

*JIMMA UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES*

ASSESSMENT OF FAMILY SIZE PREFERENCE AND  
ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG MARRIED COUPLES:  
ACASE STUDY OF GINJO- GUDURU KEBELE,  
JIMMA TOWN

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## **ABSTRACT**

A cross-sectional study was conducted from January to May, 2009, to assess the family size preference and associated factors in Ginjo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town.

Data was collected using a questionnaire addressed to couples. A total of 99 Couple respondents participated in the study, systematic sampling method was method was employed for sampling and 1<sup>st</sup> household was selected randomly and the other selected with fixed interval.

Analysis of the study result revealed that the average number of living children for couples were 3.8. The desire to have more children for husbands and wives on average were 2.2 and 2, respectively; this show that there is high degree of correlation between the couples desire. While the average desired family size were 5.7 for husbands and 5.4 for wives. The primary reason of desire more children was reported to be to get help at old age. The association between family size preference and religious difference and income variation were less significant, in other ways literacy level and economic activities were the most prominent factors. Of reproductive age group only 39.4% were using family planning method. The reason for not using contraceptive were primary to have more children.

Finally, increasing awareness on the contraceptive usage, motivating couples to have fewer children, increasing adult education in school to significant level and a need to do comprehensive studies to identify areas of resistance to family planning are strongly recommended.

## **ABBREVIATION**

- SRP:- Student Research publications
- FGAE- Family Guidance Association Ethiopia
- NGO - Non-Government organization
- T-G – Transitional Government
- CFDCAP – Center for Disease Control and prevention

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Back ground of study**

Family size preference is a desired number of living children and a desired additional children. As a result, when we talk about family size preference and its associated factors, it is important to say something about population of the world. Nearly every one has heard of the world “population explosion’ this means that the world population, including the population of countries in Africa, is growing very much faster than ever before. This comes because of a generation ago in many African countries in family where ten children were born only four or five would live to adulthood. Yet many parents go on preferring children as frequently as or more frequently than before. (John R. Weeks, 2002)

In early 1650’s doubling time for the population of the world is too long, but in year 1650 to 1850 A.D it was decline to only 200 years. while between 1950 and 1990 A.D the doubling time becoming shorter and shorter to about 40 years,, as standard of living improved population grew more and more following a decline in death rate because of medical revolution showing fast population growth (FGAE,1989)

If we look at the Ethiopia Situation, it has similar picture to that of other developing countries in the world. In early 1900’s when the population growth rate was only 0.3% its population estimate to 11.8 million. Later in 1992 AD the population was closed to 55 Million, but if current growth is allowed to continue we can expect the population of Ethiopia to more than double to over 100 million before the year 2010 i.e with in about 20 years (FGAE. report, 1989)



According to 1989 FGAG report total fertility rate of Ethiopia was 7.5, during that period the total fertility rate of developed countries like: Japan, UK and USA were 1.8, 1.8 and 1.9 respectively. This figure shows that Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing population in Africa (FGAE, 1989)

Unless some thing is done to stop or reduce this fast growth rate of population starting from family level, there will soon be depletion of the resources of the world and degradation of the environment that would endanger the survival of human race.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Family size preferences largely determine the population size of the country and can be strong predictors of future fertility levels' (Castro and Fatima, 1996).

There are many factors that affect family size preference of married couples among these: society cultural values, religious dogmatism economic status, child mortality and attitude of married couples toward contraceptive use are the push factors for family size preference. But children in large families where there is no sufficient food are victims of malnutrition, have found under mean intelligence scores and income problem used to carry out any activity which leads the various family members to good child development and hindering bright future of family life.

The large family undoubtedly has an adverse effect on the survival chance of the offspring. Children from under nourishment and to be exposed to more infections to which they readily succumb particularly in the poorest family. (Omran & G. Johanston 1984).

In addition to above, as population growth increased many more children reach the end of getting a job of any kind. In the area where land is scarce, the possibility of each child receiving a plot of his own from the family or community is very limited (Jean A.S Ritchie, 1990).

The frequent child bearing is one of the factors which restricts women's opportunities for improving their earning skills, for increasing their education and gainful employment so that their contribution to development is limited. On the other hand the maintenance of children is costly and it has been shown that as the number of children in families increases, the level of living usually goes down. The rapid increase of people and survival of more children implies that the average age of families becomes younger and younger, the number of family members who are too young to be productive groups and this is a strain on national and community as well as family resources (Jean A.S Ritchie, 1990).

