

Abda Hassan Hag Mahmoud, 2005

Impact of Infant and Child Mortality Upon Fertility in Northern Sudan 1999.

This study stems from the need for reducing fertility level as the most component of population growth on one hand and improving the quality of human being on the other. Accordingly, the purpose of the study is to reveal a set of factors responsible for high fertility, and also the factors that affect child mortality and to measure the impact of child mortality on fertility. It also attempts to test research hypotheses through which the effect of child mortality on fertility can be exerted, namely the biological, the replacement and the insurance mechanism. This study is designed to reveal the impact of these mechanisms on fertility, as well as contraceptive use and continuation. The data used in this study came from 1999 Safe Motherhood Survey. The study showed that more than 54% of children dead are between 1st and 3rd parities where couples have not yet secured their desired family size. Age at first marriage has significant effect on family experience with child death. The study also showed that the major causes underlying high child mortality among Sudanese families is the lack of hygiene and sanitary facilities. Data related to housing and accessibility of public utilities indicate considerable variation in their relation to child mortality. Only, 6.4% of Sudanese families are living in household units equipped with modern toilet facilities having flushing system. Also about 40% of women who experienced child deaths are living in poor houses made of wood and hay and 36% in mud houses compared with only 20% of those in bricks and concrete units. The study recommended that it is necessary that the government should introduce the fertility issue to local people and encourage them participate in deliberation and presentation of their desire that help to discover the underlying socio, economic and cultural obstacles. Learning about the major causes of child mortality is a very important aspect. Local agencies and heads of families should intensify their propaganda to warn people about harmful effects of early marriages. High emphasis should be put in widespread formal and adult education. Drastic measure should be adopted to ensure adequate health and sanitary services that provide care for children and mothers. Policies should improve the standard of living. Women participation in labour force will affect fertility through increasing age at marriage and family planning Contraceptive methods. The analysis showed significant residential difference in contraceptive prevalence rate.