



Family planning knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Indian married youth: Preliminary findings from a household survey in Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND

In India, married youth have significant unmet need for contraceptive methods. According to the 2006 National Family Health Survey, only 6.9% of married Indian women aged 15-19 and 26.1% of married women aged 20-24 used a modern contraceptive method.¹ Although demand for children immediately after marriage is high in India, this is coupled with an increasingly significant desire to space childbearing.

In October 2007, with funding and support from USAID/India, PSP-One launched a Youth Friendly Initiative (YFI) in Lucknow, India known as “Saathiya”, or “trusted partner” in Hindi. The Saathiya campaign includes messages and materials disseminated to young, low-income, married couples through channels such as billboards, radio, community theater, and a helpline. The Saathiya campaign

aims to motivate young, married couples to seek family planning (FP) information and products at medical shops, through Indigenous Systems of Medical Providers (ISMPs), and from physicians such as obstetrician-gynecologists (OB/GYNs) and family doctors. Through Saathiya these providers have been trained to strengthen their capacity to provide youth with high quality FP information and counseling, along with products, in an environment conducive to these interactions.

USAID’s Global Leadership Program for Youth provided funding to conduct a baseline survey on young Indian married couples’ FP knowledge, attitudes, and practices to (1) inform program development by better understanding the existing situation and needs of married youth in Lucknow, and (2) serve as a baseline against which to

compare changes over time and evaluate elements of the program, with a follow-on survey planned for early 2009. In order to assess the impact of the YFI in Lucknow, the same survey (baseline and follow-up) is also being conducted among a comparison group of married youth in the city of Kanpur Nagar, in which no intervention is taking place. This report presents a preliminary analysis of the baseline data collected in both cities in summer 2007.

METHODS

Target population

During June–August 2007, PSP-One conducted a household survey of young married men and women in the urban areas of Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. Eligible participants were currently married women aged 15-24 years and men aged 20-29 years²

¹ Measure DHS, 2007.

²The original survey design included only men aged 15-24 years. However, the initial household screening process yielded very small numbers of married men in the 15-19 year age category; hence the decision was made to target men aged 20-29 years.



living in households belonging to socioeconomic classes (SEC) B, C, and D.

Sampling procedures

The sampling strategy was designed to focus on households in Lucknow that were within a reasonable distance of (i.e., clustered around) the ISMPs and medical shops participating in the YFI program, such that young married men and women living in these households could potentially seek FP products and counseling from these providers. In Kanpur, where no intervention is taking place, efforts were made to sample households clustered around medical shops and ISMPs serving predominantly SEC B, C, and D.

Teams of two interviewers (one male, one female) screened households in selected areas.³ When an eligible household was reached, the investigators listed all eligible respondents and if there was more than one eligible respondent in the household, the investigator randomly selected one using the Kish table method. Male interviewers interviewed selected eligible males, and female interviewers interviewed selected eligible females.

Ethical review

The study protocol and instruments were reviewed and approved by the Abt Associates Inc. Institutional Review Board (IRB). Interviewers obtained informed consent from

participants or, in the case of participants aged 15-17, from a parent, guardian, or other adult living in the household.

Analysis

Data were stratified by city (Lucknow or Kanpur), gender, and by either age group (15-19 years or 20-24 years for women; 20-24 years or 25-29 years for men) or by number of currently living biological children (0 or “1 or more”). Missing responses were excluded from analyses.

RESULTS

1. General sample characteristics

A total of 2573 respondents were included in the final sample (1152 in Lucknow and 1421 in Kanpur). Overall, females aged 20-24 accounted for almost 48% of all respondents, while females 15-19, males 20-24, and males 25-29 each accounted for approximately 17-18% of the total sample (Tables 1 and 2).

Virtually all respondents were either Hindu (69% in Lucknow; 78% in Kanpur) or Muslim (30% in Lucknow; 21% in Kanpur). More than half of all respondents belonged to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, or “other backward castes” (55% in Lucknow; 60% in Kanpur), and mean monthly income was 2784 rupees in Lucknow and 2695 rupees in Kanpur.

2. Lifestyle & aspirations

The proportion of females currently working was 5% in Lucknow and 3% in Kanpur, and the proportion of males currently working was 88% in Lucknow and 90% in Kanpur.

