

A study on awareness and attitudes of Married men on vasectomy in Dehdasht/IRANAuthors: Naimi, E.¹, Nooryan KH.², Karimi A.A.³¹M S in Medical and Health services Management, Yasuj university of Medical sciences²Member of Faculty Yasuj University of Medical Sciences, Yasuj, Iran³Member of Faculty Yasuj University of Medical Sciences, Yasuj, Iran

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Abstract: Introduction: Family planning is considered as an important and of priority program in curbing the accelerating growth of population at provincial and national levels. Men are able to play an effective role in family planning programmes. Therefore in this research the awareness and attitudes of married men on vasectomy was assessed and studied in the city of Dehdasht. **Materials and Methods:** The present research is a descriptive analytical study which was carried out in 1382. The tools and method of collecting data were questionnaires and interviews. By referring to 400 married men who were selected randomly the questionnaires were completed and the data were analyzed using SPSS software and inference descriptive Statistical methods. **Findings:** Based on the findings in this research the average age of participants was $38/54 \pm 9/23$ years. 3/1 percent of the participants had high school and university education, and 46.3% were Government employees. In view of awareness on vasectomy 33.3% were weak. 23% were moderate, and 41.8% were well informed. In view of the attitudes of research units to vasectomy 44% were weak, 34.8% were moderate and 21.2% had good attitudes to vasectomy. The level of awareness in research units showed a significant correlation with level of education age number of children and employment, and the attitudes levels of the units under research had a significant correlation with third level of education age and job. **Conclusions:** based on the findings of this research it is recommended to upgrade and promote the awareness and attitudes of people in the field of vasectomy by revising educational planning and media program.

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Introduction

The accelerating growth of population in the world is the greatest basic obstacle in the widespread economic social and cultural development of different countries'. The irregular growth of the world's population has caused many of basic resources depends on which the survival and health of future generations to be finishing because of unstable patterns of production and consumption, and demolition of environment is increasing. Therefore the necessity of control and curbing the population grow through family planning program is understood. In implementation of family planning program different methods are used. One of those methods is vasectomy or closure of tubes in men which is nowadays used as a permanent way to prevent (avoid) unwanted pregnancy. Vasectomy is one of permanent methods which allow men to prevent pregnancy in their wives. Vasectomy is a safe and effective method of preventing pregnancy which is applicable in less than 20 minutes by a small surgery in men. Preparing the case for operation and topical anesthesia takes only several minutes. The operation usually includes one or two small incisions on the skin of testicle – sac. Applying new methods vasectomy is possible without using scalped and

through a dermal incision with a diameter of several millimeters. The risk of inner injury is not serious and infection in vasectomy is very low in comparison to tubal ligation (closure of tubes in women) because in vasectomy nothing is inserted in abdomen cavity and also general method is not used. Therefore no mortality is there because of side effects. Vasectomy is a method of preventing pregnancy (contraception) with high efficacy. The studies carried out in 1990 and who (world Health organization) session (1991) have declared vasectomy a safe and confident operation.

Across the world 42-60 million couples have accepted vasectomy as a method of preventing pregnancy. As a method of contraception vasectomy is a preventing action which does not require continuous awareness and protection through involving applicants and it could be included in the present health care system and make use of present staff and equipments. Vasectomy is applicable at the lowest level of health care system and because of simplicity of techniques and skills required it is a cheap and appropriate choice for all countries.

With regard to the benefits of vasectomy in comparison to other methods of contraception. It is quite obvious that assessment of awareness and

attitudes of men is necessary as those who play the most important role of decision making in the family.

Therefore the present research was carried out with the purpose of a study on the awareness and attitudes of married men in the city of Dehdasht. (Province of Kohkiluyeh and Boir Ahmad)

Methods and Materials:

This is a descriptive analytical which was carried out in 2003. The studied community was married men of Dehdasht city in the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boir Ahmad. In this research 400 married men were selected using a cluster sampling method and studied randomly in cluster groups of 10 with confidence of 95% $Z = 1096$ maximum estimated error $d = 5\%$ and considering a selection level 400 cases. The data collecting tools included a questionnaire containing 12 questions on population specifications and general information in the field of family planning questions awareness and 13 phrases regarding the attitudes of studied men in the field vasectomy.

