ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ON WOMEN'S LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND EARNINGS IN NIGERIA

Oluwaseyi A. Mohammed. Peter P. Njiforti and Sanusi A. Rafindadi
Department of Economics, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Kaduna State,
NIGERIA
Email: m.seyi@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Negative reproductive health outcomes have long been blamed for being one of the main causes of low women's participation in the formal employment sector in a developing country like Nigeria. This study undertakes an empirical analysis of women's reproductive health outcomes and labour force participation in Nigeria. Specifically, the study analyzed the impact of reproductive health outcomes on women's labour force participation and earnings in Nigeria. The study used mixed research methodology to study the research problem across the entire country. First, it uses a nationally representative quantitative data from the National Demographic Health Survey reports for 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. Secondly, cross-sectional micro- data were also collected from two study areas comprising one urban and one rural to test the validity of the hypothesis raised in this study. A questionnaire design, focus groups and key-informants' interviews were used to elicit information from respondents. The study used multi-stage sampling technique to select 400 women of reproductive age in the study areas. Various analytical tools such as chi-square, cross-tabulations, and logistic regression were used to analyze the data collected from the field. The study found that women's reproductive health outcomes such as fertility rate, child spacing practice and contraceptive prevalence rate have negatively impacted women's labour force participation and earnings in the study areas. Hence, the negative reproductive health outcomes have not given women the ample opportunity to develop the necessary educational capacities to engage in formal employment. From the cross-sectional survey, it was found that 6.54% of the respondents practiced modern family planning which is below the national benchmark of 64.34% while 92.92% of the respondents had birth interval of less than two years which is 100 against the government's policy of two years child spacing practice. Also, 95.58% of the respondents married at less than 18 years which is against the government's policy of 18 years age of marriage for women. Meanwhile, 85% of the respondents had between 7 to 10 children and above per woman which is against the government's policy of 4 children per woman. In addition, 25.47% of the respondents had formal education while 30.86% were in active formal employment which is 100% against government's policy of women literacy and formal employment rates in Nigeria. Therefore, based on the analysis of the data extracted from the National Demographic Health Survey reports and the cross-sectional survey data collected from the field, this study concludes that reproductive health outcomes have not significantly impacted women's labour force participation and earnings in Nigeria. To this end, this study recommends that, there is need for government, key stakeholders in the private sector and non-governmental organizations to organize sensitization workshops for all religious leaders and household heads on the economic and health benefits of modern contraceptives and two years child spacing practice in order to regulate the reproductive health behaviour's of women so as to ensure their labour force participation.

Keywords: Negative Reproductive Health Outcomes, Women's Labour Force Participation and Earnings, Logistic Regression Model