Evaluation of The Family Planning Services at Ministry of Health Clinics During Intifadat El Aqssa in The Gaza Strip, Palestine- 2001

BY

Hamza Mohammed Abdel Jawad

B.Sc.: Nursing (Al-Quds University), Palestine.

A thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the Degree of Master of Health Sciences Department of Nursing / Mother Child Health

Al-Quds University

Dec.2001

Abstract

Because of the importance of evaluation to improve the service of family planning especially during difficult socioeconomic and political situation like Intifadat Al-Aqssa, this cross sectional descriptive study has been conducted to evaluate the family planning service in the main five governmental clinics in The Gaza Strip (Jabalia, Remal, Deer El-Balah, Khanyounis and Rafah). The sample size from these five clinics was 100 family planning users and 12 providers who could reflect factors affecting the family planning service and opinions of providers and users toward areas that need improvement.

Four tools were used to collect the data, first, revisinging records, second and third a structured interview questionnaires for users and staff and the last field observations for the site of family planning clinics.

The overall increased rate of the utilizers of FP service at the five governmental clinics of the study in the first 6 months of the year 2001 was 25.5% and the overall increased rate of contraceptive methods utilized was 34.3% compared to the same period of the year 2000.

More than half of the family planning study users were attributing their use to the service because of the economic effects of the Intifada (52%). The findings indicated that 67% of study users were less than 30 years age and 27% of the users wanted to continue contraception forever their mean age was 32 years and the average number of their children was more than 6. The majority of users 88% rated the service they received against the quality indicators as good and scored over 75%.

All the FP staff were satisfied from the service that they provide, all of them were trained on FP, they have occasional shortages in their number. All the five clinics were ready to provide FP service but there were no services for infertile couples. The researcher can conclude from the results of this study that, during Intifadat Al-Aqssa the utilization of family planning increased among users mostly due to the complex effects of the Intifada on people.

ترعى وزارة الصحة الفلسطينية خدمات تنظيم الأسرة في العيادات الحكومية بقطاع غزة. خلال فترة إنتفاضة الأقصى وكثرة عدد الشهداء والمصابين ربما يضع برامج تنظيم الأسرة تحت المجهر في وقت ينظر فيه الناس إلى تعويض المفقودين.

ولكن أولى الناس في الحكم على هذه الخدمة ولزومها في هذا الوقت هم المنتفعون من الخدمة نفسها.

لذلك تأتي هذه الدراسة لتقييم حدمات تنظيم الأسرة خلال إنتفاضة الأقصى كأول دراسة في هذا الجال أثناء الانتفاضة

هدف الدراسة:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على مستوى إقبال الناس على خدمات تنظيم الأسرة خلال فترة إنتفاضة الأقصى والتعرف على العوامل التي دفعت المنتفعات على الإقبال على استخدام وسائل تنظيم الأسرة في هذه الفترة.

لذلك تعتبر هذه الدراسة تقويمية وصفية تحليلية قد تساعد المهنيين وصانعي القرار على اتخاذ الإجراءات اللازمة لتطوير هذه الخدمة وتحسينها في وزارةالصحة.

طريقة البحث:

لقد تم احتيار نظام التصميم المقطعي Cross Sectional توخياً للسهولة وسرعة التنفيذ واعطاء فكرة عن المسببات للظاهرة تحت الدراسة .

الدراسة شملت مقارنة لسجلات العيادات الحكومية الخمسة لتنظيم الأسرة التي هي مكان محور الدراسة وهي حباليا، الرمال، دير البلح، خانيونس و رفح وذلك بمقارنة عدد المنتفعات والوسائل المستخدمة لتنظيم الأسرة خلال فترة الستة أشهر الأولى من عام ١٠٠١ (خلال الإنتفاضة) بنفس المدة من العام ٢٠٠٠ (قبل الإنتفاضة)، كما تم عمل تقويم لمقومات كل عيادة من هذه العيادات ومقابلة مع العاملات بخدمات تنظيم الأسرة بالعيادات وعددهن ١٢.