All respondents were asked to rate the relative importance of a number of lifestyle concerns using a 5-point scale.⁴ Table 3 shows the items that were rated as “very important” by the greatest proportion of respondents.

“Having a large family” was rated as “very important” by just 9% of respondents in both Lucknow and Kanpur. However, in Lucknow, females were more likely than males to rate having a large family as either very important or somewhat important (46% of females; 18% of males), while in Kanpur there was no gender difference (24% of females; 23% of males).

3. Sexual & fertility history

The median age at (current) marriage was 18 for females and 21 for males in both Lucknow and Kanpur. The proportion of respondents who were either currently pregnant (females) or had a currently pregnant wife (males) was 14% in Lucknow and 17% in Kanpur. The proportion of females that had been pregnant at least one time ranged from 66% (15-19 year olds) to approximately 88% (20-24 year olds) in both cities. Among respondents who had been

³A total of 45 wards (approximately 40% of total) in each city were randomly selected and a total of 40,337 households were screened to obtain the final sample. Additional sampling details are available from PSP-One upon request.

⁴Response options were: very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, somewhat unimportant, very unimportant.

Table 1. Percentage distribution of participants by gender and city

	Lucknow	Kanpur	Overall
Male	37.2	33.6	35.3
Female	62.8	66.4	64.7
Total (n)	1152	1421	2573

Table 2. Percentage distribution of participants by age, gender, city, and number of living biological children

	Lucknow			Kanpur			Overall total
	0 children	>=1 child	Total	0 children	>=1 child	Total	
Females 15-19	29.8	14.2	19.4	25	10.4	15.4	17.2
Females 20-24	32.5	48.8	43.4	38.5	57.4	51.0	47.6
Males 20-24	24.9	14.5	18.0	26.2	11.6	16.6	17.2
Males 25-29	12.8	22.5	19.3	10.3	20.6	17.0	18.0
Total (n)	382	770	1152	488	933	1421	2573

Table 3. Percentage distribution of lifestyle issues rated as “very important” by respondents in Lucknow and Kanpur

	Lucknow	Kanpur
Improving financial status	97.2	85.3
Ensuring my children receive a good education	92.4	92.8
Spending more time with spouse and children	90.2	88.8
Being financially stable and secure	89.4	78.4
Getting more pleasure out of life	85.2	83.1
Having a healthy lifestyle	83.9	84.4
Total (n)	1152	1421

pregnant at least once or whose spouse had been pregnant at least once, a high proportion, regardless of age or gender, reported that they had wanted their last pregnancy at the time it occurred (89% in Lucknow; 77% in Kanpur).

The mean number of currently living biological children among all respondents was 1.6 in Lucknow and 1.3 in Kanpur. Approximately two-thirds of all respondents reported wanting more children in the future, and the mean total

number of children desired was 2.3 in Lucknow and 2.1 in Kanpur. Among respondents who already had one or more living children, the proportion desiring more children in the future ranged from 49% (Lucknow females) to 55% (Kanpur females).

4. FP knowledge & use

Source of FP information

The most common sources of information about FP were spouses (70% in Lucknow; 58% in Kanpur)

and friends (52% in both Lucknow and Kanpur) (Table 4). Females were much more likely than males in both cities to cite their spouse as a source of FP information, while males were more likely than females to report their friends as a source. Mothers-in-law (MILs) were reported as a source of information by more females than males in each city, and appeared to be a more common source of FP information for women in Kanpur (12%) than for women in Lucknow (6%).

Table 4. Percentage distribution of respondents reporting each source of FP information, by gender and city

Source of FP Information	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Spouse	80.1	53.4	70.1	66.7	41.0	58.1
Friend	30.0	88.3	51.7	36.5	82.4	51.9
Doctor	38.9	38	38.5	21.8	29.5	24.4
Other adult relative	32.8	24.0	29.5	27.9	16.9	24.2
Youth peer leader	4.0	34.0	15.2	34.8	24.5	31.3
Sister-in-law	18.4	9.8	15.2	27.9	9.0	21.5
Nurse	36.1	10.5	26.6	6.6	4.2	5.8
Sibling	14.0	3.3	10.0	14.4	2.5	10.4
Mothers-in-law	6.0	1.0	4.2	12.0	1.0	8.3
Total (n)	723	429	1152	943	478	1421

