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PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACT BOOK

Unmet desire for having additional children of Sri Lankan women

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This study examines the unmet need for limiting childbirth along with the unmet desire for having additional children and attempts to identify the socio economic factors which influence women to have desire for having additional children. The data for this study are obtained from the Demographic and Health Survey 2006/07 conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics. In this survey 14, 692 ever-married women aged 15-49 years, from a sample of 19,872 households were interviewed. The analysis based on 5,439 women aged 45-49 .who completed their fertility. Univariate, bi-variate and multivariate analyses were done to examine the unmet need and desire. A binary logistic regression model was fit to explore the factors influencing the unmet desire for having additional children.

The results reveals that 23% of the women have unmet need for limiting child birth while 32% of the women have unmet desire for having additional children in Sri Lanka. Women in urban sector, educated and women in manager and professional occupational categories have shown unmet desire for having additional children compared to the other women in Sri Lanka. The binary logistic regression results further reveal that husband's level of education and occupation along with the fertility preference of both husband and wife are the determining factors of desire.

Key words: Unmet desire, Fertility, Limiting child birth