كما تم اختيار عينة مناسبة من المنتفعات المترددات على العيادات الخمس لتمثل عينة الدراسة وكن ١٠٠ حالة من العيادات الخمس. تم جمع المعلومات من المنتفعات بواسطة المقابلة وتعبئة استبانة بحيث تكون قد بدأت المنتفعة التنظيم خلال فترة الانتفاضة أو بدأت التنظيم في يوم المقابلة.

تم استخدام برنامج احصائي خاص بالعلوم الانسانية SPSS لادخال البيانات ومعالجتها احصائيًا وكذلك تم استخدام اختبارات احصائية مثل Chi Square and t Test لاكتشاف العلاقات بين بعض المتغيرات.

عكست نتائج الدراسة احتياج المحتمع الفلسطيني إلى خدمات تنظيم الأسرة خصوصاً في الظروف المادية الصعبة مثل إنتفاضة الأقصى حيث ٥٢% من المنتفعات يرجعن سبب إستخدامهن لتنظيم الأسرة لهذه الظروف الصعبة.

تم ملاحظة هذه الزيادة في إقبال المنتفعات خلال ال ٦ شهور من عام ٢٠٠١ عنها في العام ٢٠٠٠ بنسبة ٥،٥١%. وكان استخدام الحبوب هو الأكثر شيوعاً بين مجتمع الدراسة و بنسبة ٥،٥٪، حوالي ٢٧% من المنتفعات يرغبن بالإستمرار في التنظيم حتى لهاية فترة الإنجاب وكان متوسط أعمارهن ٣٦ سنة ومتوسط عدد الأطفال لديهن أكثر من ٦.

جميع مقدمات خدمات تنظيم الأسرة يشعرن بالرضا عن الخدمة التي يقدمنها للمنتفعات، وجميعهن على الأقل لديهن دورة تدريبية واحدة عن تنظيم الأسرة.

تفتقر عيادات تنظيم الأسرة إلى خدمة الأزواج الذين لم يحالفهم الحظ بالإنجاب و كان من أبرز نقاط القوة كانت توفر وسائل منع الحمل.

أظهرت الدراسة أهمية وجود خدمات تنظيم الأسرة للجمهور بالذات في الظروف الصعبة مثل إنتفاضة الأقصى، حيث معظم المنتفعات من مجتمع الدراسة أفدن بأن للإنتفاضة دور رئيسي في إقبالهن على تنظيم الأسرة.

كما أن معظم مجتمع الدراسة كان في الفئة العمرية ما بين ٢٩-١٤ سنة وهذا يعتبر سن مبكر للأقبال على تنظيم الأسرة مقارنة بدراسات سابقة.

الإمكانات اللازمة لتقديم خدمة جيدة في مجال تنظيم الأسرة متوفرة في العيادات التي كانت موضع الدراسة، وهذا كان ملموساً لدى المنتفعات خلال الدراسة حيث ٨٨% منهن أشدن بجودة الخدمة المقدمة حيث سجلن نسبة تزيد عن ٧٥% من معايير الجودة. نسبة ٧٧% من المنتفعات لم يتم عمل فحص ثدي لهن خلال الزيارة الأولى.

من الممكن التغلب على بعض النقاط التي تحتاج إلى تحسين الخدمة المقدمة وذلك بتواصل الدورات التدريبية والإشراف والتقويم.

التوصيات:

من أهم التوصيات لهذه الدراسة يشمل إدخال خدمة معالجة العقم عند الازواج كجزء من النشاطات التابعة لبرنامج الصحة الإنجابية في العيادات الحكومية ومتابعة التزام العاملين بتعبئة ملفات المترددات حسب الاصول مع إجراء الفحوصات المنصوص عليها دون استثناء.

والاستمرار في الإشراف الفاعل الذي يحرص على معايير الأداء الجيد ومراعاة زيادة عدد العاملات بعيادات تنظيم الأسرة مع الاستمرار توعية الجمهور في مواضيع الصحة الانجابية.

التحسين من الظروف البيئية لمكان وسعة العيادات و العمل على إستمرار التعليم والتطوير للعاملات مع الحرص على استمرار توفير المواد التثقيفية و الإرشادية بخصوص الصحة الانجابية أيضاً يحب مراعاته.

