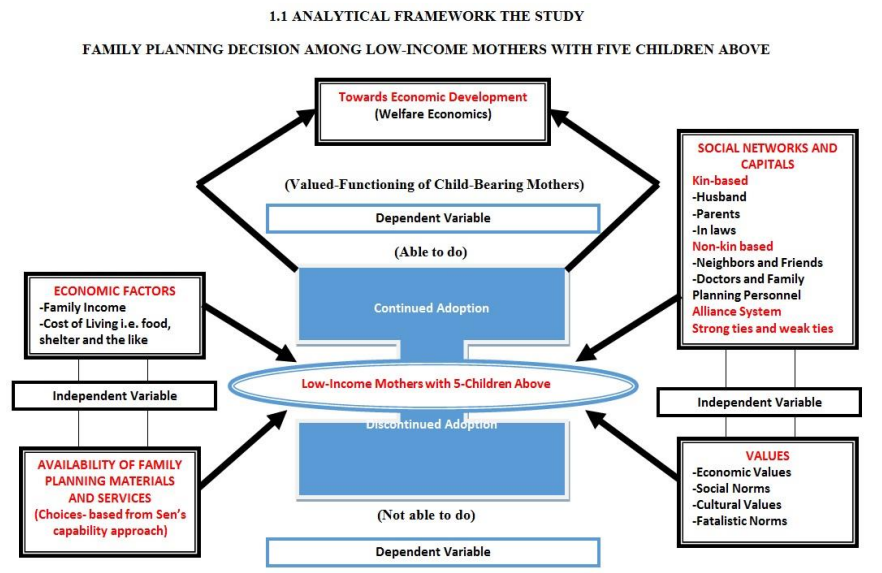
Following Dr. Abad (2006: 7-8), he elaborated three types of social networks, though not formally identified as such, namely; "kin-based networks," "non-kin-based networks" and "alliance system." Kin-based networks refer to the most documented, center on family and household arrangements that operate to

provide social and economic support to its members (e.g. Porio et al. 1978; Casyillo, 1979; Miralao, 1994; Medina, 2001; cited in Abad, 2006). Non-kin-based networks focus on friendship relations (e.g. Morais, 1981; Dumont, 1995, cited in Abad, 2006), organizations (e.g. Po and Montiel, 1980; Almirol, 1986; Korten and Siy, 1989; Jimenez, n.d.) and economic or work-based arrangements (e.g. Szanton, 1970) that take care of people's needs. Lastly, the alliance system (e.g. Lynch, 1959,1973; Hollnsteiner, 1963; Schelgel, 1974), it refers to the combination of kin and non-kin members in a network geared to provide support in times of need and enhance one's social position. The use of "compadrazco" or ritual kinship is an essential part of this crafting of alliances (e.g. Arce, 1973; Potter, 1974; Hart, 1977; cited in Abad, 2006) In this present inquiry, the researcher assume that the series of social capitals and networks (including the strength of bond and the level of trusts) cited above affect, shape and influence the decisions of child-bearing mothers in acceptance and rejection of birth control methods.

Taking into account Sen's capability approach, he said that the value of a good is in the opportunities it gives to people or the freedom it gives to people to live the life they want. He is also focused on the capability, or the "valued functioning." From this, choice is very important in the well-being of individuals, hence, the more choices that an individual have, the more chances of well-being. In connection to the present study, the availability of many choices of family planning materials and services, the greater capability or valued functioning of child-bearers to adopt birth control methods.

Another theoretical framework utilized in this study is Welfare Economics, it states that the value of goods is in the utility they give to people and to society, and thus, the highest welfare of society is achieved when no individual can be made better off without a corresponding loss to another. It is plausible and reaffirmed by the reviewed literature that if

child-bearers would adopt appropriate family planning method, thus the population of the country will be managed well. Therefore, it will have positive effect in the economic development of the country.



