Title: Social support and its socio-demographic determinants in women of reproductive age

Authors: Mirghafourvand M, PhD Student of Reproductive Health. Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Email: mirg1385@yahoo.com
Baheiraei A, PhD, Tehran University of Medical Sciences.
Mohammadi, E, PhD, Tarbiat Modares University
Nedjat S, PhD, Tehran University of Medical Sciences.
Mohammad-Alizadeh Charandabi S. PhD, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences.

Abstract: Introduction
Social support is an exchange of resources between at least two individuals perceived by the provider or recipient to be intended to promote the health of the recipient. Social support is a major determinant of health. The purpose of this study was to determine social support and related socio-demographic factors in women of reproductive age in Tehran, Iran.

Materials & Methods
In this cross-sectional study, 1359 women of reproductive age were selected by multistage cluster sampling of the 22 main municipal sectors of Tehran. Data were collected using a questionnaire on socio-demographic characteristics; perceived social support was measured by the Personal Resource Questionnaire-85-Part-2 (PRQ-85-PART2). The questionnaires were completed through a face-to-face interview; possible total scores ranging from 25 to 175 and for subscales, from 7 to 35. Linear regression coefficients were used to estimate the adjusted association between independent variables (socio-demographic variables) and the dependent variable (social support).

Results
The mean score of social support was 134.3 (SD= 17.9). The highest dimension of social support was an indication that one is valued and the lowest dimension of social support was the feeling of being an integral part of group. In the multiple regression analyses, education, primary support source, income sufficiency for living costs and husband’s occupation were significant variables in the final model, explaining 8.7% of the variance.

Discussion & Conclusions
The perceived social support is relatively high in women of reproductive age. Socio-demographic factors should be considered in intervention planning for promoting social support for women of reproductive age.

Key words: social support, socio-demographic determinants, women of reproductive age

Presentation: Poster