L

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Declaration	I
Acknowledgement	II
Abstract	III
Arabic summary	V
Abbreviations	IIX
Table of contents	X
List of tables	XV
List of figures	XVI
List of annexes	XVII
Chapter (1)	
Introduction	1
1.1 Fertility and Family Planning	2
1.1.1 Concepts of FP and role of the governments	2
1.1.2 Global fertility and FP	3
1.1.3 Local fertillity and FP	4

1.2 Aim of	the study	7
1.3 Researce	ch objectives	7
1.4 Researce	ch questions	8
1.5 Backgro	ound of the study	8
1.5.1	Demography of The Gaza Strip	8
1.5.2	Births	10
1.5.3	Fertility	10
1.5.4	Maternal mortality	10
1.5.5	Infant mortality	11
1.5.6	Socioeconomic and political background of The GS	11
1.7 Health	System in The Gaza Strip	14
	Chapter (2)	
	Literature Review	16
2.1 Definiti	ion of Reproductive Health	16
2.2 Historic	cal overview of Family Planning	17
2.3 FP serv	ices in the Gaza Strip	18
2.4 Evaluat	ion of FP programs	19
2.5 Reading	ess indicators to provide FP services	19

2.6 Quality and Family Planning	21
2.7 Socioeconomic status and Family Planning	23
2.8 Political status and Family Planning	23
2.9 Global Family Planning services	24
2.10 Regional Family Planning services	25
2.11 Local Family Planning services	26
Chapter (3)	
Methodology	30
3.1 Study design	30
3.2 Study population	30
3.3 Time of study	30
3.4 Place of study	30
3.5 Tools of study	30
3.6 Sample size and sampling process	31
3.7 Data collection	31
3.8 Pilot study	33
3.9 Ethical consideration	34
3.10 Data entry and analysis	3/1

3.11 Eligibility criteria	34		
3.12 Study limitations	34		
Chapter (4)	Chapter (4)		
Results	35		
4.1 Utilization of Family Planning service	35		
4.1.1 Data collected from records	35		
4.1.2 The Family Planning users in the study	37		
4.1.2.1 Family Planning users according to clinic	37		
4.1.2.2 Prevalence of contraceptive methods among study FP user	s 37		
4.1.2.3 FP users according to age group and clinic	37		
4.1.2.4 Marriage age of Family Planning users	38		
4.1.2.5 Number of children for users	38		
4.1.2.6 Sociodemographic variables of users	39		
4.1.2.7 Monthly income for users	40		
4.1.2.8 Effects of Intifada on use of Family Planning services	40		
4.1.2.9 Cause for previous use of FP service among users	41		
4.1.2.10 The reason of users for their not using FP previously	42		
4.1.2.11 Intention for continuity of contraception in relation	43		

Chapter 1



Introduction

In this evaluative descriptive study the researcher wants to evaluate the Family Planning Services during Intifadat-EL-Aqssa at governmental clinics in Gaza Strip (GS). Difficult circumstances in any community has impact on health services provided as well as on consumers who seek this service, Intifadat El Aqssa in Palestine with its cultural, political and socioeconomic dimensions may affect the utilization of family planning (FP) services by Palestinian people in Gaza, as well as the structure and staff of FP services at service delivery points (SDPs). The literature indicates that social and economic change can cause people want to space births or to have fewer children (Bruce, 1995).

Evaluation of FP service has not been undertaken frequently in Palestine during difficult times of political and socioeconomic unrest, particularly in the GS.

The global population grows each year by approximately 80 million (United Nation 1998); most of this growth is concentrated in the developing nations. High fertility can impose cost burden on developing nations. It may impede opportunities for economic development (Family Health International, 1991).

In Palestine despite the observed decline in birth rate in the last few years, from 40.1 per 1000 in 1996 to 32.8 per 1000 in 1999, still average crude birth rate in GS is 33.8/1000, which is still considered high compared with other countries all over the world. And a total fertility rate 6.91 according to the census in 1997 (Ministry of Health, 1999).

each method. The client is therefore given the opportunity to freely choose the suitable method for herself (informed choice).

The team performs a comprehensive physical and laboratory examination and the physician or midwife would be able to advise clients about the appropriate method for her.