For answering the questions on awareness a spectrum of 3 options (yes no I don't know) was proposed and for answering the questions an attitudes options were proposed in a spectrum of 5 grades using Likert categorization method (fully agree-agree-no idea-disagree-fully disagree).

To acquire scientific reliability of data collecting tools the content reliability was used

To determine the stability of data collecting tools in a pilot study using chronbakh Alfa method the questionnaires were studied and confirmed ($\alpha = .73$).

Through reference of four (4) inquires the samples (individuals) of the research were interviewed and the collected information (data) was analyzed using SPSS software. Frequency distribution tables were used for description variance – analysis and K square tests were used for analysis.

Findings:

Based on the findings the mean age and standard deviation in the studied cases was 38.54 ± 9.23 years. Among the cases the youngest was 19 years of age and the eldest 70 (seventy) years. The majority of cases in the research were in the age – group of 40 to 44 years (21.5%). In view of education 28.3% were at high school level and 24.8% at university level. The highest frequency of spouse age was in the age group of 25 to 29 years (23%). And the literacy of their wives was often at elementary level (2.8%). The results of Th0s research show That the most known method of contraception for the

participants in the research was birth control pills (97%) followed by tubal ligation (7.8%) and They had the lowest knowledge about natural preventing methods (1%) and I.U.D (Intra uterus device between 10.5% . 51.5% of the participants had mentioned vasectomy as a method of preventing pregnancy (Contraception). The highest source of information for the participants in the research is the health centers (83.75%) followed by television (62%) and the least is the wires of participants (5.75%). In relation to awareness of the cases. (The participants in the research) the results showed that the awareness of 33.3% in vasectomy was weak (number below 30). 25% moderate awareness (Number 30 to 60) and 41.8% were well aware (Number 60 and higher). In the field of the attitudes of research units the results showed that 44% had weak attitudes (Number less than 30) 34.8% had moderate attitudes. (Number 30 to 60) and 21.2% of research units had good attitudes (Number 60 and higher)

Other result of the research showed that there is a significant correlation between levels of awareness and education number of children and jobs of studied individuals. In Table 2 Also a significant correlation was observed between types of attitudes education and jobs of studied individuals. But there is no significant correlation between their type of attitudes and number of children. The results also showed that there is a significant correlation between the mean age of studied individuals with their level of awareness and attitudes.

The results of present research showed that there is a significant correlation between Knowledge and attitudes of individuals ($r = .71$ and $p < .001$). Based on the findings of present research 44.3% of research units mistakenly thought of tubal ligation as easier than vasectomy, and 19.8% were absolutely unaware of the matter. 32.3% of respondents considered heavy jobs as an obstacle for vasectomy, and 30.8% thought of vasectomy in men as irreversible. 17.3% thought that the side effects of vasectomy are more than tubal ligation. 14.8% thought that vasectomy causes reductions of sexual potency. 19% considered anesthesia for vasectomy, and 18.5% considered hospitalization as necessary for vasectomy. In relation to attitudes (40.6%) Deemed vasectomy as a cause of castration, 29.3% problems with sexuality, 29.3% Emotional problems 40.5% of the research units were of the opinion that those who undergo vasectomy are degraded in the sight of people.

Table 1. Absolute frequency distribution and percent age of studied samples in terms of awareness and attitudes to vasectomy.