Table 5. Percentage distribution of respondents reporting that they have heard of EC, by gender and city

	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
	23.7	32.9	27.1	19.2	33.5	24.0
Total (n)	723	429	1152	943	478	1421

Fertile period

All respondents were asked “when is a woman most likely to become pregnant?” and were given the following response options: just before her period, during her period, just after her period, halfway between two periods, or other.⁵ The technically correct response is “halfway between two periods”; however, due to variations in cycle length, it is possible that for some women the fertile period overlaps between “right after her period” and “halfway between two periods.” The proportion of women choosing “halfway between two periods” was 13% in Lucknow and 23% in Kanpur, while 40% of men in Lucknow

and 7% in Kanpur also chose this response. A large proportion of respondents chose “just after her period” – 63% of women in Lucknow and 43% of women in Kanpur, and 35% of men in Lucknow and 62% of men in Kanpur.

Emergency contraception

In both cities, males were more likely than females to report having heard about emergency contraception (EC), but overall knowledge of EC was quite low in both cities and all subgroups (Table 5). Among those who reported having heard about EC, correct knowledge about when it should be taken to be effective was higher in Kanpur (50%) than in Lucknow (39%), and almost half of the respondents in Lucknow who

had heard of EC reported that they did not know when it should be taken (compared with 23% of those in Kanpur).⁶

The proportion of respondents who reported that they would not use EC or want their spouse to use EC was 18% in Lucknow and 23% in Kanpur. Males were more likely than females in both cities to express opposition to EC use (29% of males and 11% of females in Lucknow; 31% of males and 19% of females in Kanpur). Among those who would not use EC, the primary reasons were fear of side effects (50% in Lucknow; 69% in Kanpur), don’t know how to use EC (14% in Lucknow; 6% in Kanpur), personally opposed (10% in Lucknow; 1% in

⁵ Question and responses were used in MEASURE Evaluation Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

⁶ Although current research has shown that EC is effective up to 120 hours (five days) after unprotected sex, for the purposes of this survey we considered a response of “within three days” as “correct” since this is the information currently printed on the manufacturers’ EC packaging.

Kanpur), and don't know (18% in Lucknow; 9% in Kanpur).

Awareness of contraceptive methods

The top four methods that respondents in both cities had ever

heard of were condoms (95% in both cities), oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) (94% in Lucknow; 90% in Kanpur), female sterilization (85% in Lucknow; 70% in Kanpur), and the IUD (80% in Lucknow, 61%

in Kanpur) (Table 6). In Lucknow, 49% of respondents had heard of injectable contraceptives compared with 31% in Kanpur, with more females than males in both cities having heard of injectables.

Table 6. Percentage distribution of respondents reporting that they had ever heard of the following FP products or methods, by gender and city

FP methods ever heard of	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Condom	93.2	97.7	94.9	92.6	98.7	94.7
OCPs	96.1	90.9	94.2	93.8	81.2	89.6
Female sterilization	87.7	80.2	84.9	72.2	65.3	69.9
IUD	87.6	68.3	80.4	68.9	43.7	60.5
Male sterilization	76.2	85.8	79.8	38.7	66.1	47.9
Injectable	57.8	33.6	48.8	37.3	17.8	30.8
Rhythm method	29.0	32.9	30.5	30.3	33.1	31.2
Withdrawal	28.5	24.9	27.2	12.0	6.3	10.1
Emergency contraception pill	5.8	8.9	6.9	1.1	6.3	2.8
CycleBeads/Standard Days Method®	1.4	5.1	2.8	1.5	2.3	1.8
Today® vaginal pessaries	4.6	12.6	7.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
Don't know	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.8
Total (n)	723	429	1152	943	478	1421

Table 7. Percentage distribution of respondents reporting that they have ever used a FP method and methods ever used, by gender and city

Ever used a contraceptive method	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Yes	56.4	60.1	57.8	54.9	67.2	59
No	43.6	39.9	42.2	45.1	32.8	41
Total (n)	723	429	1152	943	478	1421
Methods ever used among ever users						
Condom	71.3	85.3	76.7	60.2	87.5	70.7
OCPs	30.9	27.5	29.6	21.6	15	19.1
IUD	6.4	4.7	5.7	4.8	1.6	3.6
Female sterilization	2.9	7.4	4.7	2.1	3.1	2.5
Rhythm method	5.9	8.9	7.1	17.4	17.4	17.4
Injectable	2.2	1.6	2	1.7	0.9	1.4
Male sterilization	1	1.2	1.1	0	0	0
Emergency contraception pill	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0	0.1
Withdrawal	3.2	8.1	5.1	14.7	2.2	9.9
Today® vaginal pessaries	0	4.7	1.8	1.0	0	0.6
Other	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0	0.5
Don't know	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0	0.2
Total (n)	408	258	666	518	321	839