As measured by weight, height and sexual maturity, the physical growth of children from large families compares unfavourably with that of children from small families. The difference however is small and is evident mainly in large studies. In regard to intellectual development, increasing evidence shows lower intelligence scores than those of small families. Mental retardation also is positively associated with family size (Omran, 1981.)

A number of child health conditions have also been linked to family size and birth order. Some conditions like; malnutrition, are directly related to increased strain on family and maternal resources with each additional child, in the case of common infections, larger family size may simply lead to more frequent exposure to infectious agents through other family members (Omran, 1981).

All the problems stated above by the different scholar may also exist in Gingo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town. For this reason the family size preference and different associated factors are required to assess in advance to know the magnitude of the problem's and giving suggestions based on the identified problems in selected kebele to get possible solution is mandatory.

### **1.3. Research questions**

The investigation is expected to answer the following questions.

1. What is the family size married couples desire to have on average?
2. How family size affect life of society?
3. What are the major factors affect family size preferences of married couples?
4. What are possible suggestions given to solve the problems?

### **1.4 Objectives of the study.**

#### **1.4.1 General objective**

The main purpose of the study is;

To assess family size preference among married couples in Ginjo Guduru kebele, Jimma town.

#### **1.4.2. Specific Objectives.**

**The specific objectives include:**

- To determine family size preference of married couples in Ginjo guduru kebele.
- To identify main factors that influences the preference of family size among married couples.
- To assess problems related to large family size.
- To make recommendation on the bases of the finding of the study.

### **1.5. Significance of study.**

The study was conducted to assess the family size preference and associated factor such as cultural values, literacy status, economic and other related factors among married couples of Ginjo-Guduru kebele. Jimma town

The investigation will help to provide information related to family size that the married couples may prefer to have and to come up with the factor that push them to prefer large family size and to give detail information on the problems faces the married couples as a result of family size they need to bear.

Specifically, this study could be useful for the following bodies:

- It may help as a base line information for administrative bodies and other NGO's, who need to intervene in problems of fertility preference of married couples and used as reference to give awareness on issue of large family and other related factor that negatively affect the life of society of Ginjo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town.
- It helps the married couples to determine family size they need to have.
- It may be used as data source for further research conducted on the family.

### **1.6. Delimitation of the study**

The content of the study is limited to the assessment of family size preference and associated factors among-married couples.

Because of shortage of time and finance the study was conducted in Jimma town, particularly focusing on Ginjo-Guduru kebele, which is found in north-east central part of Jimma town.

## **1.7 Limitation of the study**

During investigation the researcher encounter many constraints. The major challenges were of the following

The study involved only married couples creating a challenge in data collection. The married couples ma be culturally/religiously influenced to tell their preference.

- Some respondents were feel boring to give any information.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Concept of family size preference**

Family size preference is a total number of ideal family size and additional child couples desire to have. It is influenced by different factors, that affect couples in deciding the number of their children. The factors include; societal cultural values, educational level of the family, demographic factors such as high mortality and fertility pattern, economic base and income levels of couples, religious dogmatism, contraceptive use and desire for son are included in the literature.

#### **2.2 Cultural values**

FAO, report on the reasons why many parents do not stop having babies, even when they have several healthy children, are cultural; large families are considered good and desirable because child bearing fulfills what is considered to be the main purpose of a woman's life, honorability they have and to satisfy emotional needs of the mother. Men feel that to have many children proves their dignity since the inheritance passes thorough the sons, the birth of a son makes the father the founder of a line that will perpetuate his name and memory also plenty of children are considered necessary to secure the survival of the race or religious group. The desire to have boys and age of marriage; also influence the number of children. (UNECA and FAO,1978)

June Host-Roness say that cultural values could be obstacle to the promotion of family planning service, some social values may be based on traditions. "The child in Africa valued as precious stone" in Ethiopia the child is valued highly because he represents an insurance against the inevitable contingencies of old age, children are seen as a source of

labour and social prestige in traditional societies. The Ethiopian society puts so much value on procreation that sterility is a disparaging phenomenon. An infertile woman usually faces a chance of divorce while, a woman who has given to many children is respected in community many people regard children as GOD's blessing and some even go to the extent of believing the children are pre-destined to grow up regardless of human interventions (Daka kebebew, 1986)

Many African families still measure their riches by the number of healthy children they bear. Also, high fertility is still valued and mother hood may seem a more certain route to social standing than education (CFDCAP, 1999) (2).

