

# MALE INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING DECISION MAKING IN ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE.

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**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING**

**RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES**

**NOVEMBER 15-18, 2009**

**KAMPALA, UGANDA**



# BACKGROUND

- Nigeria is the most populous country in sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of 140 million people in 2006
- Contemporary research findings revealed that men's' knowledge and attitude about FP influence women's choices and practices
- Fertility and FP research and programmes have ignored men's roles in the past, focusing on women

# Study Aim

- To determine the extent of male involvement in reproductive goal decision making and FP service utilization among couples in Ile-Ife, Nigeria

# Objectives

- Assess men's knowledge, attitude, practice of modern contraceptive methods
- Assess the level of spousal communication in FP decision making
- Describe the opinions of FP providers toward male participation in RH services

# Methodology



- Study location
- Study design: Quantitative (Cross-sectional) and qualitative (FGDs and IDIs) methods
- Study population
- Sample size: 400 males, 200 females

# Methodology

OBJECTIVE	POPULATION TO BE STUDIED	METHODS TO BE USED	SAMPLE SIZE
<p>OBJECTIVE 1: Assess men's knowledge, attitudes, and practice of modern contraceptive methods.</p>	<p>Men of reproductive age group 15-59 years</p>	<p>Structured questionnaires Household</p>	<p>402 Structured Household questionnaires</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE 2: Assess the level of spousal communication in family planning decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Men within the age group 15-59yrs</li> <li>•Women of Reproductive age group 15-49 years</li> </ul>	<p>Structured Household questionnaires and Focus Group Discussions. Focus groups were assembled based on sex, religious affiliation (Christianity / Islam), age (young adults and older adults), educational status (primary education or less &amp; secondary/tertiary)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 402 male household questionnaires</li> <li>• 201 female household questionnaires</li> <li>• Twelve focus groups, each group consisting of about 8-10 participants.</li> </ul>
<p>OBJECTIVE 3: Examine the attitudes of family planning providers toward male participation in reproductive health services.</p>	<p>Heads of family planning service units in selected health facilities in Ile-Ife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•One In-depth Interview per facility</li> <li>•Review of facility family planning service registers</li> </ul>	<p>A Tertiary health facility, 2 secondary health facilities, 3 Primary Health Care centre and 4 Private Health facilities in Ile- Ife.</p>

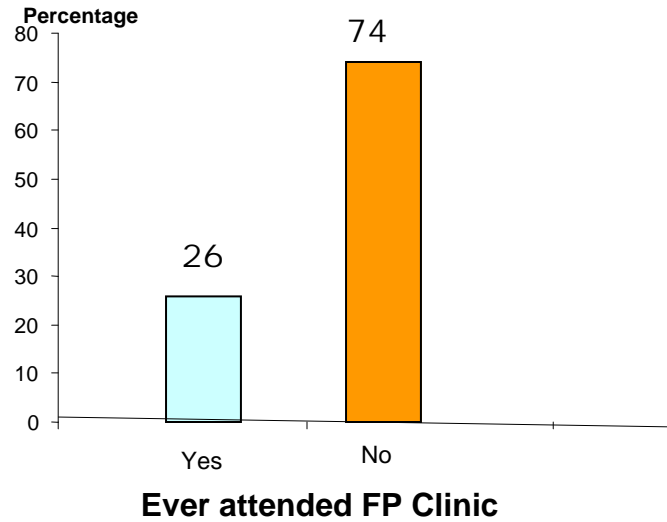
# RESULTS

- Age distribution for men ranged between 18-59 years >two-thirds 4<sup>th</sup> & 5th decades of life
- Majority (84%) were in monogamous unions, while others (16%) were in polygamous union
- Almost 3% of men and about same proportion of all respondents had never been to school while about 80% had attained secondary or higher levels of education.