From the analytical framework, it could be seen that the dependent variables of the study are the continued adopters (valued functioning as discussed by AmartyaSen) and discontinued adopters (not able to do) of family planning method. There are four independent variables involved in the study namely: Economic factors, social networks and capitals, values and the availability of family planning materials and services (choices) which are assumed to have impact in the family decisions of the child-bearers. Economic factors include the monthly family income, cost of living i.e. food, shelter, medicine and the like. On the other hand, availability of family planning materials and services (choices) involve the family planning materials used for the last three months, presence of family personnel visiting their area, number of times

participated in family planning seminar, present of family planning center and distance from their home. However, social networks and capitals comprise the kin-based, non-kin based, alliance system and as well as the strong and weak ties. Finally, the values variables, these involve the economic values, social norms, cultural values and fatalistic norms.

Also, it could be observed in the framework that there is an arrow pointing to “towards economic development” from continued adopters, it means that the more child-bearers adopting family planning method, therefore, the greater chances of achieving economic development (as elucidated in welfare economics, cited in theoretical framework explained earlier).

3. Research Methodology

Research Design

The research study used a descriptive-analytic and qualitative approach and focused on a field research type of design. The researcher believes that the study could be best achieved when the data gathered could be expounded on and explained thoroughly instead of relying on predetermined answers as done in surveys. Interviews have the capacity to describe, explain and explore issues from the participants’ perspective. Furthermore, interviews, as a method of data collection, are most fittingly used in situations requiring open-ended questions and where the interviewer has to record precisely the answers given by the participants. It is on this reason that the researcher undertook an interview method as a better recourse to obtain more credible and reliable sets of data.

Key-Informants of the Study

The key-informants of the study are low-income (below P8, 000 gross family income per month) child-bearing mothers with 5 children above living in Valenzuela City, National Capital

Region, Philippines. The researcher used purposive sampling to select the respondents. This sampling is based on the discretion and sound judgment of the researchers regarding the characteristics and profile of the representative samples.

Research Instrument

This study has made use of a semi-structured, in-depth interview, which was conducted to selected low-income child-bearing mothers with 5 children above living in Valenzuela City, National Capital Region, Philippines. The interview questionnaire consisted of three parts. The first part is about demographic and socio-economic background of the key-informants like monthly gross income, educational attainment, number of children, their occupation and the occupation of their husband and availability of planning method in their area. The second part of the questionnaire deals with the decisions of the key-informants in family planning method. The last part of the questionnaire elicits the key-informants' economic values, social norms, cultural, fatalistic beliefs and also their social capitals and networks vis-à-vis its influence in their decision in family planning acceptance or rejection. The interviewees were given leeway to expound and elaborate on their answers in the belief that this would help the researcher gain a more informative response. Aside from the main questions, the researcher has also done follow-ups either for clarification or validation.

Data Gathering Procedure

The primary source of the data came from the interview conducted between the researcher and key-informants. A set of guidelines called the Participant Information Sheet were prepared by the researcher to assure the interviewees that any information obtained would be solely used for academic purposes and would be kept confidential. The interviewees also agreed that the duration of the interview would be audio-recorded for the purposes of transcription. They have also

completed a profile sheet to provide data that could later be used for comparisons, clarifications and data validation. The interviews have then commenced at the pace of the interviewees' answers and elaboration on the questions. Then the researcher transcribed all the recorded interviews for data gathering. Irrelevant information, which was recorded, was then taken out and relevant information was left. The researcher has read thoroughly the transcripts to get a sense of the whole, jotted down ideas, and were then able to identified major points within sub points of the interviews and their relationship with each other. This method of data analysis is called Tech's approach whereby the data are first analyzed in the language in which interviews were conducted. Aside from the interview, the researcher also employed relevant library and internet researches in order to have a more plausible research study. From these researches, the researcher was able to matter load and acquired significant information that became helpful on the research study.

