Analysis of Sex Preference in Relation with Contraceptive Use in Turkey

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Thesis Abstract

This study firstly examined the sex preference in Turkey by using currently married and fecund women data and then by employing logistic regression model considering the complex sample, the determinants of contraceptive use were identified for different parities with taking advantage of TDHS-2008 data. The results showed that there is some preference for sons especially in rural areas and East region though generally those women prefer to have children of both sexes. The impact of sex preference on sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) of living children by type of place of residence, region, and fertility preferences was investigated. In addition, by using Arnold’s method, the effect of sex preference on fertility preference and contraceptive use was discussed. The descriptive analysis results suggested that impact of sex preference and fertility preference on contraceptive use is trivial. Depending on sex composition of living children, currently married and fecund women decide to continue bearing child(ren). The logistic regression models indicated that current sex composition of living children, education of women, mother tongue of women, region, age of women and fertility preferences are statistically significant in predicting the contraceptive use.
Determinants of Unmet Need for Family Planning in Turkey with a Particular Emphasis on Different Approaches

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PELİN ÇAĞATAY SEÇKİNER

THESIS ABSTRACT

In general, unmet need refers to the condition of wanting to avoid or postpone childbearing but not using any methods of contraception. The concept has its origins in the first fertility and family planning surveys carried out during the 1960s under the label “KAP-gap”, and then it has been extensively used as a reproductive health indicator for tracking progress on improving maternal health.

One of the aims of this dissertation is to estimate and compare the level of unmet need in Turkey by using the data sets of 1998 and 2008 Turkey Demographic and Health Surveys based on the different approaches. It has been revealed that the estimates can largely vary according to the various methodological perspectives, and it is difficult to attain one single best estimate for unmet need. In line with the objectives, the predictors of unmet need are determined through multivariate analyses in both surveys. The two surveys have both common and uncommon variables. Among the common variables, the level of total unmet need is significantly influenced by the marital duration, mother tongue of women, the gap between actual number of children and ideal number of children, sex of living children and ever use of contraception in each survey. Additionally, in 1998, the age of women, health insurance, effect of mass media, women’s religious concerns about family planning and household wealth status are found to be significant predictors. In 2008, the employment status of women and women gathering activities are observed to be other determinants of unmet need.

It is well-known that contraceptive prevalence rate and unmet need are closely associated with each other. The most immediate effect of reducing unmet need comes through the increasing level of contraceptive prevalence rate, which leads to changes in overall fertility. In case of a reduction of unmet need in Turkey, this will generate a total fertility rate below the replacement level (it ranges from 1.6 to 1.9), but its demographic impact is relatively low when compared to other developing countries having higher levels of unmet need.