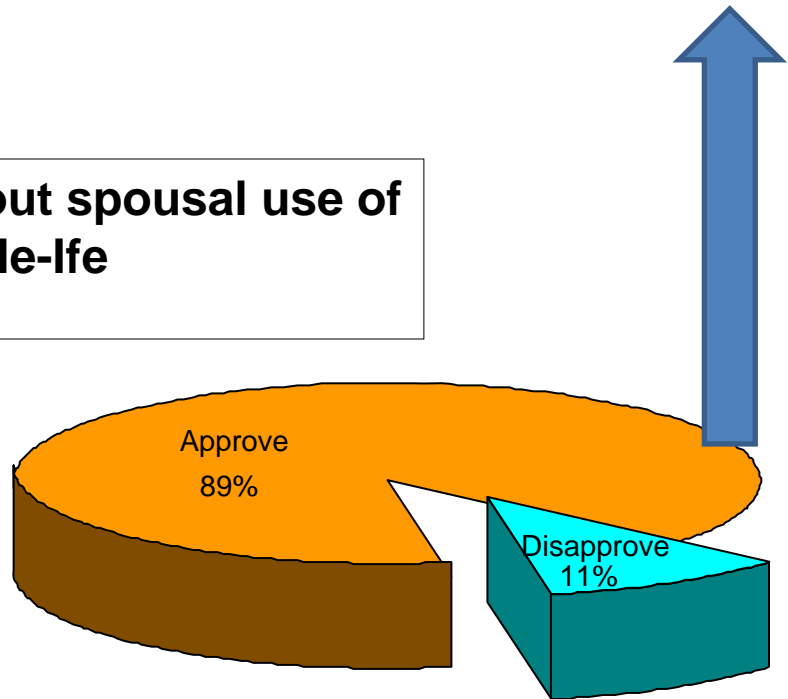
# Table 1: Awareness of Survey Respondents about Modern Family planning Methods

<b>Awareness of Modern Contraceptive Method</b>	<b>Male n=400 (%)</b>	<b>Female n=200 (%)</b>	<b>Total n=600 (%)</b>
Yes	399 (99.8)	198 (99.0)	597 (99.5)
No	1 (0.2)	2 (1.0)	3 (0.5)
<b>*Source of Information</b>	<b>Male n=399 (%)</b>	<b>Female n=198 (%)</b>	<b>Total n=597 (%)</b>
Radio	371 (93.0)	174 (87.9)	545 (91.3)
Friends	354 (88.7)	158 (79.8)	512 (85.8)
Television	327 (82.0)	155 (78.3)	482 (80.7)
Health workers in family planning clinic/Hospitals	55 (13.8)	76 (38.3)	131 (21.8)
Books/Journals	9 (2.3)	10 (5.1)	19 (3.2)