The research which on attitudes and values concerning children among the menz in rural Ethiopian suggests that having more children provided social prestige and economic security for the parents. The parents related that they preferred their 1<sup>st</sup> born to be a male and preferred having more male than female children. The finding indicates that any attempt to limit the number of children was unacceptable primary for religious and economic reasons. The desire to have as many male children as possible may be attributed to the need for economic security. Aparent with more children, and particularly males, was well assured of both current and future social and economic security. The findings strongly suggest that among the people of Menz a very high value is attached to human fertility. (Wagaw TG. 1992.)

### **2.3 Demographic (Fertility & Mortality) aspects.**

Studies in a number of countries have shown that whenever fertility is high, maternal, child and infant mortality rate are also high especially these high mortality rates are associated with such reproductive practices as short birth interval pregnancies in women under the age of 20 and above the age of 35 and so on. (T.G. of Ethiopia, 1993)

Recent study from the 1994 Vietnam inter- censual demographic survey reveal substantial change over recent years in reproductive behavior and attitudes. Fertility had continued to decline to a level of not far above a total fertility rate of three children per women compared with late 1980. Contraceptive knowledge and use has increased, stated family size preference have shifted noticeably down ward. Recently married women indicated that they wanted only 2-3 children, an average suggesting that fertility will continue to fall in coming years (Nfuyerer al, 1995)

The other study on comparative perspectives of fertility transition in South Asia, in 1996, indicated that the mean family size preference for wives was 2.8 children, while it was 2.9 for husbands. (Malhotra, 1996)

In countries where family size preferences are below fertility levels, as successful implementation of reproductive goals would readily lead to fertility decline. By contrast, in countries where large families are desired, sustained fertility decline can be achieved through a transformation of rapid productive norms and by implication of socio-economic condition that underline the demand for many children (Martin 1995)

Child deaths, more frequent in poor and un educated families than in privileged ones, stimulate young parents to have many children to ensure survival of a few (Jean.As. Ritchie, 1978)



#### **2.4. Literacy level**

The influence of education on fertility is assumed to derive from various dimensions of the educational experience. Educational assets have a pervasive influence on women's lives, shaping both their productive and reproductive roles. Recent analysis of demographic and health survey data for 25 developing countries by Rulenberg et al. (1991) confirm previous findings from the world fertility survey that the better educated a woman is, the more likely she is to practice contraceptive. (CFDCAP, 1999).

A study that was recently reported from Zimbabwe looked specially at the link between education, job and family size among the Shona population. According to the study for husbands with more than primary education, wife's education made little difference to family size, with the mean number of children being 2.4 if the wife had primary education or less and 2.3 if she had more than primary education or less, there were marked differences in family size according to the wife's education. In this case the mean number of children was 4.1 if the wife also had education only to primary levels or less but was 1.8 if she had more than primary education. With regard to employment, family size varied little according to the wife's occupation. The fact that women who were reported not to be employed had fewer children than those who ever employed (Progress in Human Reproduction, 1996) (11)

#### **2.5. Economic status**

In most of Africa "children considered as an asset", a large share of the agricultural work was and is done by women and the children, even very young ones perform numerous tasks in rural areas. A man with any children can have his land cleared for long fallow cultivation by young sons, and all or nearly all, other agricultural work done by women and smaller children. He need not pay for hired labour or fear for lack of

support in old age. A large family is an economic advantage, a provider of social security and of prestige in the local community. Therefore, the large family is the universally agreed on ideal in most Africa communities (Boserup, 1981)

## **2.6. Religious dogmatism**

It has been observed that religious perception passes in to social custom and continuous through its origins there would be which emotional reaction to old reward and sanctions. Even if family planning service in Ethiopia is not challenged by conflict, the negative effects of religious precept cannot be ruled out. The biblical says that, “Multiply and replenish the earth” is taken as religious duty by the Christians (Genesis 1:28). Among Orthodox Christians parent hood is taken as a duty. The Roman Catholic Church holds that marriage is for procreation, nurture, education of children. The Koran providers says “Marry and generate”.

According to the research which is done on Turkish women in 1995, the ideal family size was reported as 2.4 children per women and 63% of married women used family planning (Anonymous, 1995).

In 1984 average household size was 5.2 in Addis Ababa and 4.3 for the nation. The 1994 population and housing census of Ethiopia indicated that the average house had size of oromia was 4.5 (CSA, 1994)

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Study area and period**

The study was conducted in Ginjo-Guduru kebele, which is found in Jimma town, Jimma Zone, Oromia region.