Use of FP methods⁷

Overall, approximately 58% of all respondents reported that they had ever used a FP method, with females in both cities slightly less likely than males to report use (Table 7).

Among those who had never used a contraceptive method, the primary reason for non-use was that they desired to become pregnant (75% in Lucknow; 73% in Kanpur). In Kanpur, 8% of never users reported concern about side effects, whereas this was only a concern of 1% of never users in Lucknow. Very few respondents reported that they had never used a contraceptive because they did not know of any methods (3% in Lucknow; 5% in Kanpur). Among respondents not currently using a method of contraception, a large proportion (87% in Lucknow; 88% in Kanpur) stated that they intend to use a method in the future.

Among those who had used a contraceptive method at some point in time, condoms were by far the most common method used (77% in Lucknow; 71% in Kanpur), followed by OCPs (30% in

Lucknow; 19% in Kanpur). In both cities, approximately three-fourths of ever users reported that they were currently using a contraceptive method (75% in Lucknow; 76% in Kanpur). Just over half of all respondents in each city reported that they used a contraceptive method for the first time after they had one child.

Of the total survey population, approximately 45% reported that they were currently using a contraceptive method (44% in Lucknow; 45% in Kanpur), with males somewhat more likely than females in each city to report current use (Table 8). Respondents with at least one living child were more likely to be current users than respondents with no children.

The majority of current users in both cities reported that it was a joint decision with their spouse to use contraceptives at the current time (72% in Lucknow; 83% in Kanpur). A larger proportion of females aged 15-19 years in Lucknow (43%) reported that it was their spouse's decision to currently use contraception, compared with Kanpur (14%).

The most common contraceptive method used by current users was condoms (68% Lucknow; 59% Kanpur), followed by OCPs (10% in Lucknow; 9% in Kanpur), with women aged 20-24 more likely to use OCPs than women aged 15-19 (Table 9). IUDs were used by 5% in Lucknow and 3% in Kanpur, and injectables were currently used by just 2% in Lucknow and 1% in Kanpur. A small number (2-3%) of females aged 20-24 had been sterilized. No respondents in either city reported current use of male sterilization, emergency contraception pills, or Today® vaginal pessaries.

Most female current users reported that their spouse had bought or obtained their contraceptive method (74% in Lucknow; 55% in Kanpur), and approximately 80% of males in both cities reported that they had obtained the contraceptive method themselves. Medical shops were the single largest source that supplied the respondents most recently with their current method (61% in Lucknow; 52% in Kanpur). Medical shops were the largest provider of condoms in

Table 8. Percentage distribution of respondents reporting current FP use, by age, gender, and city

Current FP use	Lucknow							Kanpur						
	Females			Males			Lucknow Total	Females			Males			Kanpur Total
	15-19	20-24	Total	20-24	25-29	Total		15-19	20-24	Total	20-24	25-29	Total	
Yes	33.6	43.2	40.2	37.2	59.9	49.0	43.5	30.1	45.3	41.8	42.4	60.3	51.5	45.0
No, but have used before	10.3	18.8	16.2	9.7	12.6	11.2	14.3	13.7	13.0	13.1	14.8	16.5	15.7	14.0
Never used	56.1	38.0	43.6	53.1	27.5	39.9	42.2	56.2	41.7	45.1	42.8	23.1	32.8	41.0
Total (n)	223	500	723	207	222	429	1152	219	724	943	236	242	478	1421

⁷ Respondents were asked about contraceptive use as part of a couple; men could report OCPs or injectables if their partners used those methods, and women could report condoms if their husbands used them.