# Men's practice regarding attending FP Clinics with Spouse, Ile-lfe



**Men's attitude about spousal use of Family Planning, Ile-lfe**



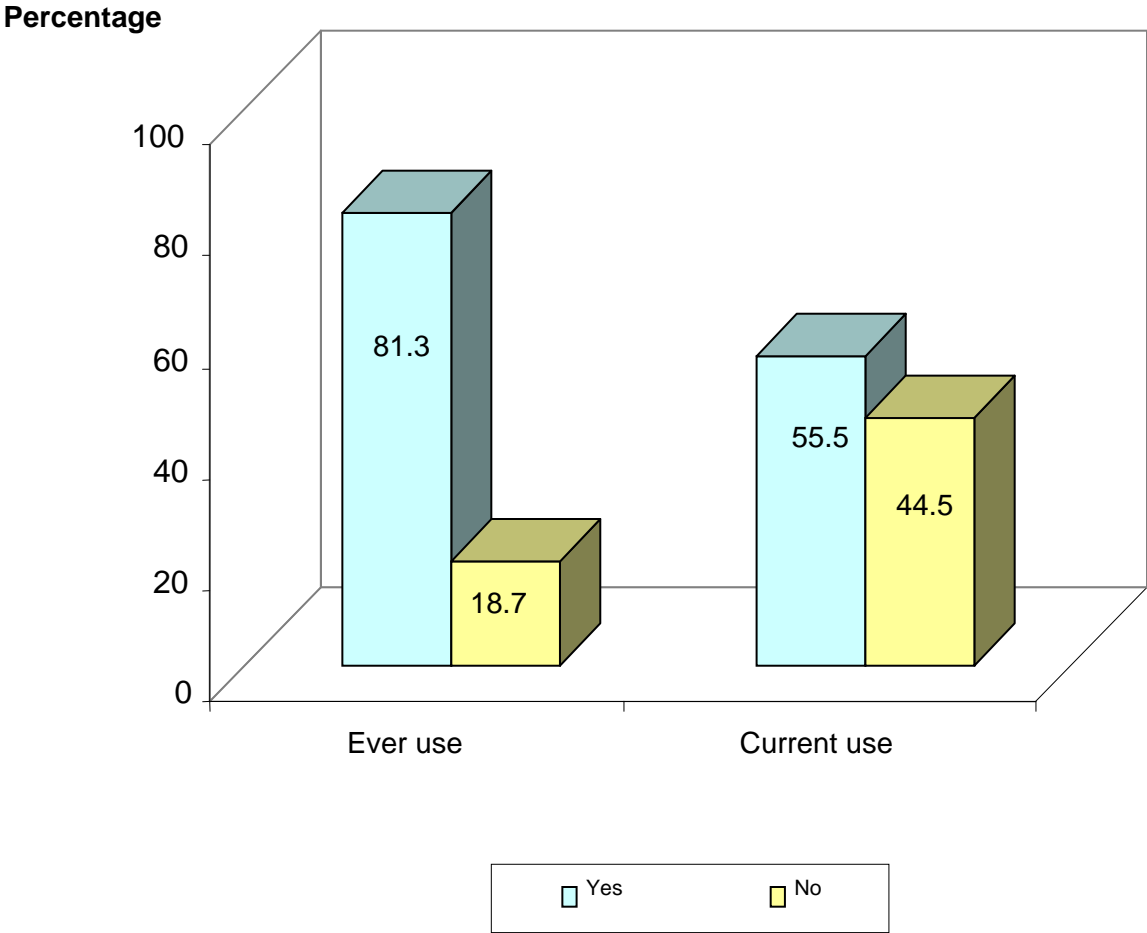
# Quotes from FGD Participants

- *“What will I do in a family planning clinic, the place is not meant for men, it is ridiculous for men to be there, I will just give my wife the necessary financial support she needs”* (Educated man, 30-55 years).
- *“My husband has never accompanied me to family planning clinic. He only gave me money for the method I decided to use”* (Uneducated woman, 18-30 years)

Table 2. Reported reasons for approval/disapproval of Spousal use of Family Planning Methods