According to 2009 available data, there are about 986 households living in the kebele. The study was conducted from January to April, 2009

#### **3.2 Population and sampling**

##### **3.2.1 Source population**

Although the town has many kebeles, it is difficult to conduct the study in all kebeles due to time, effort and financial constraint. As a result source population were the population of Jimma town, living in Ginjo-Guduru kebele while the study population was focused on the married couples living in the study area during study period.

##### **3.2.2 Sample size and sampling techniques.**

Out of the target population of 986 households, 10% ( $10 \times 986/100 \approx 99$ ) or 99 households were selected by systematic random sampling technique from the list of all house holds in the selected kebele. That means, the first household was selected randomly and others are selected with fixed interval until the desired sample size is obtained, if there is no couple in the sample the next immediate house was selected and some religious leaders, family guidance association and administrative bodies are included by purposive sampling technique to get more detail information for the study.

### **3.3 Methods of data collection**

There are many different methods used for data collection. However, in this study only two tools were used. These tools are believed to be appropriate for collecting necessary data related to the content of study. The tools used will be;

**Questionnaire:** appropriate close-ended and open-ended questions were developed on the paper and the respondents are required to provide their responses by putting a mark or by writing their responses by putting a mark or by writing their idea according to they requested to respond on the space provided in the questionnaire.

**Interview:** the data collected through questionnaire was substantiated by informal interview to some selected people from the community. These people may include community elders, religious leaders, kebele chairman, women, men and etc.

### **3.4. Data analysis and presentation**

The collected raw data was summarized and analyzed by using statistical methods such as frequencies, ratios, percentages, variances, median and others in order to make the data easily understandable. The result was presented using tables, charts & graphs when necessary. The analyzed data was interpreted and described verbally.

Finally, conclusion and recommendation was made on the basis of the findings of study.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In this chapter, the family size preference and its associated variables are assessed and discussed in Ginjo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town.

In the first part demographic and socio economic background of respondents are assessed. In the second part measures of family size preference and in third part the dimension of influence of difference and in third part the dimension of influence of different factors are widely discussed.

#### **4.1 Demographic and socio-economic back ground of respondents.**

There are different types of demographic and socio- cultural back grounds that makes the respondents different from each other. Among the variables; age distribution, religion Ethnic diversity, literacy staus, income and occupation of the couples are very important.

##### **4.1.1 Age Distribution**

Age is one of the demographic characteristics shows the distribution of respondents by grouping in to different reproductive age groups, it shown in table below.

**Table 1. Number and percentage age distribution of married couples of Ginjo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town May, 2009.**

Age distribution	Respondents					
	Husbands		Wives		Couples	
	No	%	No	%	Number	Percentage (%)
20-29	9	9.1%	19	19.2%	28	28.3%
30-39	21	21.2%	12	12.1%	33	33.3%
40-49	13	13.1%	9	9.1%	22	22.2%
50-59	6	6%	4	4%	10	10.1%
>60	4	4%	2	2%	6	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Survey data, 2009

From a total of 99 couples participated in the study 19.2% of wives and 9.1% of husbands were aged between 20-29 years. While, 21.2% of husbands and 12.1% of wives comprising the largest number of couples. 33.3% are belongs to age range from 30-39 years. The median age of couples is 32 years. This shows that adult age groups are comprising largest portion of the couples and old age groups were small in number.

#### **4.1.2 Religious composition**

Religion is one of the socio-cultural beliefs of any society that reflects their own attitude, customs and culture. For this matter Jimma is also one of the town where different religious groups live to gather by tolerating each other.

**Table 2. Religious composition of married couples of Ginjo-guduru kebele, Jimma town May, 2009.**

Religion	Respondents	
	Number	Percentages
Orthodox	32	32.3%
Muslim	27	27.3%
Protestant	20	20.2%
Catholic	12	12.1%
Others	8	8.1%

Source: Survey data, 2009

From table (2) above about 32.3% of orthodox followers and 27.3% of Muslims are the dominant, followed by protestant which comprising 20.2% and catholic 12.1% and other remaining different religious groups are about 8.1% of the inhabitants.

#### 4.1.3 Ethnic diversity

Jimma is one of the town where diverse ethnic groups live together in harmony. Similarly, different ethnic groups were included in investigation demonstrated in figure 1, below.