4. Result and Discussion

Matrix 1 Key-Informants' Socio-Economic Profile

Continued Adopters	Age	Number of Children	Gross Family Income per Month	Educational Attainment	Occupation	Husband's Occupation	Religion
D.T.M	34	6	P7,500	HS Undergrad	House Keeper	Street vendor	Roman Catholic
S.D.G	45	7	P7,000	HS Undergrad	House Keeper	No Permanent Job	Roman Catholic
A.F.M	38	6	P7,500	HS Grad	House Keeper	Factory Worker	Roman Catholic
T.L.P	36	5	P 6,000	Elementary Grad.	House Keeper	Factory Worker	Roman Catholic
D.D.T	44	6	P7,000	HS Grad.	House Keeper	Factory Worker	Roman Catholic

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Drop-Outs	Age	Number of Children	Gross Family Income per Month	Educational Attainment	Occupation	Husband's Occupation	Religion
S.T.G	38	9	P7,500	HS Grad	House Keeper	No Permanent Job	Roman Catholic
S.S.R	42	10	P7,500	HS Grad	House Keeper	Street Vendor	Roman Catholic
L.N.B	36	8	P8,000	HS Grad	House Keeper	No Permanent Job	Roman Catholic
C.P.P	39	6	P 6,000	HS Grad	House Keeper	No Permanent Job	Roman Catholic
K.G.C	38	8	P7,500	HS Undergrad.	House Keeper	Factory Worker	Roman Catholic

The key-informants of the study were house-keeper, Roman-Catholic and earning seven thousand pesos (P7, 150) mean gross income per month, which denotes that on the average they were earning almost P243.33 per day. The average number of children of continued adopters was 6 while the average number of children of drop-outs was 8. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority of key-informants' husband were factory workers (4 out of 10) and no permanent job i.e. sometimes jeepney barker or janitor (4 out of 10). Also, It could be seen in the matrixes that on the average drop-outs have higher educational attainment than the continued adopters, majority of the drop-outs were high school graduate (4 out of 5) while there were only 2 high school graduates among continued adopters. Thus, the result of the present research is contradictory with the reviewed literature (Ponce, 2012; Ofugi, 1975) that continued adopters have higher educational attainment than drop-outs.

Matrix 2 Availability of Family Planning Materials as Perceived by Key Informants

Continued Adopters	FM Used for Last 3 Mos. Until Present	Present of FM Personnel Visiting their Area	# of Times Participated in FM Seminar	Present of FM Center	Estimated Distance From their Home
D.T.M	Pills	Yes	4	Yes	Less than 1 KM
S.D.G	Pills	Yes	3	Yes	More than 1 KM
A.F.M	IUD	Yes	4	Yes	Less than 1 KM
T.L.P	Pills	Yes	4	Yes	Less than 1 KM
D.D.T	Pills	Yes	2	Yes	Less than 1 KM

Drop-Outs	FM Used for Last 3 Mos. Until Present	Present of FM Personnel Visiting their Area	# of Times Participated in FM Seminar	Present of FM Center	Estimated Distance From their Home
S.T.G	----	Yes	Never	Yes	More than 1 KM
S.S.R	----	Yes	Never	Yes	More than 1 KM
L.N.B	----	Yes	1	Yes	More than 1 KM
C.P.P	Withdrawal	Yes	Never	Yes	Less than 1 KM
K.G.C	----	Yes	Never	Yes	More than 1 KM

Matrix 2 illustrates the availability of family planning materials and services as perceived by continued adopters and drop-outs. An overwhelming majority of the continued adopters were using pills (4 out of 5) and only 1 continued adopter was using IUD. On the other side, no drop-out key informants has tried to use artificial family planning method.

Also, all key-informants were aware about the presence of family planning center and family planning personnel visiting their area. However, unlike the continued adopters, majority of drop-outs perceived that the family center was too far from their home (4 out of 5 drop-outs perceived that the family center is more than 1 kilometer from their home). In terms of family planning seminar, there was only one drop-out who attended and a vast majority (4 out of 5 drop-outs) had never been attended a family planning seminar. As I noticed the pattern, most of the drop-outs were living within the

boundary of Barangay Paso de Blas and Barangay Bagbaguin, as Mrs. STG (one of my drop-outs) testified:

...Medyo malayo sa amin yung barangay health center at family planning center, minsan kapag may mga pa-seminar ang mga BPM (Barangay Population Manager) hinde na ako nakakadalo, kase nasa boundary ng barangay Bagbaguin at Paso de Blas ang bahay namin at saka wala rin kaseng magbabantay sa bahay at sa mga bata. (The barangay health center and family planning center are quite far from our house, so sometimes I failed to attend the seminars conducted by Barangay Population Managers (BPM) because our house is located within boundary of Brgy. Paso de Blas and Bagbaguin and also nobody else would watch-out my children.)...