Levels	weak		Moderate		Good		Total	
Variable	Number	percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Awareness	133	33.3	100	25	167	9108	400	100
Attitude	176	44	139	34.8	85	21.2	400	100

Table 2: Frequency distribution of research units in term of demographic specifications and their awareness and vasectomy level of awareness

Row specification	Specific Situation	Weak		moderate		Good		Results of statistical Tests
		No	P.C	NO	P.C	NO	P.C	
1-litercy	1-illiterate	24	54.5	7	15.9	13	29.5	X ² =17.9 P<%5
	2-primary	24	27	18	20.2	47	52.8	
	3-Guidance school	20	37	11	20.4	23	42.6	
	4-High school	34	30.1	32	28.3	47	41.6	
	5-university	31	31.3	32	32.3	36	36.4	
2- children	1-less than 3	73	36.9	56	28.3	69	34.8	X ² =10.6 P<%5
	2-4 to 6	36	33	26	23.9	47	43.1	
	3- More than 6	24	25.8	18	19.4	51	54.8	
3-Job	1-Employe	55	27.7	54	29.2	76	41.1	X ² =37.3 P<%01
	2-unemployed	78	36.3	46	21.4	91	42.3	

Table 3: Frequency distribution of research units in terms of demographic specifications and their attitudes on vasectomy

ROW	Specifica tion	Specific situation	Level of awareness						Results of statistical Tests
			Weak		moderate		Good		
			No	P.C	NO	P.C	NO	P.C	
1	Literacy	1-iliterate	25	56/8	9	20/5	10	22/7	X ² =24/6 P<./01
		2-primary	29	32/6	29	32/6	31	34/8	
		3-Guidance school	23	42/6	18	33/3	13	24/1	
		4-high school	56	49/6	37	32/7	20	17/7	
		5- university	43	43/4	45	45/5	77	11/1	
2	Children	1-less than 3	92	46/5	69	34/8	37	18/7	*N5
		2-4-6	53	48/6	32	29/4	24	22	
		3- 6 and more	31	33/3	38	40/9	24	25/8	
3	Job	1- employed	82	44/3	79	42/7	24	13	X ² =17/73 P<./001
		Non-employee	94	43/7	60	27/9	61	28/4	

Table 4: The correlation of levels of awareness and attitudes of research units on vasectomy with their average age:

Component	Age	Average	Standard deviation	Statistical test
Awareness	Weak	36.6	9.6	ANOVA F=14.8 P<./001
	Moderate	35.9	8.1	
	Good	41.3	9.6	
Attitude	WEAK	36.8	9.4	ANOVA F=12.7 P<./001
	MODERATE	37.7	8.4	
	GOOD	42.9	10.3	

Discussion and conclusion

The problems caused by explosive growth of the population necessitates application of methods to prevent pregnancy. Vasectomy is one of these effective methods, that with regard to its efficacy,

planning is necessary to give awareness to people and change their behavior to use this method.

In the present research 51.5% of the research units mentioned vasectomy as a method. In a study by Mortazavy (1997) it was shown that 92% knew vasectomy as a method to prevent pregnancy. In a

study by Zia-ee (1993) it was shown that 97.3% did not know vasectomy. Maybe inconsistency of this research with the study by Zia- ee dates back to the time of research that in the interval between the two studies health care and media activities has been more extensive. Also in comparison to the study by Mortazavy (1997) this research shows a lower ratio, but it is an evidence of up grading tubes have uses have uses have the awareness of people on vasectomy. Presumably health care measures have prepared the ground for more information, and it is possible to upgrade the awareness of people in this field by educational planning in the frame work of present network systems. Vaziri(2002) showed that 55.2% of the studied individuals recognized vasectomy . In a study by Fabin (2000) it was shown that 48% of men recognized vasectomy and both above mentioned studies are approximately in consistency with the present study. The result of this research showed that health care units have been the highest informants (83.3%) followed by television (62%) and the least information giving has been by spouse. In a study by Amir Zargar (1995) it was shown that 37.2% of the cases have acquired their information by the health care staff and 34.2% by the mass media. Mortazavy (1997) showed that 58.4% of the research samples have acquired their information by spouse, relative and friends.

Sahary (1996) has declared the most prevalent way of getting acquaintance with vasectomy (45.6%) through friends and familiars. In comparison to the research by Amir Zargar and with regard to the year of research it could be said that the role of health services in the present research has been increasing so that in the year 1374 it has risen to 83.2 % from 34.2%.

In this trend the role of television as an informing source why could penetrate in very family shows an important stance in both studies. Although this media (television) is more age cat doing in the present research.