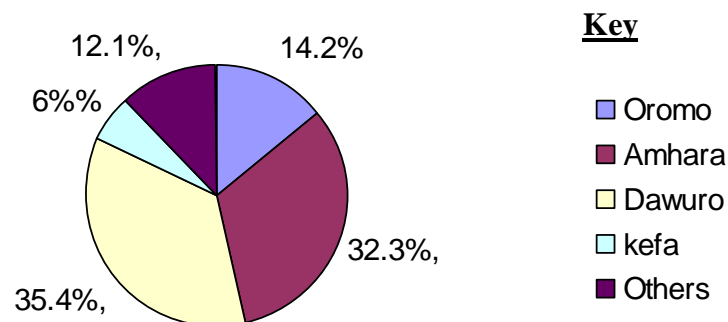


Figure Percentage distribution of ethnic diversity of Ginjo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town May, 2009.

The major ethnic groups in the study area were Oromo comprise 35.4%, Amhara 32.3% and Dawuro 14.2% also others many diversities groups comprise the rest of inhabitants. The result show that Jimma as the home of diversified ethnic composition.

#### 4.1.4 Income variation

Peoples earn varied income from their different activities in similar case couples of Ginjo- Guduru receive different income from their varied economic activities.

**Table 3. Number and percentage variation of income of married couples Ginjo- Guduru kebele, Jimma town May, 2009.**

Income	couple Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Less than 100 birr	26	26.3%
100-500 irr	31	31.3%
500-1000 birr	26	26.3%
> 1000 birr	16	16.1%

Source: Survey data

Form table above those couples earn less than 1000 birr 26.3% 100-5000 birr, 31.3%, 500-100 birr 26.3% and greater than 1000 birr is 16.1% per month. In general monthly income of couples respondents range from less than 100 to over 1000 Ethiopian birr. With the range between 100 to 500 birr have highest frequency as well as largest percentage.



#### 4.1.5 Occupational activities

Occupation is one of the socio-economic characteristics of the couples show the economic activities in which couples were engaging. The result shown in table-below

**Table 4. Percentage distribution of occupational activities of couples Ginjo-Guduru kebele, Jimma town May, 2009**

Occupation	couple Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Farmer	11	11.1%
Trade/ merchant	30	30.3%
Daily labores	18	18.2%
Gove't employee	21	21.2%
Ngo employee	12	12.1%
Others	7	7%

Source: survey data

In table above merchant 30.3% is the largest, Daily Labores 18.2% and Government employee 21.2% were significant while, farmers 11.1% and remaining others comprise 7%. From result majority of couples were merchant/ traders starting from tella sells and small scale retailer to the wholesaler and farmers engage in different agricultural activates such as; livestock ranching, poultry and other different vegetables.

## 4.2 Measures of family size preference.

Family size preference is measured by different variables such as average desired additional children and average of house hold size are the prominent ones.

### 4.2.1 Desire of additional children

People's preferences are different from each other in different dimensions and the same is also for couples in desire they have for additional children. It explained in table below.

**Table 5. Deafer of couples to wards additional children of Ginjo-Guduru keble, Jimma town May, 2009.**

Variables	Respondents			
	Husbands		wives	
	No	%	No	%
- Want more additional children	36	36.3%	25	25.3%
- Not want additional children	18	18.2%	20	20.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45.5%</b>

Source: Survey data

Of all 99 couples 36.3% husbands and 25.3% wives had desire to add child to their number of living children, while 18.2% husbands and 20.2% of wives do not want another additional children.

- During the study, the average household size was 5.2 which is slightly greater than 4.5 in Oromia, 5.2 in Addis Ababa and 43 for nations(CSA,1964)

#### 4.2.2 Average desired additional children and family size.

Desired additional children is a number of children wanted in addition to the children already in the family, while desired family size is the sum of living children and desired additional children, it presented in table below.

**Tsble 6. Average desired additional children and mean desired family size by number that of Ginjo-guduru kebele, Jimma town May 2009.**

No of living children now	Average desired of additional children			Average desired family size	
	Husband	Wives	Correlation	Husband	Wives
51	2.4	2.6		3.4	2.6
2	2.7	2.9		4.7	4.9
3	3.2	3.3		6.1	6.3
4	2.2	2.2		6.2	6.2
5	1.2	1.1		6.2	6.1
>6	1.6	-		7.6	6
Mean total	2.2	2	0.88	5.7	5.4

Source: survey data, 2009

The average number of living children for couples was found to be 3.8. the average desired additional children for husbands and wives were 2.2 and 2 respectively, showing that they were highly correlated (0.88) in desire of additional children. While the average dlesired family size were 5.7 for husbands which is greater than that of wives 5.4 and even greater than the (5.5) mean desire of Nigeria, men. Study in south Asia indicate mean family size preference for wives was 2.8 and 2.9 for husbands (malhotra, 1996).

