Author’s response to reviews

Title: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DETERMINANTS OF UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

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Author’s response to reviews:

Socio-demographic Determinants of Unmet Need for Family Planning among Married Women in Pakistan PUBH-D-18-02894

Sr. No Editor Comments Responses
1 The manuscript should be proof read by a professional editor. (Comment has been incorporated)

Comments of 1st Reviewer

Sr. No Comments Responses

Specific Comments
1 English needs to be proof read (Proof reading has been done).

2 Title: “Socio-demographic Determinants of Unmet Need for Family Planning among Married Women in Pakistan”. (The title of the paper has been revised).

3 Abstract: The Government of Pakistan: change throughout the text (Comment has been incorporated)

4 A huge media campaign has been launched to persuade them about: who is them? The G of P? to persuade women/people (Incorporated at page 2)

5 That’s why fear: TOO INFROMAL FOR A SCIENTIFIC PAPER. “Hence, fear of side effects still remains one of the most important reason behind UMNFP.” change throughout the text (Comment has been incorporated)

6 UMNFP” YOU HAVE NOT USE THIS ACRONYM BEFORE, it needs to state y what it stands for the first time you use it (abstract) (Incorporated at page 2)
Main text Line 23: “rate in the under developed countries”. I do not think under developed countries is an appropriate expression, better to use “developing countries”. (Incorporated at page 3 line 10)

I understand you are keen on making the argument that reduction in fertility bring economic development but I think all this should go:

Such programs can have important implication for economic growth and development in different ways. Reduction in fertility decreases dependency ratio, at least in short-run, in the economy. This decreased dependency ratio results in increase in output per capita. It may boost economic growth by bringing an increase in national savings and investment in the economy. Furthermore, as a result of fertility decline, working adults would be able to spend more of their time in productive labor as they need to devote less of their time for child-rearing. Reducing birth rates will be helpful to improve the quality of children because parental investment per child would rise. An increase in parental investment on education and health of their children would improve the quality of human capital. (Brander and Bowrick, 1994; UNPF, 2005; Allen, 2007; Ashraf et al., 2013). Hence, it will enhance economic growth by bringing improvement in the education, human skills, health and productivity of the people (Cleland et al., 2006).

Eastern European countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine) during the period of 2005-2011.” I appreciate you include the countries, but it needs to be redacted accordingly: “Eastern Europe (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine)”.

“have been identified in the literature as some of the important factors associated with UMNFP among women” (Incorporated)

“the women living in rural areas and the women who have lesser knowledge of methods and availability of contraceptives” (Incorporated at page 3 line 26)

Check English: Women with more number of children were considerably less likely to have non-use of contraceptive methods than women with less number of children

Need to check the grammatical tense, previous sentence is in present tense, but this one is in past tense. (Incorporated at page 4 line 2-3)

Check English: The common findings in the existing studies are that urban households, in particular, are exposed to small family (Incorporated at page 4 line 4-6)

“According to Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-13, 56% of married women of reproductive age intend to use family planning services but only 35% of them are
actually using these services. Thus the prevalence of unmet need for family planning is 21% in the country.”. Use past tense, you are reporting on what was found by ICF Macro/DHS?

(Incorporated at page 4 line 14-16)

15 “Hence for our analysis, we have used data of 12,998 women.” Redundant (Removed)

16 “The odds ratios indicate that UMNFP for limiting goes on to increase with increase in age of the women up to fifth age group and then starts to decrease with an increase in age till seventh age group.” Revise English, it is not clear what you are trying to say. Which is the 5th age group? State it. (Incorporated (please see page 7 line 12-17)).

17 Revise English: “Decrease in the likelihood of UMNF, UMNFP for spacing and UMNFP for limiting with increase in education of women indicates that educated women are more likely to avail family planning services because they may be more informed and hence can have better awareness about these services.” (Incorporated (please see page 8 line 26-28)).

18 Revise English: “Similarly, education of women makes them more empowered in decision making regarding contraceptive use”. The idea is very good, you just need to edit.

Edit “According to our results, the likelihood of UMNFP, UMNFP for spacing and UMNFP for limiting decreases with increase in number of children. It goes on to decrease up till the birth of fourth child and is lowest among the women having four children. After which, it has an increasing trend” (Comment has been incorporated (please see page 9 line 5-7))

19 Revise English: “The likelihood of UMNFP has been found to be lower among wealthier households. It can be due to more access to contraceptives and modern family planning methods among richer than poorer. Apart from women’s own education, their husband’s education can also reduce the likelihood of UMNFP, UMNFP for spacing and UMNFP for limiting because fertility decisions in any household can be a joint decision made by women and her husband.” (Comment has been incorporated (please see page 9 line 12-16))

20 Revise English: Future research can explore that how these factor can affect the likelihood of UMNFP (Incorporated).

Comments of 2nd Reviewer

Sr. No. Comments Response

1 Abstract

Please rewrite the key words as “Family planning; unmet need for family planning; unmet need for spacing; unmet need for limiting; married women; Pakistan” (Changed as suggested by reviewer)
2 The background is corrected sufficiently but there are some outdated references with dynamic information written in the text. Better if replaced by the recent references. (Incorporated).

3 Under measurement section, in addition to what you wrote on line 47 to 53 please clearly specify different types of UMNFP (overall UMNFP, unmet need for spacing, unmet need for limiting) and how you have stratified the unmet need. For instance I prefer to be narrated as “Overall unmet need was classified as having unmet coded as 1 and not having unmet need coded as 2. Later on, unmet need was stratified as having unmet need for spacing coded as 1, having unmet need for limiting coded as 2 and not having any unmet need coded as 0”. (Changed as suggested by reviewer)

4 On page 6 line 57 to 59 rewrite the statement “To find out the determinants of UMNFP, Binary regression analysis has been used. In Binary regression analysis, the variable of UMNFP is a dichotomous variable.” as “To find out the determinants of overall UMNFP, binary regression analysis has been used since the variable was dichotomized as having unmet need or not having unmet need”. (Changed as suggested by reviewer)

5 Remove this statement “It has been constructed by using information of the prevalence of UMNFP among the respondent women.” (Removed)

6 Previous comment that was not addressed

You have put some information about the magnitude of unmet need for family planning including the measurement method on your background and I thought that this variable is one of your main findings. But you simply started from the determinants in the result and discussion part by missing the magnitude with all its aspects (unmet need for spacing, for limiting and overall). Why don’t you put and explain about the level of unmet need for family planning? You missed this also in the abstract result. (Comment has been incorporated)

7 Please express the parameter you used simply as “UMNFP” as “over all UMNFP” throughout your document to clearly differentiate it from other types of unmet needs. (Incorporated).

8 On page 8 line 28 remove the word some from statement “Women having some FSE are more likely to face” (Removed)