FACTORS AFFECTING CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD UPTAKE AMONG SEX WORKERS IN MAJENGO SLUMS, NANYUKI DISTRICT, LAIKIPIA COUNTY

By REBECCA K. KAUNYANGI, MARTIN RATANYA, PAULINE OCHOLA, RUTH NJAGE

ABSTRACT
Birth control methods have been used since ancient times, but effective and safe methods only became available in the 20th century. Access and promotion of Birth control methods by Commercial sex workers may be hampered by lack of adequate knowledge on contraceptives and self-efficacy. Birth control methods help to relieve commercial sex workers from the possibility of unplanned and unwanted pregnancies.
The Commercial sex workers have reproductive rights and reproductive health needs just like any other citizen is entitled to thus it is very important to identify the factors that may influence the uptake of contraceptives among these sex workers as one of their reproductive needs. Commercial sex workers are thought to be at highest risk for unintended pregnancy, although sexual and reproductive health interventions reaching these populations are typically focused on the increased risk of sexually transmitted infections.
Among the sex workers, unwanted pregnancy and induced abortion are common and preventing future unwanted and unintended pregnancies is of utmost importance, yet gaps as well as unmet needs in contraceptive use are substantial. In addition to the health benefits of preventing unintended pregnancies, provision of contraceptive services to commercial sex workers not desiring pregnancy is a means in its own way for reducing the number of unintended and HIV positive babies. The commercial sex workers as a key population group if regulated properly and policies put in place would contribute significantly to the national economy and thus their reproductive needs should be met satisfactorily.
The main objective of this study is to examine the factors affecting contraceptive method uptake among commercial sex workers in Majengo slums, Nanyuki district, Laikipia County. The study employed convenience sampling of adult women (aged 2:18 years) currently working as self-identified commercial sex workers.
The study design is a descriptive cross-sectional study that the data collection was conducted over a period of one month. A semi structured questionnaire interview schedule was used to collect data. The data collected was entered, coded, cleaned and analyzed using SPSS version 20. Upon receiving ethics clearance from KNH Ethics Review Committee (ERC) the study lasted three months thereafter. Study budget was Kshs. 105,060.00. This study's aim is to contribute to the broader field of public health and specifically reproductive health policy and decision making aimed at improving health services delivery and as well as scaling up of family planning uptake among the commercial sex workers living in Majengo slums and beyond. We hope that the findings will also help in giving feedback to the relevant stakeholders i.e. health providers, MOH.