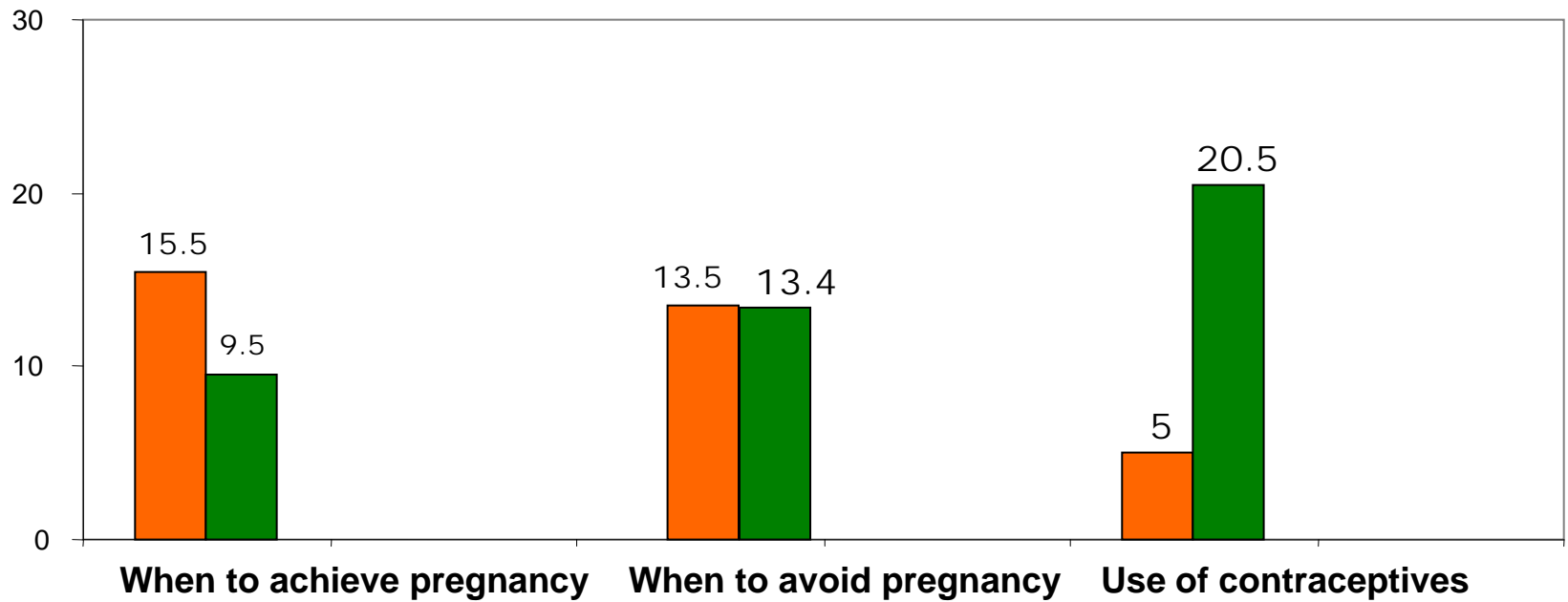
	Male		Female		Total	
<b>Approve</b>	<b>n=357</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>n=186</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>n=543</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Space Birth	255	(71.4)	124	(66.7)	379	(69.8)
Achieve desired family size	72	(20.1)	36	(19.4)	108	(19.9)
Avoid unwanted pregnancy	15	(4.2)	11	(5.9)	26	(4.8)
Promote child health	7	(2.0)	12	(6.4)	19	(3.5)
Improve quality of child care	7	(2.0)	2	(1.1)	9	(1.6)
Marital bliss	1	(0.3)	1	(0.5)	2	(0.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>(100)</b>
	Male		Female		Total	
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>n=43</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>n=14</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>n=57</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Religion	19	(44.1)	3	(21.4)	22	(38.4)
Side effects	14	(30.5)	3	(21.4)	17	(28.7)
Encourage infidelity	9	(20.8)	5	(35.8)	14	(24.3)
Reason unstated	2	(4.6)	3	(21.4)	5	(8.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>(100)</b>

