

## ABSTRACT

Unmet need for contraception in peri-urban slum population has been increasing and as a consequence unwanted pregnancy and induced abortion become problem causing abortion related maternal death. A cross-sectional study (both qualitative and quantitative methods) was conducted to find out the factors influencing the unmet need for contraception among 353 married women of reproductive age (15-49) in peri-urban slum area of Hlaingtharya Township. Face to face interview was done using pretested semi structured questionnaires. In depth interview among twelve women with unmet need and key informant interview among seven health care providers were done to explore the barrier and challenges in providing contraceptive services in slum area. Most respondents were dependent and primary education level. The prevalence of contraceptive use was 75.6% and unmet need proportion was 29.2%. Almost all respondents have heard about contraceptive methods (Oral and Injectable contraceptives), over 90% of the respondents heard about implant, intrauterine device and male condom. More than 80% of the respondents heard about sterilization. The least known method was emergency contraceptive pills. About 80% of respondents had low level of knowledge. Almost all the respondents had good attitude towards contraception. Most of them discussed with their husbands for contraceptive utilization. Only 7% of respondents went to public health centers for contraceptive services. Most respondents were using injectable contraceptive method. The reasons for not using contraception among nonusers were negligence; plan to get child, fear of side effects and no mensuration at all after the last child. These reasons were also supported by qualitative findings. The odds of being unmet need on contraception among current non contraceptive users was 5.7 [95% CI; 3.3, 9.9] compared to the current users ( $p < 0.001$ ). The odds of being unmet need on contraception among married women who expected to get more than 3 children was 1.9 [95% CI; 1.0, 3.7], compared to married women who expected to get 3 or less children ( $p = 0.04$ ). In qualitative interview among health care providers and women with unmet need, it was consistently observed that the reasons for unmet need on contraception were negligence, fear of side effects, misunderstanding about contraception and malpractice. The married women with unmet need stated that they would like to have health facility near their residences and they would like to get long lasting contraceptive methods like implants free of charge. The challenges pointed out by

health care providers in providing contraceptive services to slum population were imbalance human resource and workload, logistic issue in visiting the slum areas and the security concern. To reduce the unmet need proportion, interventions like long lasting contraceptive methods such as implant should be provided to married women who need contraception in the slum area. Moreover, health literacy promotion on reproductive health and contraception, scheduled mobile visit to slum area on regular basis, extending of the existing organizational setup and man power of public health department in Hlaingtharya Township were warranted. Knowing why women have unmet need is useful in planning information, education, and communication campaigns and behavioral change communication programs to generate demand for family planning services.