But the present research is not in consistency with the study by M present research is not in consistency with the study by Mortazavy (1997).may be the community of research in the two studies has prepared the ground for this difference in view of education and city of research.

Also the study by Sahary (1996) is not in consistency with the present research regarding the Manner of acquiring information and vasectomy, and maybe the reasons for the difference are similar to the study by Mortazavy.

The results of this research showed that in 33.3% of research units awareness was weak in 25% moderate and 41.8% were well – informed In a study by Shabafar (1991) it was shown that 19.5% of

research unit health awareness on vasectomy. Also in a study by Kamyabi (2000) it was shown that 7.41% of studied men had sufficient awareness on vasectomy and in the present study awareness on vasectomy has been better. Although it seems that 41.8% of individuals in this research had a good awareness since 58.3% of the research units acquired numbers less than it could be said that by applying better education tools the providers of services could be more effective to in crease public awareness on this matter. maybe it could be said that more awareness in comparison to the two previous studies, is because of passing of time , or activities of medical and health system in the region .in the research by Zia-ee (1993) 97.2% of men .

Did not recognize vasectomy in contrast to which in the present research awareness of the studied community has been higher and it seems that the above mentioned reasons have had interference in this matter In a study by Rowshany (1995) it was shown that 96.65% of the studied individuals were aware of vasectomy but 36% thought that vasectomy is with side effects ,and 22.5% believed that it causes reduction of sexuality, which is not in consistency with the present research and this may be because of the manner of providing services and education in Guilan province in comparison to the studied province. During a study Shahamfar (2001) showed that 16.5% of men thought that tubal ligation was easier. The present study is better in view of awareness of research units. On the ground of side effects of vasectomy in comparison to previous studies , which is approximately an evidence of their awareness of vasectomy, but since research units considered tubal ligation as easier and in spite of the fact that 30.8% of samples mistakenly thought of vasectomy as irreversible which is not in consistency with the previous study. It requires educational discussions in this field and it seems that a revision is necessary on the method of giving information to individuals who receive the services, with regard to the results of this research. 44%had weak attitudes 34.8% moderate and 21.2% health good attitudes.

In a study by Tavakoly (1991) it was shown that 35.9% of the studied men agreed a vasectomy in a study by Kamyabi (2000) it was shown that 29.55% of men had negative attitudes towards vasectomy which shows a great difference. In comparison to the results of the present research and it seems that inspire of the fact that in the studied community. Awareness has been better but there is a gap until reaching an acceptable attitude. May be a revision on prioritization and method of information giving and continuation of trainings will be followed by a more desirable attitude. Khosrowabadi (1993) showed that 91.2% of men agreed on vasectomy which is not in

consistency with the present research. In a study by Knodwax(1987). The rate of application for vasectomy was declared to be zero because often vasectomy is considered as equivalent to castration which is a factor of fear in men, In contrast to the above mentioned research in the present study individuals believed that may be the reason for the difference. Socio-cultural topics, because the method of training beliefs and culture have been different in the two countries. In our country unpopularity of castration as a method of contraception is similar to Egypt and Indonesia that in spite of stable programs of family planning in those countries the prevalence of castration is 5% countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and El Salvador, are among the countries in which castration and abstinence of men and women is acceptable as a method of contraception. 55.1% of the individuals in this research believed that tubal ligation is easier than vasectomy. And 54.8% believed that because pregnancy occurs in women, then tubal ligation is better which is not in consistency with the previous study. Maybe this attitude has arisen from lack of perception in the method of tubal ligation in comparison with vasectomy which requires hesitation and consideration for designers of educational topics in this regard. In this research the fear of reduced sexuality is more in comparison to previous studies which may be because of education and method of providing services in the regions. Hajivandi (1995) showed that 19.3% of individuals refuse to undergo vasectomy because of being reproached by others which is not in consistency with this research. Maybe because of great importance that men give to social issues, and social pride, they do not show propensity to undergo vasectomy. Therefore more effective educational programs are necessary to clean the minds of people from incorrect beliefs and information, and this is possible by advisory programs, continuing training and culture building.

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