Prescinding the testimony above, the other drop-outs have the same reason about the failure to attend the seminars and activities of family planning center; it is because they felt that the family planning center was quite far from their home, the social location of family planning services is also one of the main reasons why they dropped out. Because of this, my suggestion is to establish another family planning center and conduct series of seminars within the areas of boundary between Barangay Paso de blas and Bagbaguin.

Matrix 3 Economic Values and Cost of Family Planning Materials vis-à-vis Family Planning Decision among Key-Informants

Continued Adopters	If contraceptives are free, are you going to use them?	If contraceptives are not free and you are required to buy them, are you still going to use them?	Do you consider your economic status in Family Planning Decision?	Do you consider the high cost of living in Family Planning Decision?
D.T.M	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
S.D.G	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
A.F.M	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
T.L.P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
D.D.T	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Drop-Outs	If contraceptives are free, are you going to use them?	If contraceptives are not free and you are required to buy them, are you still going to use them?	Do you consider your economic status in Family Planning Decision?	Do you consider the high cost of living in Family Planning Decision?
S.T.G	No	No	No	No
S.S.R	Undecided	No	No	No
L.N.B	No	No	No	No
C.P.P	Undecided	No	Undecided	Undecided
K.G.C	Undecided	No	No	No

Matrix 3 describes the economic values and cost of family planning materials in relation to family planning decision. Based on the matrix, all continued adopters were willing to use contraceptives without regards to its cost. Also, all of them agreed that they consider their economic status and high cost of living in accepting family planning. This was consistent with the statement of Mrs. S.D.G. (one of the continued adopters), she said:

...Mahirap ang buhay ngayon, mahirap ang maraming anak, mahal lahat ng bilihin, mahalanggasul, mahal ang bigas, pati ulam mahal. Napag-isip isip ko na sana dati pa ako gumamit ng pills bago pa ako nagkaroon ng madaming anak. (It is very expensive and difficult to raise a family nowadays, I just realized that I should take pills before I have these many children.)...

However, on the side of drop-outs, majority of them were still undecided and unwilling to adopt artificial planning methods regardless whether it is free or not. Relative thereto, sad to know, but an overwhelming majority of them did not consider their economic status and the high cost of living in their decision to drop out. Just like in the testimony of Mrs. S.T.G., she said:

...Kapag maraming anak, mas masaya ang pamilya, blessing yan ng Diyos sa aming mag-asawa at saka naniniwala ako magiging panatag ang kinabukasan ng aming mag-asawa

kung maraming magtataguyod na mga anak (If you have many children, the family will become happier, they are blessings from God and I believe that many children will give security to the parents during old age)...

This statement can be linked with the study conducted by Mendez (1991). She contended that Filipinos' fondness of babies hinders the progress of family planning programs. To elucidate, Mendez described:

. . . Every new arrival is king or queen of the household. The baptism is a festive event and the baby may have as many as four godmothers and four godfathers. . . On the emotional side, children are an insurance against loneliness. From the material point of view, they are an investment whose benefits are to be reaped in old age. They are an insurance against poverty. . .

A similar opinion was held by Mercado (1990) who observed that Filipino parents have the tendency of regarding children as valuable possessions.

Because of having that kind of mindset, truly to say that it would be one of the impediments towards the success of population management and family planning program in the country. If all low-income child-bearers would have this kind of mindset, it could be difficult for the country to break the vicious cycle of poverty. Remember that mismanagement of population could have domino effect to dependency ratio, economic resources, environment and the like.

Matrix 4 Social Networks and Some of its Values vis-à-vis Family Planning Decision among Key-Informants

Continued Adopters	In times of problems, who are the social networks that you relied most?	Which of your social networks that influence your decision in family planning?	What are the values of your social networks that influence your family planning decision?
D.T.M	Husband, Parents and In-laws	Husband and In-laws	High cost of living and difficulty to raise many children.
S.D.G	Husband and Friends	Husband	High cost of living and difficulty to raise many children.
A.F.M	Husband, Friends and Parents	Children	High cost of living and difficulty to raise many children.
T.L.P	Husband, Friends and In-laws	In-laws	To provide children the needed care and attention
D.D.T	Husband, Friends, and In-laws	Husband	High cost of living and difficulty to raise many children.

