A PERCEPTION OF THE JOHANNE MARANGE APOSTOLIC SECT WOMEN ON FAMILY PLANNING USE: A CASE STUDY OF THE BOCHA AREA, VILLAGE 5 – MUTARE.

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ABSTRACT

Women in the Johanne Marange Apostolic Sect are guided by their Church’s doctrines in their way of living, and this case study incognisant of the high mortality rates of children and mothers, complications at birth as well as failure of couples to meet their families’ basic needs, analysed and revealed the women’s knowledge, attitude and perception towards their stance of not using family planning methods. Questionnaires and interviews were used for data collection. Content and thematic analysis was utilized to obtain detailed and accurate real life information from the respondents. 80% of the Marange women (n=20) had knowledge on family planning as well as its benefits but the sentiments passed by their church forbid family planning use. Nevertheless, 35% highlighted family planning benefits and revealed that they now use family planning, especially the modern methods without the consent of their husbands for their own good. In fact, men in the sect seem to be very much dominant in the sexuality of their wives, they determine the size of the family to the extent that women suffer to please them at the expense of their health. Thus, religion is one such factor that effect the infringement of women’s human rights and they is need for collaborative efforts from Ministries like Health and Education to ensure reformation and revision of the Church’s doctrines.