

Over 50% married women use modern contraceptive methods for family planning in Rajasthan'

'Family planning not a priority for women'

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JAIPUR: Family planning is not the priority of young women in Rajasthan. On an average, they take the first step towards planning their family nearly four years after they first have sex and more than a year after they have had their first child, a study has found.

As per the findings of Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA-2020) on adolescent reproductive health, the average age when a woman first starts using contraceptives is 22.2 years -- nearly four years after their first sex, at (an average age of) 18.3 years. On an average, the first child is born to them at the age of 21 years, the report said.

PMA-2020 focuses on important indicators that monitor family planning. It is being implemented by the IIHMR University, Jaipur, in Rajasthan. As per Dr Anoop Khanna, principal investigator, Rajasthan (PMA-2020) and professor at IIHMR, the



Women plan their family a year after the first child: Study. HT PHOTO

details are based on the first round of data collection.

"Round one included 4,874 households and 297 health facilities, which were surveyed from June to September, 2016 on reproductive health," Khanna said.

As per the report, in urban

areas, the first birth is recorded at an average age of 21 years. However, the urban women do not opt for family planning until they are 23.1-years-old. The report states that by that time, the women in urban areas have, on an average, 2.1 children.

This, the report states,

THE BOX OF AVERAGES

First marriage **18.5 years**

First sex at **18.3 years**

First use of contraceptives at **22.2 years**

First child at **21 years**

Contraceptive use in 2016

7% women use birth control pills (up from 5% in 2005-06)

10% married women get their partners to use condom (up from 6% in 2005-06)

Figures based on survey of 4,874 households, 297 health facilities in state

women from the financially poor background reported that their last pregnancy was unintended, compared to 12% women from the richer families.

"Increased access to contraception, especially highly effective methods like IUDs and implants, may help prevent unintended pregnancies, particularly among poorer women," it suggests.

As per the project findings, more than half of the married women in state are using modern contraceptive methods. The use of birth control pills is up from 5% in 2005-06 to 7% in 2016. The use of condoms by the male partners is up from 6% (2005-06) to 10% in 2016, the report states, adding that female sterilisation still remains the most common form of contraception.

"The current level of unmet need for family planning in married women in Rajasthan the age group 15-49 years is 15%. This includes 9.5% such women who do not want another child and 6% who wish for a gap before opting for another child," said Khanna.

"presents an opportunity to expand family planning offerings and increase contraceptive coverage for this group".

The report further states that poor women have more unintended pregnancies than those from the financially strong background. It states that 22% of the