Drop-Outs	In times of problems, who are the social networks that you relied most?	Which of your social networks that influence your decision in family planning?	What are the values of your social networks that influence your family planning decision?
S.T.G	Husband	Husband	Many children in the family give security to parents during old age
S.S.R	Husband and Friends	Friends	Fear of side effects of contraceptives
L.N.B	Husband and Friends	Friends	Fear of side effects of contraceptives
C.P.P	Husband and Friends	Husband	Many children give assurance for the perpetuation of family name
K.G.C	Husband and Friends	Friends	Fear of side effects of contraceptives

Matrix 4 illustrates the influence of social networks in family planning decision of child-bearing mothers. As we gleaned in the matrix, all key-informants have social networks to rely on in times of problems, it is combination of kin-based i.e. husbands, parents and in-laws, and non-kin based i.e. friends.

However, in terms of family planning decision among continued adopters, they were influenced a lot by their kin-based system, more particularly their husband, in-laws and parents. There is a pattern in the decisions of continued

adopters; majority of them (4 out of 5) believed that high cost of living and difficulty to raise many children is their main reason in adopting family planning method. Also, other reason held by Mrs. T.L.P, she said that she wanted to provide her children the needed care and attention.

It is also observed that there is one key-informant answered that her children affect her family planning acceptance. To elaborate further, Mrs. A.F.M. emotionally described;

...Mas masakit pala kapag ang mga anak mo ang magsasabi sayo ng "mama wag kanang mag-anak, wala na nga tayong makaen." Dahil doon yung panganay ko, sinamahan akong pumunta sa center para humingi ng pills. (It hurts when your children are invoking you to use pills because of high cost of living)...

There are lumps in her throat while she was telling her narratives during the interview. Because of this, I think we can also involve the children of child-bearers in family planning seminars and information awareness campaign.

Among drop-outs, unlike continued adopters, it is quite unexpected that their non-kin based networks influenced their family planning decision. The testimonies of their friends about the side effect of artificial family planning method particularly pills had triggered them to drop-out. This mirrors with the testimony of Mrs. K.G.C., she said;

...Sabi kase ng kumareko masama daw ang pills sa katawan, noong gumamit siya ng pills pumayat siya at palagi siyang nagkakasit, at saka kapag nagpapadede (breast feeding) ka ng bata, masama rin daw uminom ng pills kase magtatae (diarrhea) yung bata. (My friend told me that pills have negative effect to the body like for instance it will make your body thinner and weaker, and it can cause also diarrhea to your child if you are breastfeeding)...

Because of this, therefore, I would like to suggest that we really need to reorient the child-bearers and their series of non-kin based networks about the possible effects and proper usage of pills and other artificial birth planning methods.

Matrix 5 Family Planning Decision vis-à-vis Values-Related Variables

Continued Adopters	The presence of many children in the family gives security to parents during old age	Drop-outs	The presence of many children in the family gives security to parents during old age
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Agree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Undecided
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Agree

All continued adopters were disagreed that the presence of children in the family gives security during old age. While an overwhelming majority of drop-outs did agree on this value-item.

Continued Adopters	A woman is not a real woman if she does not bear many children	Drop-outs	A woman is not a real woman if she does not bear many children
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Undecided
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Undecided
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Undecided
Continued Adopters	If a couple does not have a son they should strive to have one so that somebody in the family will perpetuate their family	Drop-outs	If a couple does not have a son they should strive to have one so that somebody in the family will perpetuate their family
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Agree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Agree
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Agree

On the value item “a woman is not a real woman if she does not bear many children” all continued adopters were disagreed upon this value, while majority of drop-outs were still undecided (3 out of 5) and agreed (2 out of 5).

