

**FACTORS INFLUENCING UNMET NEED FOR
FAMILY PLANNING AMONG CURRENTLY
MARRIED WOMEN OF 18-49 YEARS IN
HOMALIN TOWNSHIP, SAGAING REGION**

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2019

ABSTRACT

A community based cross-sectional survey (both qualitative and quantitative methods) was conducted to find out the proportion of modern contraceptive use and factors influencing unmet need for family planning among 140 currently married women of reproductive age in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region. Individual in-depth interviews were done with 9 women with unmet need to explore the barriers to unmet need on family planning. The proportion of modern contraceptive use was found out to be 59.3% and unmet proportion was 35.71% among the study population. Three-month depo injection is the most common method of contraception used by the respondents. The reasons for not using contraceptives were plan to get pregnant or currently pregnant, fear of side effects and infrequent intercourse. It is found out that the respondents who were not currently using modern contraceptive were 8.61 times more likely to have unmet need for family planning than current modern contraceptive users (AOR= 8.61; 95% CI = 3.8 to 19.4, p value < 0.001). It was also found out that the respondents who lived further than 30 minute-reach from the health facility were 2.83 times more likely to have unmet need for family planning than those who lived within 30 minute-reach from the health facility (AOR=2.83; 95% CI= 1.2 to 7.3, p value= 0.019). Qualitative study also pointed out that the reasons for unmet need are fear of side effects and almost all of them would recommend contraceptive use. The respondents preferred to use 3-month depo injection and if affordable, they preferred subdermal implants. These findings suggested that reproductive health programs especially family planning services should be promoted in remote areas like Homalin Township in order to improve accessibility to contraceptive services.