### **4.3 Dimension of influence of different factor on family size**

Family size indicate the number of children and it is influenced by different factors such as; literacy status, economic civilities and demographic variables.

#### **4.3.1 Family size preference with their literacy level**

Literacy status is one of the most determinant factor influencing couples to prefer different family size.

**Table 7. Average family size preference by literacy status of married couples Ginjo-guduru kebele, Jimma town May, 2009.**

<b>Literacy status</b>	<b>Respondents</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Average family size</b>
Illiterate	14	14.1%	5.3
Rea and write only	23	23.3%	4.1
Grade 1-8 <sup>th</sup>	20	20.2%	3.6
Grade 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	18	18.2%	3.5
Diploma holders	13	13.1%	2.8
Degree and above	11	11.1%	2.5
Mean total			3.6

Source: Survey data

The over all picture of the table indicates that 23.3% were read and write only and grade 8<sup>th</sup> complete 20.2% complies the largest portion and illiterate, 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, Diploma, Degree and above comprise 14.1%, 18.2%,

13.1% and 11.1% respectively. When the level of literacy status of couples up to more literate family size decrease. From 14 illiterate couples decrease (2.5) for top literate means for degree and above.

The study which recently reported from Zimbabwe indicated that education has positive association with family size preference and have also the result shows that family size has significant association with literacy status. As the study revealed family size preference were smaller for literate couples than illiterate couples.

#### 4.3.2. Income and family size preference

The income individual earns has also determinant effect on family size preference of couples. It explained more in bar graph below.

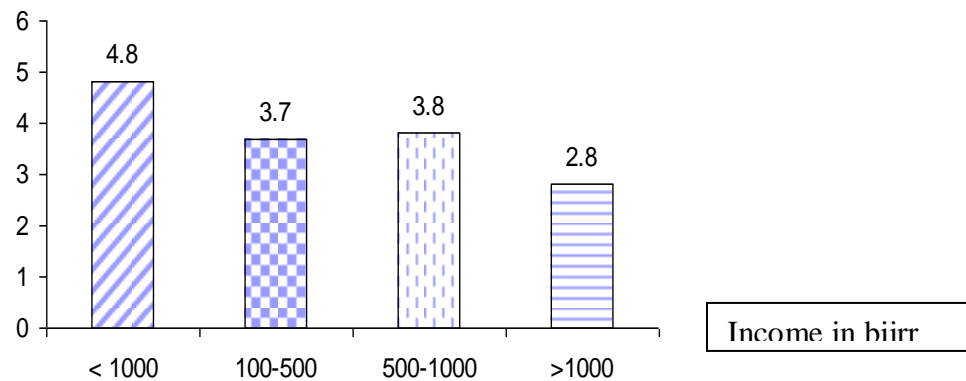


Figure 2. Distribution of family size preference to income level of couples of Ginjo-Guduru, Jimma town may, 2009.

Even if family income has no as such strong relation ship those earn less than 100 have average family size 4.8 for those earn 100-500 birr 3.7, for earn 500-1000 and greater than 1000 birr have 3.8 and 2.8 children respectively. The same study by June Host-Roness say. “The child in Africa valued as precious stone”.

In the study economic activity as measured by occupation plays a great role in influencing family size preference. As a result among farmers 81.8% of them were desire large family and among daily labors 61.% of them desire large family. The previous study also shows that in agricultural work and other numerous tasks, showing large family as economic advantage and universally agreed in most Africa communities.

### 4.3.3 Family size preference

Married couples prefer different family size starting from small to large family size. Figure below demonstrate more.

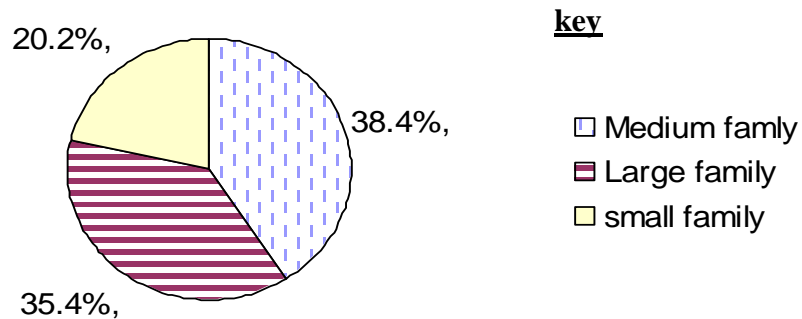


Fig. 3 percentage demonstration of family size preference Ginjo-guduru kebele, Jimma town April, 2009.