Table 9. Percentage distribution of methods used among current FP users, by age, gender, and city

Methods currently used	Lucknow							Kanpur						
	Females			Males			Lucknow total	Females			Males			Kanpur total
	15-19	20-24	Total	20-24	25-29	Total		15-19	20-24	Total	20-24	25-29	Total	
Condom	68.0	64.4	65.3	70.1	71.4	71.0	67.7	39.4	47.6	46.2	83.0	75.3	78.5	58.6
OCPs	10.7	14.4	13.4	5.2	6.0	5.7	10.2	1.5	13.1	11.2	6.0	6.8	6.5	9.4
Rhythm method	9.3	7.4	7.9	7.8	6.8	7.1	7.6	24.2	14.3	16.0	8.0	7.5	7.7	12.8
IUD	5.3	6.0	5.8	6.5	3.0	4.3	5.2	6.1	3.7	4.1	0.0	2.1	1.2	3.0
Female sterilization	0	2.3	1.7	5.2	8.3	7.1	4.0	0	2.7	2.3	1.0	5.5	3.7	2.8
Withdrawal	4.0	3.2	3.4	1.3	2.3	1.9	2.8	28.8	16.5	18.5	2.0	1.4	1.6	12.0
Injectable	1.3	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	0	1.2	1.0	0	1.4	0.8	0.9
CycleBeads/ Standard Days Method®	0	0.5	0.3	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.6	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Other	1.3	0	0.3	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.6	0.5	0	0	0	0.3
Don't know	0	0	0	1.3	0	0.5	0.2	0	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0.2
Total (n)	75	216	291	77	133	210	501	66	328	394	100	146	246	640

Table 10. Percentage distribution of primary sources of condoms among current condom users, by gender and city

	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Medical shop	73.7	88.6	80.2	79.7	72.0	75.7
Government health center	6.8	1.3	4.4	1.1	14.5	8.0
Government hospital	1.6	1.3	1.5	2.7	4.7	3.7
Other public	1.1	0	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.3
Private hospital	1.1	0	0.6	1.1	3.6	2.4
Private clinic/doctor	1.1	0	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.8
Other private	2.6	8.7	5.3	1.6	3.6	2.7
Don't know/NA	12.1	0	6.8	12.6	0.0	6.1
Total (n)	190	149	339	182	193	375

Respondents were asked to report the source where the current contraceptive method was last purchased or obtained, either by the respondent or by his/her spouse.

Table 11. Percentage distribution of primary sources of OCPs among current OCP users, by gender and city

	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Medical shop	59.0	75.0	62.7	20.3	75.0	81.7
Government hospital	17.9	0	13.7	0	6.3	1.7
Government health center	15.4	0	11.8	0	12.5	3.3
Other public	0	8.3	2.0	0	0.0	0
Private hospital	2.6	8.3	3.9	1.1	0.0	3.3
Private clinic/doctor	0	0.0	0.0	0.5	6.3	3.3
Other private	5.1	0.0	3.9	0.5	0.0	1.7
Don't know/NA	0	8.3	2.0	1.6	0.0	5.0
Total (n)	39	12	51	44	16	60

Respondents were asked to report the source where the current contraceptive method was last purchased or obtained, either by the respondent or by his/her spouse.

Table 12. Percentage distribution of primary sources of IUDs among current IUD users, by gender and city

	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Government hospital	58.8	44.4	53.8	56.3	0	47.4
Private hospital	29.4	44.4	34.6	37.5	66.7	42.1
Private clinic/doctor	5.9	11.1	7.7	6.3	33.3	10.5
ISMP	5.9	0	3.8	0	0	0
Total (n)	17	9	26	16	3	19

Respondents were asked to report the source where the current contraceptive method was last purchased or obtained, either by the respondent or by his/her spouse.

Table 13. Percentage distribution of primary sources of injectables among current injectable users, by gender and city

	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Government hospital	60.0	0	37.5	0	0	0
Private hospital	20.0	66.7	37.5	75.0	0	50.0
Private clinic/doctor	0	0	0	25.0	50.0	33.3
Medical shop	20.0	0	12.5	0	50.0	16.7
Don't know	0	33.3	12.5	0	0	0
Total (n)	5	3	8	4	2	6

Respondents were asked to report the source where the current contraceptive method was last purchased or obtained, either by the respondent or by his/her spouse.