Also, all continued adopters were disagreed upon the idea that “if a couple does not have a son they should strive to have one so that somebody in the family will perpetuate their family” while all drop-outs were agreed upon this value-item.

Continued Adopters	The use of any artificial birth control method is immoral to God	Drop-outs	The use of any artificial birth control method is immoral to God
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Disagree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Disagree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Disagree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Disagree
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Disagree

Continued Adopters	The Church prohibits population control because the bible says, “Go ye and multiply.”	Drop-outs	The Church prohibits population control because the bible says, “Go ye and multiply.”
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Disagree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Disagree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Disagree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Disagree
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Disagree

From the value-items “the use of any artificial birth control method is immoral to God,” and “the church prohibits population control because the bible says go ye and multiply” all key-informants, continued adopters or drop-outs, were disagreed on this value-item. This indicates that even if all of them are Roman Catholics, the religion doesn’t matter to their decisions in family planning adoption.

Floramante Sir John Don King Howard T. Ponce III- **The Influence of Economic Status, Social Networks, and Values in Family Planning Adoption among Low Income Mothers with Five Children Above**

Continued Adopters	In family planning the sex life of a married couple is curtailed	Drop-outs	In family planning the sex life of a married couple is curtailed
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Agree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Undecided	C.P.P	Undecided
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Agree

Majority of continued adopters (4 out of 5) were disagreed on the idea that family planning curtailed the sex life of couple. On the other side, majority of drop-outs (4 out of 5) were agreed upon this value-item. Hence, the need to reorient the drop-outs is really necessary.

Continued Adopters	The use of contraceptives leads a man or a woman to be promiscuous	Drop-outs	The use of contraceptives leads a man or a woman to be promiscuous
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Agree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Undecided
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Undecided

All continued adopters were disagreed that the use of contraceptives leads a man or woman to be promiscuous. However, still majority of drop-outs (3 out of 5) were agreed on this value item.

Floramante Sir John Don King Howard T. Ponce III- **The Influence of Economic Status, Social Networks, and Values in Family Planning Adoption among Low Income Mothers with Five Children Above**

Continued Adopters	It is the obligation of parents to educate their children so that they will become useful members of society	Drop-outs	It is the obligation of parents to educate their children so that they will become useful members of society
D.T.M	Agree	S.T.G	Agree
S.D.G	Agree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Agree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Agree	C.P.P	Agree
D.D.T	Agree	K.G.C	Agree

It is good to know that all key-informants, regardless of their decisions in family planning adoption, were agreed that it is the obligation of parents to educate their children so that they will become useful members of society.

Continued Adopters	There is no need of family planning because our country needs to cultivate our idle lands	Drop-outs	There is no need of family planning because our country needs to cultivate our idle lands
D.T.M	Disagree	S.T.G	Agree
S.D.G	Disagree	S.S.R	Agree
A.F.M	Disagree	L.N.B	Agree
T.L.P	Disagree	C.P.P	Undecided
D.D.T	Disagree	K.G.C	Undecided

From this value-item “there is no need of family planning because our country needs to cultivate our idle lands,” All continued adopters were disagreed while majority of drop-outs were agreed (3 out of 5) and some were still undecided (2 out of 5) on this value-item. From the answers obtained by drop-outs in all values related items, I think, therefore, there is really a need to reorient them about their values and beliefs about family planning.

Summary

Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile

All key-informants are house-keeper, roman-catholic and earning P7, 150 mean gross income per month, which denotes that on the average they are earning almost P243.33 per day. The average number of children of continued adopters is 6 while the average number of children of drop-outs is 8. Also, on the average, drop-outs have higher educational attainment than the continued adopters, majority of the drop-outs are high school graduate (4 out of 5) while there are only 2 high school graduates among continued adopters. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority of key-informants' husband are factory workers (4 out of 10) and no permanent job i.e. sometimes jeepney barker or janitor (4 out of 10).

The mean age of the continued adopters is 39.4 years old, high-school undergraduate with 6 children on the average and their husbands belonged to low occupational prestige. On the other hand, the mean age of the drop-outs is 38.6 years old, high school graduate, and their husbands belonged to low occupational prestige and/or no stable source of income.