On the basis of deviation of family size  $\pm 0.5$  from the overage family size preference 38.4% are prefer medium family size, means it confined in between  $\pm 0.5$  deviation from actual mean family size and 26.2% of couples prefer small family for the reason of good child care and better standard of living. While 35.4% of respondents prefer large family for other different reasons discussed in next part.

#### 4.3.4 Reason for preferring large family size.

There are different reason behind to prefer large family by couples of Ginjo-guduru kebele. It discussed under table below.

**Table 8. Number and percentage distribution of reasons for large family size preference.**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>
To get help at old age	14	23%
It is not me a decider but GOD	6	10%
For joy and pride	11	18%
Source of fulfillment	5	8%
Care for other children	3	5%
To compensate unexpected death	10	16.4%
Continuing family name	12	19.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: survey data

From 61 couples prefer relatively above average family size 23% prefer for economic security at old age. While, others for continuing family names, to compensate un expected death, for joy and pride is 19.75, 16.4%, 18% respectively. This figure is very similar with a study done in menz rural Ethiopia. The other study by Jean. As. Ritchie say that where child death is frequent, parent need to have many children to ensure survival of a few (A.Sritche, 1990).

#### 4.3.5 Decision making behavior.

Decision making behavior of married couples on family size are shown in table below.

**Table 9. Distribution of decision making on family size among married couples.**

Decision maker	Respondents	
	No	%
Husband	27	27.3%
Wife	4	4%
Both	45	45.5%
GOD	23	23.2%

Source: survey data

Decision making of the couples respondents in the family 45.5% of couples replied their joint decision. 27.3% and 23.2% replied husband and GOD decision.



#### 4.3.6. Contraceptive use

Contraceptive is one of the major family planning methods. From the result gained 60.6% of couples were not using any contraceptive currently because of different reasons discussed in figure below.

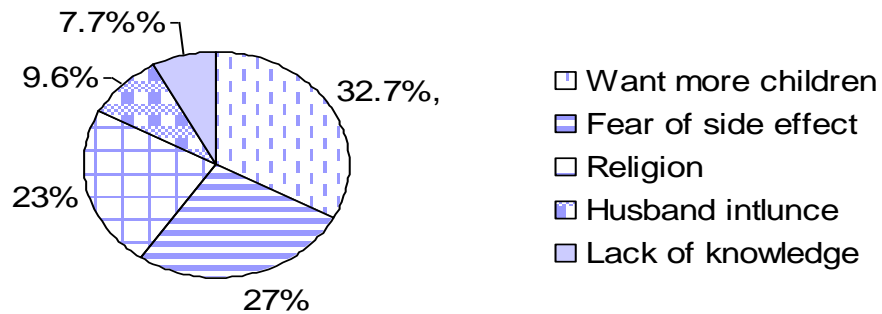


Fig. 4.

percentage distribution of reason for not using contraceptive, of couples in reproductive age groups.

Concerning the use of contraceptive methods 60.6% couples were not using any contraceptive while, 39.4% were using family planning method. The reason for not using family planning method (32.7%) for want more children, 27% for fear side effect, 23% for religion and husband influence is also included. When we compare family planning practice of Ginjo-guduru kebele of Jimma town it is lower than that of Turkish married women (63%) (Anonymous, 1995).

#### 4.4 Problems associated with large family

- The data is taken from family guidance association and kebele leaders and House holdsso it is difficult to innumerate in to percentages. Despite of having small family size has no respect in majority of respondents view, large family poses many problems like, in ability of clothing children food insecurity, financial scarcity to buy appropriate, educational materials, inadequate housing and health care are the major problems faced by families.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

### 5.1. CONCLUSION

The over all out come of the study indicate, the average desired additional children for husbands were 2.2 and for wives 2. Large family size preference was relatively higher for husbands (5.7) than Wives (5.4) for the reason of economic security (23%) and joy \$ pride (18%).

Among major factors influencing family size preference literacy status has significant association with family size preference. The result show that illiterate desire more average family size (5.3) than literates.

The second factor is economic activity measured by occupation of couples. The finding show that from the farmers 81% where desire large family, that is the largest as compared to other economic activates.

16.2% of couples desire large family to compensate previous frequent child mortality rate.