Table 14. Percentage distribution of type of facility visited among respondents who visited a health facility in the past three months, by gender and city

	Lucknow			Kanpur		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Public	47.4	29.0	40.5	26.3	25.4	26.0
Private	52.2	69.7	58.7	72.7	74.6	73.3
Don't know	0.4	1.3	0.8	1.0	0	0.7
Total (n)	276	165	441	509	236	745

both cities (80% in Lucknow; 76% in Kanpur) (Table 10) and also the largest provider of OCPs (63% in Lucknow; 82% in Kanpur) (Table 11). Most IUD users obtained their IUD at a government hospital (54% in Lucknow; 47% in Kanpur) or a private hospital (35% in Lucknow; 42% in Kanpur) (Table 12). Source of injectables varied between the two cities. None of the six injectable users in Kanpur obtained

the method from public sources, while in Lucknow, the two leading sources were government hospitals (three of eight users) and private hospitals (three of eight users) (Table 13).

Health care seeking behavior

Respondents in Kanpur were more likely than Lucknow respondents to report having visited a health facility for any reason in the past

three months (38% in Lucknow; 52% in Kanpur). In Lucknow, men and women were equally likely to have gone for a visit, while in Kanpur women were slightly more likely than men to have gone for a visit. Among those who reported having visited a health facility in the past three months, most went to a private provider (59% in Lucknow; 73% in Kanpur) (Table 14). This was true in all age/gender groups;

however, females in Lucknow had the highest proportion of visits to public facilities and did not have as pronounced of a difference in proportion going to public versus private facilities.

5. Contact with health care providers as sources of FP methods

Medical shops (chemists)

Women were less likely than men to report shopping at medical shops, with 32% of women in Lucknow and 29% of women in Kanpur reporting that they don't shop at medical shops at all (compared with 4-6% of men). Very few women (4% in Lucknow; 7% in Kanpur) and just under half of all men (42% in Lucknow; 46% in Kanpur) had ever purchased contraceptives from a medical shop. Among those who had purchased contraceptives from a medical shop, 18% in Lucknow and 24% in Kanpur felt that there was not adequate privacy. The features that most respondents liked best about the medical shop (for their last contraceptive purchase) were close location, quick service, and shop cleanliness. Most who had purchased contraceptives from medical shops stated that they would return in the future to the same chemist for contraceptives (86% in Lucknow; 91% in Kanpur).

ISMPs

Fewer respondents in either city had purchased contraceptives from ISMPs than from medical shops

(2% in Lucknow; 0.5% in Kanpur). Given the very small number of respondents, no additional analysis is presented in this preliminary report.

OB/GYNs

Approximately 14% of respondents in Lucknow and 7% in Kanpur reported having purchased contraceptives from an OB/GYN. Most respondents felt that they had adequate privacy during this consultation (96% in Lucknow; 88% in Kanpur), were treated very politely or somewhat politely (99% in Lucknow; 90% in Kanpur), and received accurate information (99% in Lucknow; 89% in Kanpur). The features that most respondents liked best about the OB/GYN clinics (for their last contraceptive purchase) were close location, quick service, friendliness, and cleanliness, with variations in the relative importance of each between Lucknow and Kanpur. Most who had purchased contraceptives from OB/GYNs stated that they would return in the future to the same OB/GYN for contraceptives (96% in Lucknow; 88% in Kanpur).

Family doctors

The proportion of respondents reporting having purchased contraceptives from a family doctor was 12% in Lucknow compared with 5% in Kanpur. In Lucknow, women were more likely than men to report family doctors as a source of contraceptives, while

the opposite was true in Kanpur. Virtually all respondents who had purchased contraceptives from a family doctor reported that they were treated very or somewhat politely (99% in Lucknow; 100% in Kanpur) and received accurate information (99% in Lucknow; 94% in Kanpur). Most (96%) of the respondents in Lucknow felt that they had adequate privacy during their consultation, compared with 75% in Kanpur. The feature that was most important to respondents in Lucknow was close location (91%), followed by cleanliness (7%) and quick service (6%). In Kanpur, close location was most important but reported by just 49% of the respondents, followed by friendliness (34%) and quick service (31%). Most who had purchased contraceptives at family doctors stated that they would return in the future to the same family doctor for contraceptives (98% in Lucknow; 91% in Kanpur).

6. Gender & decision-making

Approximately 94% of all female respondents in Lucknow and 84% in Kanpur reported that they must have permission to go to the market, and 97% in Lucknow and 88% in Kanpur reported needing permission to visit relatives or friends. Most (92% in Lucknow; 88% in Kanpur) are allowed to have some money set aside for themselves.

