Reproductive Preferences and the Demand for Family Planning in Oromia State, Ethiopia

Masters Thesis

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Outline

- Background
- Research Questions & Objectives
- Conceptual framework
- Research Design and Data
- Results
- Conclusion
Demand for children is the primary force determining birth rates.

Fertility transition involves:
- Changes in the demand for children
- Diffusion of new attitudes about family planning &
- Greater accessibility to contraception (Feyisten and Bankole, 2004; Mason, 1997)
- ICPD - ‘reproductive rights’ & ‘needs’
Background - Ethiopia

- Ethiopia: large population (75m) & high, but slowly declining fertility.
- Large regional & urban – rural variations in fertility
- Higher gap between actual and wanted fertility
- Low CPR (14.7% in 2005)
- Higher unmet need for contraception (34%)
Regional variation in fertility – highest fertility in Oromia state

Fertility in Ethiopia, 2005

TFR

Regional States

Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Benishangul, SNNP, Gambela, Harari, Addis, Direawa, National

TFR

Region

Oromia: 6.2
Afar: 5.4
Somali: 5.4
Benishangul: 4.2
SNNP: 5.4
Gambela: 4.2
Harari: 1.4
Addis: 1.4
Direawa: 1.4
National: 2.6
Oromia state
Main research question:
what are the levels and determinants of fertility preferences and its Influence on demand for family planning among women in Oromia state, Ethiopia?

Major objective: To analyze the level and determinants of fertility preferences and family planning demand among women in Oromia state, Ethiopia
Theory

- Easterlin’s Supply- Demand framework of fertility determination

- Determinants of fertility work through;
  - Demand for children,
  - Supply of children &

- Motivation to limit fertility only occurs if the supply of children exceeds their demand.
Conceptual framework

Demographic Social & economic factors

- K/ge & attitudes of family planning
- Communication & decision making about FP
- Child mortality & sex composition of children
- Exposure to Media

Fertility preferences

Demand for contraception

Actual fertility (supply)

Contraception
Study design, data & variables

- Study design: Cross-sectional study
- Data source: Ethiopian DHS of 2005
- Study population: 3300 currently married women

**Dependant variables:**
- desire to limit child bearing, demand for family planning

**Independent variables**
- Demographic, social and economic variables
- knowledge, attitudes towards family planning
- communication about family planning
- sex composition of children
- child death
- access to media
Data Analysis

- **Descriptive statistics** to find out levels of fertility preferences and the demand for contraception.

- Logistic regression analysis to identify the determinants of:
  - the desire to limit child bearing
  - the demand for family planning

- Use of log odds (odds ratio) to interpret results.

The logit form:

\[
\log\left( \frac{\pi}{1-\pi} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \cdots + \beta_k X_k
\]
Results – fertility preferences

Actual vs wanted fertility

- TFR(2005) – 6.2 children
- wanted TFR(2005) – 4.3 children
- unwanted births – 31% of births
- Mean ideal number of children = 4.2
Results – Ideal number of children

Fig 2: Ideal Number of children preferred by Women, Oromia State, Ethiopia 2005
Ideal number of children

- Preference for sons
- Men more pronatalists

Mean desired number of children by women and Men, Oromia State, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired No. of children</th>
<th>Both sexes (women)</th>
<th>Daughters (women)</th>
<th>Both sexes (men)</th>
<th>Daughters (men)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>5.94</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fertility Intentions - desire for (more) children

- Desire to space child bearing: 34%
- Desire to limit child bearing: 47%
Fertility Intentions

- Variation with background ch/x of women
- Desire to limit child bearing: increase with age
- Desire to space child bearing: declines with age
Fertility Intentions of women by number of living children

Number of living children

- want no more
- want after 2 years
- want in 2 years
Determinants of the desire to limit child bearing

- Age (older age)
- Wealth (richest)
- Number of living sons
- Number of living daughters
- Knowledge of family planning
- Exposure to media
- Exposure to family planning information
OR from logistic regression

- **Age (rc=15-24)**
  - 25-34: 1.21 (0.87-1.67)
  - 35-49: 2.15 (1.50-3.08)***

- **Wealth (rc= poorest)**
  - poorer: 1.46 (1.10-1.94)*
  - middle: 1.71 (1.32-2.21)**
  - richer: 1.79 (1.36-2.35)**
  - richest: 2.56 (1.84 - 3.56)***

- **Knowledge of Family Planning - 2.94 (1.81 - 4.77)***

- **Exposure to Media (rc=none)**
  - Any one: 1.41 (1.11-1.80)**
  - Any two: 1.48 (0.99-2.20)*
  - All three: 1.08 (0.50-2.33)
Effect of sex composition of children on the desire to limit child bearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of living sons</th>
<th>No. of living daughters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demand for family planning

- Met need (current contraceptive use) = 13.6%
- Unmet need (demand among non-users) = 41.5%

% met need: 5.6
% unmet need: 24.9
% overall demand satisfied: 18.4
% overall demand: 24.7
Unmet need – demand among non users

- Unmet need for family planning = 41.5%
- Higher unmet need for spacing than for limiting
  - unmet need for limiting – 16.6%
  - unmet need for spacing – 24.9%
- Unmet need - higher among young women, rural and illiterate women.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fatalistic</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner’s (husband’s) disapproval</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious prohibition</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows no method</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows no source</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health concerns</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of side effects</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menopausal/ subfecund</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access (too far)</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Determinants of the demand for contraception

- **Age**
  - 20-24 (OR, 5.70:2.26 - 14.38)
  - 25-29 (OR, 3.64:1.46 - 9.05)

- **Education**
  - Secondary and above (OR, 2.24:1.23 - 4.08)

- **Knowledge of family planning** (OR, 2.67:1.56 - 4.58)

- **Fertility Intentions**
  - want a child after 2 years (OR, 3.73:2.61 - 5.33)
  - want no more child (OR, 5.84:4.15 - 8.21)
Conclusions

- Demand for smaller families increasing,
- but gap between actual and wanted fertility
- Higher desire to limit or postpone child bearing
  - Age, sex composition of living children, wealth, knowledge of FP and exposure to media important factors
- High unmet need and high overall demand for family planning
- Small proportion (25%) of demand for FP satisfied
- Fertility intentions are strong predictors of demand for FP
Thank you!!!