

Whatever I say is the Final: Gender and Power Relations in Family Planning Adoption among Slums and Middle Class Dwellers in Selected Urban Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where significant progress has not been made in contraceptive uptake despite decades of family planning programs while patriarchy system and the subsequent roles of men has been identified as one of the problems militating against family planning adoption. Earlier studies have however treated men as homogenous group irrespective of the roles their socio-economic and demographic status may play in their attitudes to family planning. This article therefore examined the power relations in family planning adoption in selected slums and middle class settlements in Ibadan in South West and Kaduna in North Central, Nigeria with a view to explore the similarities and differences in their attitudes to family planning adoption by their wives.

The study employed qualitative technique involving ten FGD sessions with selected groups of men stratified by age and marital status using photo elicitation and vignette to generate discussions. The FGD moderators presented two photographs representing two different families; one with two children representing small family and the other with 5 children representing large family. The vignette also related the story of a woman who saw family planning poster in a health facility and wish to adopt family planning but does not know how to discuss this with her husband. Each session was conducted by experienced moderator and note taker and audio-taped. The transcribed data were analyzed with Atlas.ti software version 7. Inductive approach was employed to analyze the data.

The findings show that men in both slums and middle class described the large family in negative ways while they describe the small family in positive ways. Figure 1 and 2 shows the participants description of the large and small families. Despite these, men in both slums and middle class expressed that they would not easily agree to family planning adoption by their wives. It is however important to note that while slum men limited men's roles to giving approval for family planning adoption and payment for the services where necessary, men in the middle class expressed that husband's should be more involved and even accompany their wives to family planning clinics.

Further analysis is ongoing

The study concluded that there is need to disaggregate men by socio-economic status in family planning education in Nigeria.

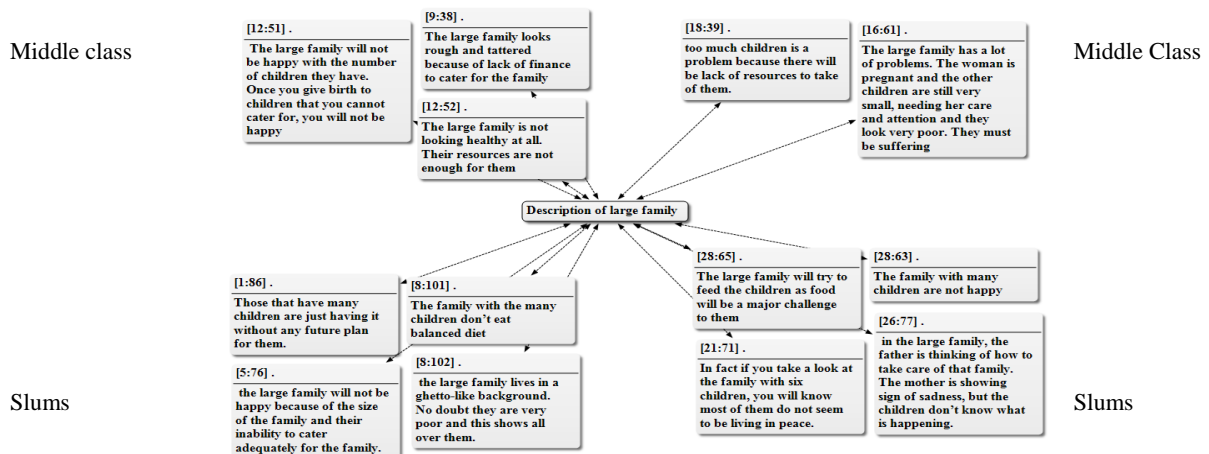


Figure 1: Description of Large Family

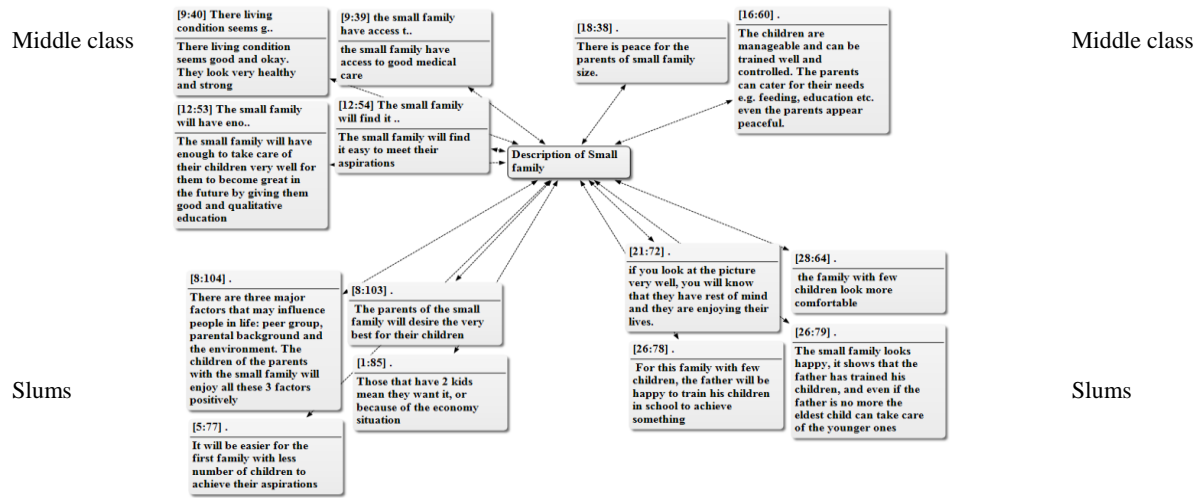


Figure 2: Description of Small Family