In both cities, the majority of respondents stated that it was

a joint decision (between the respondent and his or her spouse) regarding when to have the first child (49% in Lucknow; 73% in Kanpur), when to have subsequent children (57% in Lucknow; 73% in Kanpur), and whether to use contraception (45% in Lucknow; 61% in Kanpur). However, it should be noted that in all cases, males were more likely than females to report that these decisions were joint. In general, respondents noted that the decision about where to purchase contraceptives most frequently was made by the husband.

The proportion of respondents who had discussed FP with their spouse in the past 12 months was 63% in Lucknow and 74% in Kanpur. In both cities, older respondents (women aged 20-24 years and men aged 25-29 years) were somewhat more likely to have discussed FP in the last 12

months than younger respondents (women aged 15-19 years and men aged 20-24 years), and men were somewhat more likely than women to report having discussed FP with their spouse.

7. People who influence FP decision-making

The proportion of respondents who reported that they had discussed FP with anyone in the last 12 months was 55% in Lucknow and 71% in Kanpur. The top influencers regarding FP were spouse (68% in Lucknow; 56% in Kanpur), friends (41% in Lucknow; 30% in Kanpur), and others (29% in Lucknow; 16% in Kanpur). Respondents reported that the same groups had encouraged them to use FP. However, the top influencers for males were friends, followed by spouse, while for females the spouse was the top influencer, followed by friends. Spouses and doctors were reported

to be the most trusted sources of FP information overall, but again there were gender differences. In Lucknow, the top trusted sources of FP information among females were spouses (82%), doctors (45%), and nurses (30%), while among males the top sources were spouses (68%), friends (57%), and doctors (45%). A similar pattern was seen in Kanpur.

Role of mothers-in-law

MILs were cited as influencers of FP thinking by just 2.6% in Lucknow and 4.8% in Kanpur. Respondents in Kanpur were more likely to state that their MIL had encouraged FP (1.6% Lucknow; 4% Kanpur). Respondents in Kanpur were much more likely to report that their MIL was a trusted source of FP information (2.2% in Lucknow; 20.1% in Kanpur), and females in both cities were several times more likely than males to say that their MIL was an important source of FP information.

Table 15. Percentage distribution of respondents who “strongly agree” with the following statements about FP, by city

	Lucknow	Kanpur
FP is beneficial to the health of my family	94.9	90.4
FP decreases the financial burden on a family	87.8	79.3
Couples should decide together about whether or not to use FP	87.8	91.4
FP fits my lifestyle	85.4	74.8
Spacing or limiting children improves your ability to take care of them	85.3	85.2
FP is important after having your first child, whether it is a girl or boy	77.5	89.2
FP is important after having your first son	77.2	87.5
FP allows couples more time to strengthen their relationship	80.7	80.4
Total (n)	1152	1421

Respondents were asked to use a five-point scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, and strongly disagree) to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about family planning.

8. FP attitudes & beliefs

Table 15 presents the family planning attitudes and beliefs with which the greatest proportion of respondents “strongly agreed”.

However, the proportion feeling that they are well-informed about different FP methods was lower, with just 41% in Lucknow and 27% in Kanpur strongly agreeing with this statement, and 10% in Lucknow and 6% in Kanpur strongly disagreeing with this statement.

In Lucknow, respondents felt that the ideal age for a woman to have

her first child was approximately 21 years and for men, 24 years. In Kanpur, respondents felt that the ideal ages for having the first child were 22 years for women and 26 years for men.

NEXT STEPS

Further analysis of the baseline data will inform future efforts to fine tune both the Saathiya program’s provider training curriculum and the communication strategy to reach married youth. A similarly structured follow-on survey is planned for January 2009, at which time the program will have

been operational for over 12 months. Analysis of the baseline and follow-up data in both cities will be conducted to evaluate YFI program components and to inform recommendations about how to further adapt this program to the urban Indian context as well as to other settings.

SOURCE

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Interagency Youth Working Group

About PSP-One

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Banyan Global

Dillon, Allman and Partners, LLC

Family Health International

Forum One Communications

IntraHealth International

O'Hanlon Health Consulting

Population Services International

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

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