Problems related to large family size are many in number such as; in ability of clothing child, food insecurity, financial scarcity to buy appropriate educational material, in adequate housing and health care were reported to be as major problems.

## 5.2 Recommendation

Since large family size has pose diverse problems from individual to national level, early intervention measures are necessary in order to make fertility the responsibilities of both parents in relation to the family economic status.

Therefore, the following recommendations are made on the basis of the major findings of the study:

- According to result gained more than half of a couples of reproductive age group doesn't use any contraceptive, because of; fear of its side effect, husband influence and to have more children. So to solve these problems, men and women should be selected from community and trained in family planning method to give service for their community members and awareness on the contraceptive usage. So that family planning information can be widely disseminated to all communities with its correct utilization.
- In the study husbands were desire more additional children than the wives and enforcing them to gave birth more children, so a need target information and awareness programs at men with the goal of influencing their attitudes a about reproductive matters and motivating couples to have fewer children.
- The finding reveals illiterate couples prefer large family size, for lack of knowledge, for this reason, population and family life education should be introduced in school and increasing adult education to significant level is mandatary.
- Since investigation mainly focused on family size preference of the couples, the areas of resistance to family planning is not deeply assessed. For this reason, comprehensive research must be conducted to identify areas of resistance to family planning and on other important areas of need.

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**Appendix: Questionnaire**

**JIMMA UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**Department of Geography and Environmental studies**

This questionnaire has been prepared by a graduating student of Jimma University, Department of Geography and Environmental studies in 2009. It is designed to collect relevant information about family size preferences among married couples.

**Direction**

- There is no need of mentioning your name
- Give your response by putting a mark  in a box

Provided for close- ended questions and write your idea on space provided for open-ended questions.

**Part I. General information**

House Number: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Age \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sex      Male                   Female

3. Religion

A, Orthodox                        C, Muslim

B, Protestant                        D, Catholic

E. others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ethnicity

A, Oromo       B Amhara                   C. Dawuro

D. Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Literacy status

- A, Illiterate       B. Read and write only   
C, Grade 1-8       D, Diploma      F. Degree and above   
E. Grade 8-12   
Husband \_\_\_\_\_      Wife \_\_\_\_\_

6. Income of family per month, in Birr.

- A. less than 100 birr       B, 100-500 birr   
C. 500- 1000 birr      D, Above 1000 birr

7. Occupation

- A. Farmer       B. Trader/ Merchant   
C. Teacher       D. NGO employee   
E. Daily laborer       F. If others, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Number of people living in the house hold: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II. Family size preference**

9. How many children have you give birth?

- A. Male \_\_\_\_\_      Female \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Total \_\_\_\_\_

10, how many living child do you have now?

- A. Male \_\_\_\_\_      Female \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Total \_\_\_\_\_

11, Do you want to have more children?

- | <u>Husband</u>               | <u>Wife</u>                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No <input type="checkbox"/>  | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |

If yes how many more?

Husband

Male \_\_\_\_\_

Female \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Wife

Male \_\_\_\_\_

Female \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

12, What is your family size preference

- A. Small family      B, Large family      C. Medium family  
D. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

13. If your family size preference. Mentioned on question 12 is large family, what is the reason to prefer such number of children,

Wife/Husband

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. To get help at old age           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. It is not me the decider but GOD | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. For joy and pride                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Source of fulfillment            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Care for other children          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. to compensate un expected death  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. continuing family name           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

14. How people perceive you, if you have no need many children.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a. Knowledgeable person <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| b. No respect <input type="checkbox"/>           | e. others <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Sinful <input type="checkbox"/>               |                                    |

15. Who do you think should be a decision maker on family size?

- a. Husband     b. wife     C. Both     d. GOD



16. If you have large family, what are problems you encounter in rearing them? Specify \_\_\_\_\_

17. Are you currently using any family planning methods?

Yes

No

18. If the answer for question 17, no what is the reason?

a. Want more children

b. Lack of knowledge

c. Husband influence

d. Religion

e. Fear of side effect

## Appendix B:

Annex 1: Number of husbands and with their desired number of additional children to living children and desired number of children, Ginjo-guduru Kebele, may, 2009

Living children	Husbands			Wives		
	No	Desired No of additional children	Desired No of children	No	Desired No of additional children	Desired No of children
≤ 1	5	12	17	6	17	22
2	18	47	83	12	35	59
3	12	37	73	13	43	82
4	10	22	62	10	22	62
5	2	3	13	4	4	24
6	6	10	46	1	1	7
Total	53	131	294	46	119	256

Source: Survey data, 2009