

Male involvement in family planning and reproductive health

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The aim of this study: to determinate does the husband/partner influences on making decision in women's reproductive choice. A quantitative survey of providers and clients in 3 participating health facilities in Russian Federation was conducted in 2001. 508 women after abortion and 145 providers were interviewed. 43,5 % women were younger 24; 88,8 % - before 35, i.e. in active reproductive age. 44,9% women were married; in unregistered marriage - 32,5%; single, never married - 16,5% and divorced - 6,1%. 13,7% were first pregnancy, 83,3% have had delivers and abortions. Of women who had had more than one pregnancy (including the current one) more than three-quarters of post-abortion clients had least one previous abortion. All post-abortion women had ever used any methods of contraception: condoms (32,4%), withdrawal (9,1%), "natural" methods (23,1%). It is important because all of these methods means the participating men in family planning. Most of the post-abortion clients (87,6%) have ever discussed pregnancy prevention with their husband or regular partner. 70,9% post-abortion clients think that their partner want to use a pregnancy prevention method. 44,7% couples makes the decision to use a pregnancy prevention method together; 4,7% - partner; and 43,5% - I myself/respondent. One quarter women come to this procedure with their partners; but only 6,5% partners had participated in the talk about how to prevent pregnancy. 56,4% women would like their partner to participate in pregnancy prevention counseling. Only 10% of all providers and 18% of providers who do contraceptive counseling had discussed family planning with a client partner. More than 90% thought that provision of reproductive health services to men would improve women's health. Nevertheless, fewer providers (a little more than 60%) said they support the idea of providing reproductive health services to men at their own facility. So, one of the essential elements of high-quality clinical services of post-abortion care should include involving male partners.