# Utilization of Family Planning methods by male survey respondents in Ile-Ife



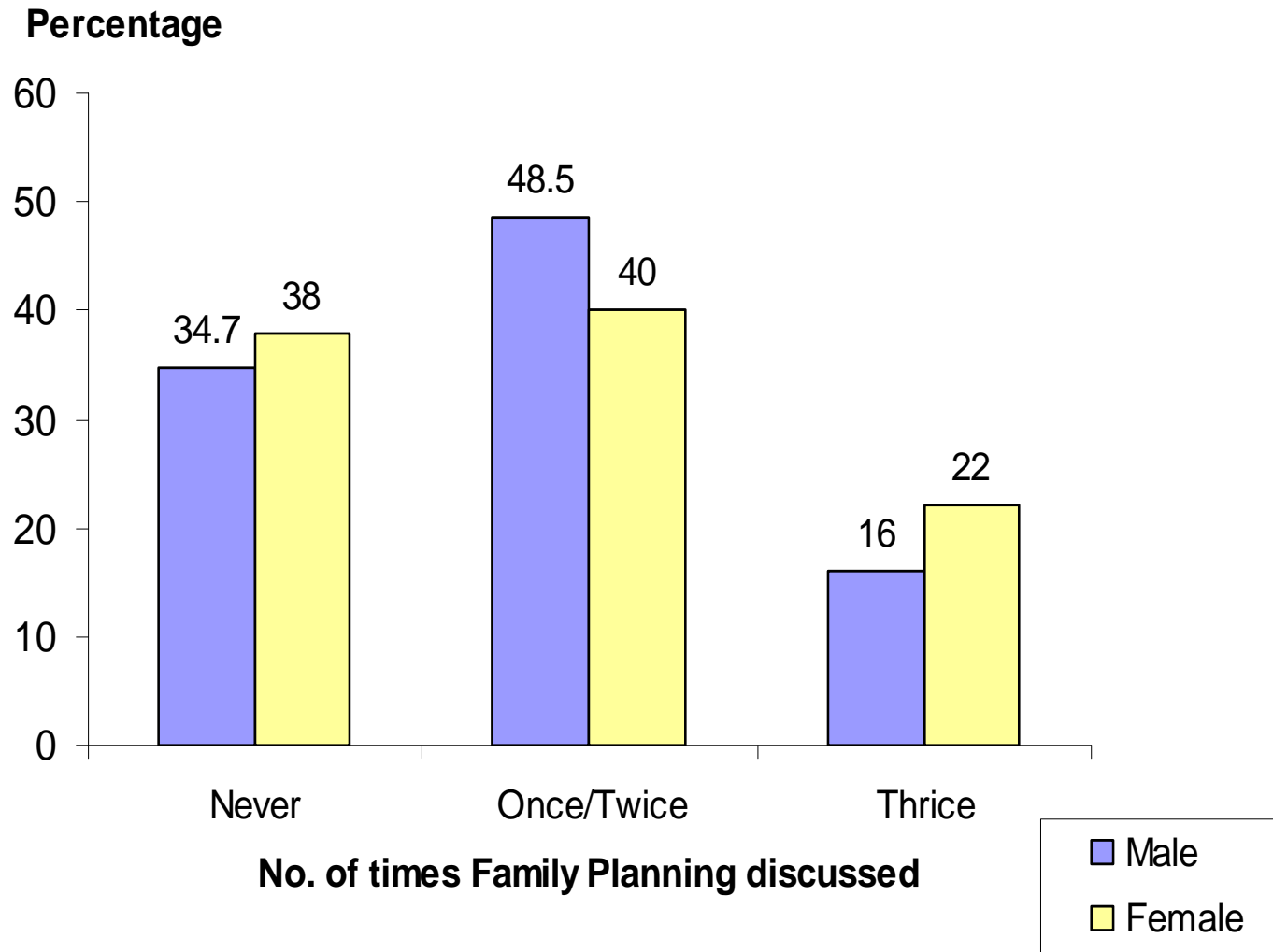
# Initiator of discussion about reproductive issues among survey respondents

Percentage



Men Women

**Figure 5: Spousal Communication about Family Planning in the past Year**



**Table 3. Family Planning providers' perspectives on reasons why men do not patronize family planning services, Ile-Ife,**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Percentage of providers</b>
Cultural norms	100
Society perceives it as a woman's business	100
Religion dictates	100
Men are self-centered	50
Women are more informed than men about it	50
Men are less committed as individuals to the family	50

# CONCLUSIONS

- Men in Ile-Ife possessed adequate knowledge of modern family planning methods
- Men's attitude toward and practice of modern family planning methods was fair
- Level of spousal communication about family planning was poor and the role of men in initiating discussions about contraceptive use was equally poor

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:
  - There is a need for more male targeted information in the mass media
  - Need to build partnerships
  - Hiring of male service providers
  - Improved social marketing of family planning commodities
  - Community-based resource persons

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Study respondents
- Fellow researchers
  
- O.A.U/J.H.U Bill and Melinda Gates Partnership Program on Population and reproductive Health

THANK YOU