

Relationship between Willingness for Childbirth and Value of Motherhood of Korean College Students

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Background

South Korea is a country with a very low fertility rate and the lowest fertility rate among OECD countries. Moreover, young people are more likely to delay marriage or having children, leading to an even higher advanced maternal age associated with higher risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes

Purpose

It is important to anticipate and prepare in advance for future fertility related problems, especially by examining their willingness and thoughts about childbirth. This study examined to identify the relationship between willingness and thoughts for childbirth in the future and value of motherhood among unmarried female college students.

Methods

Using online survey, 142 students participated. Sociodemographic characteristics, 8 items of value of motherhood and willingness for marriage and childbirth were asked. The factors influencing on willingness for childbirth were examined through multiple logistic regression using SPSS version 24.

Results

- Students answered willingness for marriage was 59.2% and childbirth was 35.9%. In case of willingness of childbirth, desired number of children was 2 (range 1-4). Mean age of expected marriage was 30.4 years (24-50 range) and mean age of expected childbirth were 31.6 years (28-39 range).
- The higher value of motherhood (AOR = 10.42, 95% CI = 3.65-29.80) and the higher allowance they have, (AOR = 1.02, 95% CI = 1.01-1.03) the more likely they were to have a willingness for childbirth.

Conclusions

Students showed lower willingness for future childbirth and lower motherhood values. Perception of the role of motherhood in the family and society would be changed. And it will be necessary to develop for effective interventions for informed reproductive decision-making for college students.

Table 1. Willingness for Childbirth, marriage, and Value of Motherhood (N=142)

Variables	Categories	Women
		n(%) or M±SD
Willingness for childbirth (including marriage)		
Willingness for Future childbirth	No	51(35.9)
	Yes	51(35.9)
	Unsure	40(28.2)
Expected childbirth age (n= 51)	Range (28-39)	31.55±2.27
	28-30	17(33.3)
	31-34	28(54.9)
	≥35	6(11.8)
Desired number of children (n=51)	Range (1-4)	2.00±0.53
	1	6(11.8)
	2	40(78.4)
	≥3	5(9.8)
Willingness for future marriage	No	25(17.6)
	Yes	84(59.2)
	Unsure	33(23.2)
Expected marriage Age (n=84)	Range (24-50)	30.38±3.37
	24-27	10(11.9)
	28-30	47(56.0)
	31-34	22(26.2)
	≥35	5(6.0)
Value of motherhood	Range (8-32)	23.54 ±4.25

Note. M=Mean, SD=Standard deviation

Table 2. Factors Influencing Willingness for childbirth among Women: Logistic Regression (N=142)

Variables	Categories	Women (n=142)		
		Adj. OR	95% CI	p
Allowance		1.02	1.01-1.03	.002
Religious (Ref. no)	Yes	2.26	0.97-5.28	.059
Value of motherhood (Ref. low score; [8-22])	High score (23-32)	10.42	3.65-29.80	<.001

Note. OR=Odds ratio

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