Availability of Family Planning Materials and its Cost

Majority of the continued adopters are taking pills. They are all aware that there are family planning personnel visiting their area. Moreover, all of them are aware that there is family planning center located in community approximately less than 1 kilometer from their home. Also, most of them had already attended family planning seminar thrice or twice.

No drop-out has adopted artificial family planning personnel. Like the continued adopters, they are all aware that there are family planning personnel visiting their area and there is family planning center in their community, however, it is more than 1 kilometer from their community. It is also noted

that there is only one key-informant who had attended FM seminar.

When the continued adopters were asked if contraceptives are free and if they are going to use it, all of them answered yes. Even if they are going to pay for it, still majority of them will use it. The continued adopters also considered their economic status and the high cost of living in their family planning decision.

Obviously, unlike continued adopters, majority of drop-outs are still undecided and strongly disagreed upon the use of contraceptives, regardless whether free or not free. Also, majority of the drop-outs did not consider their economic status and the high cost of living in their family planning decision.

Social Networks and Its Influence

Majority of continued adopters relied much on their kin-based networks like husband, parents, in-laws and friends. Also, their kin-based networks affect their family planning decision. Surprisingly, their children also affect their family planning decision. The main reason for their continued adoption is economic reason (i.e. high cost of living and difficulty to raise many children).

The social networks affecting the decision of the drop-outs in family planning adoption are more likely non-kin based network system like friends and sometimes husband (part of kin-based network). The reasons for they drop-out are personal (i.e. fear of side effects) and fatalistic belief and socio-cultural values (i.e. many children in the family give security during old age and give assurance for the perpetuation of family name).

5. Conclusions and Recommendation

Conclusion

1. For continued adopters, it is really economic reason affecting their decision. On the other hand, it is personal, socio-

cultural reasons and influence from the non-kin based networks (testimonies from friends about the negative effects of pills) affecting the decision of drop-outs.

2. For all key-informants, their husband had great influence to their family planning decision. However, to be more particular, for continued adopters, husbands and in-laws (kin-based networks system) affect their family planning decision. While for drop-outs their friends and neighbors(non-kin based networks system) influence their birth control decision.

3. Based on the results of interview, the economic values like high cost of living, food and shelter greatly affect the decision of continued adopters, while influence from non-kin based networks system, and as well social and cultural values affect the decision of drop-outs.

4. The distance of family planning center and exposure to family planning seminar of the key-informants also affect the family planning decision. Most of the drop-outs perceived that the family planning center is quite far from their home, so they failed to attend some family planning seminars and they did not avail some FM services. On the other hand, all continued adopters are willing to use birth control methods regardless of its costs and availability.

5. The economic values and benefits when people are able to plan the number of children and they can make an informed choice on family planning methods are the following;

- a. the resources of the country will be managed well;
- b. human capital will be improved;
- c. dependency ratio will decline;
- d. poverty will be reduced; and
- e. economic development will become achievable and attainable

Recommendation

1. One of the major reasons for continued and discontinued adoption of birth control methods is the social networks' influence. It is recommended that husbands, friends and other social networks (kin-based or non-kin based) be encouraged to get involved in family planning seminars either separately or jointly with the mothers to forestall misapprehensions, to eliminate misunderstandings and to arrive at a common decision.
2. Since most of the drop-outs are located within the area of boundary, one of my suggestions is to establish another family planning center near from the boundary of Barangay Paso de Blas and Barangay Bagbaguin.
3. The schools are very effective agencies in reaching mothers through the teachers, the guidance counseling programs, the homeroom and PTA organizations. Hence, the agencies concerned with social services of this nature could do well to coordinate if not directly involve the school sectors in their educational information drives. School clinics may also serve as family planning centers for those who live far from the centers. Arrangements can be made with school authorities in order not to cause undue disruption in their regular school activities.
4. The findings of this study may serve as one of the bases of enriching curriculum content particularly in Social Studies and allied social sciences. Information drives about family planning, and other relevant knowledge and information about birth control and population growth could be organized into learning tasks. The school children can therefore carry-over to their homes whatever they have learned or have been taught about family planning.

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