There has been a marked increase in the number of women using contraceptives as a result of direct supply of the service. For example, the current use rate of contraception methods is 51.4% of currently married women in Palestine, of them 54.3% in the West Bank (WB) and 46.1% in GS (MoH, 2001).

According to the MoH, the utilization of FP services by method in the governmental FP clinics in Palestine was pills 48.5% (42.5% in GS and 50.7 in WB), IUD 26.5% (22.3% in GS and 28.1% in the WB) and male condom 23% (28.1% in GS and 21.1% in WB) (MoH, 2001).

In the governmental sector, there was also a sharp increase in the number of family planning users. For example, at the end of 1998, the total number was 26413. At the end of 1999, the new acceptors were 7549 clients to reach a total number of 33880 continuing users at MoH clinics (MoH, 1999).

1.2 Aim of the study

To assess the F.P service provided in the MOH facilities during difficult circumstances (Intifadat El Aqssa).

1.3 Research Objectives

- 1- To determine the size of utilization of FP service in Gaza governmental PHC clinics.
- 2- To identify the users' responses to satisfaction and quality indicators of FP service in the MoH?

- L
- 3- To assess the adequacy of the 3 basic components of FP program in terms of buildings, equipment and human resources.
- 4- To identify strength and weakness of FP service provided
- 5- To identify areas which need improvement

1.4 Research Questions

- 1) What is the rate of FP utilization at the MoH facilities during the Intifada?
- What are the responses of the FP study users' to satisfaction and quality indicators of the service provided?
- 3) Is the structure (building, equipment and human resources) of FP services in MoH is adequate for FP service delivery?

1.5 Background of the study

Any situation is best understood within its terms of reference; therefore, research presents some background information about the Palestinian population, demography, health care system, socioeconomic development, fertility trends among Palestinian women and the utilization of family planning programs in this community (IPPF, 1999).

1.5.1 Demography of the Gaza Strip

Gaza Strip comprises a narrow zone of land, located on the south of Palestine, constituting the coastal zone of the Palestinian territory along the Mediterranean Sea between Occupied Palestine and Egypt; see the map of Palestine (annex 1). It is 50 Kilometers long and 5-12 kilometers wide with an area of 362 square kilometers and an altitude of 0-40 meters above the sea level (Health Research and Planning Directorate, 1997). There are five provinces in GS: North, Gaza, Mid-Zone, Khan-

Younis and Rafah. In GS there are four towns, eight refugee camps and fourteen villages, seeing the map of GS (Annex 2).

The total population size (GS and WB) for the year 2000 has been estimated at 3,150,056 (MoH, 2001). The population pyramid in GS has a wide base with 51.12% of the total population under 15 years old (Annex 3), only 4.7% of the total population are +60 years old (MoH, 2001) Moreover, GS has the highest concentration of refugees of any other areas, it has a 22.8% of the total Palestinian Refugees Population (3,677,828) (MoH, 2001). There are 417,228 refugees live in eight refugee camps and 342,336 live outside the camps (UNRWA, 1999).

Female population is estimated at 49.2% of the whole population. Forty six percent of females are less than 15 years old, 43.4% are at childbearing age (15-49 years) and 10% are over the age of 50 years. Additionally, females have a higher life expectancy. The average life expectancy at birth is 73.3 years for females and 71.7 years for males (MOH, 1999).

Population size

According to the PCBS in midyear 2000, the population size of Palestine was estimated at 3,150,056 people of whom 50.5% are males and 49.5% females. Of 3,150,056 people, 2,011,930 (63.9%) are living in WB and 1,138,126 (36.1%) in the GS, from them 209,768 in Gaza North, 404,973 in Gaza City, 164,919 in Mid-Zone, 222,157 in Khanyounis and 136,309 in Rafah (MoH, 2001).

Population Growth

It has been observed that the estimated natural increase dropped remarkably in Palestine. According to the reported figures from MoH in 1994 the population growth in Palestine was estimated at 4.5% and gradually dropped down to 3.7% in 1996. It declined in 1997 & 1998 to 3.1% and 3 in 2000 (MoH, 2001). Although this is a very