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Influence of Socio Demographic, Health and Economic Factors on Health Seeking Behavior among Secondary Sub Fertile Mothers in a Health Division of Northern Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Background/Objective: Secondary subfertility is a less recognized entity among Sri Lankan community compared to primary subfertility. Many socio demographic, health and economic factors are influencing the health seeking behavior of the secondary sub fertile mothers.

Objectives: To describe the influence of socio demographic, health and economic factors in the pattern of health seeking behavior among secondary sub fertile mothers in a health division of Northern Sri Lanka.

Methodology: Seventy two secondary sub fertile mothers in the Nallur MOH area Jaffna district were included in this community based descriptive cross sectional study. Data was collected using interviewer administered questionnaire at the study participants' household. The data were then analyzed with SPSS 21 and the statistical tests were used to analyze the association between variables includes t-test, Chi squared test, Pearson correlation and fishers exact test. Differences at $p < 0.05$ were considered significant. Ethical approval obtained from Ethics Review Committee of Jaffna Medical Faculty.

Results: Mean age of the study participants was 36.1 years (SD 6.8). Among them 22 participants (30.6%) had been taken treatment for subfertility. Most of the participants (81.8%) were approached allopathic treatment as their 1st choice of treatment. Most of the treatment seekers took their treatment only up to one year. Main reason for withdrawal of the treatment is ignorance (59.1%), no outcome from the treatment (27.3%). Among those who never sought any treatment, 72% of the participants were waited for natural conception and 48% of the participants not sought treatment because of their ignorance. Among the socio demographic characteristics, the type of the family influenced in health seeking behavior of these couples (p -value 0.003). Most of the secondary sub fertile mothers got to know about the treatment options from the neighbors and from family members.

Conclusion: Type of the family influenced in health seeking behavior of the secondary sub fertile mothers. The main reason for not seeking treatment was waiting for natural conception followed by ignorance and presence of kids

Keywords: Secondary subfertility, Health seeking behavior.