

Demographic and Health Survey 2006/07
Matara District Bulletin (Provisional data)
 Department of Census and Statistics



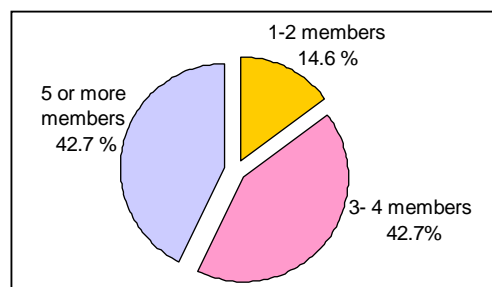
About the DHS Survey

Demographic & Health Survey (2006/07) conducted by the Department of Census & Statistics provides important information on Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and awareness of HIV/AIDS. The survey is designed to provide National as well as district and sector wise estimates. The survey covered all parts of the country excluding Northern Province. Information was collected from 23000 housing units. Main target group of the survey was ever married women in the 15-49 age group and their children below 5 years of age at the time of the survey.

- No. of households interviewed: 873.
- No. of eligible women (age 15-49) interviewed: 657.
- Estimated housing units: 181,679.
- Estimated population: 795,000.
- Household response rate: 99.5%.

Household Size -

Figure 1: Households by household size in Matara District 2006/7



- Average household size is 4.4 persons per household.
- About 57 percent of households are with less than 5 persons.

About the household population -

Table 1: Proportion of the population in selected age groups & sex size in Matara District 2006/7

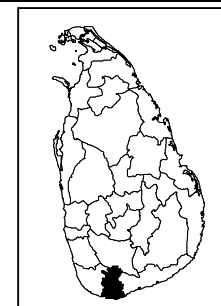
| Age Group | Total | Male | Female |
|------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Below 5 yrs. | 9.2 | 10.5 | 8.1 |
| Below 15 yrs. | 26.3 | 28.1 | 24.9 |
| Below 18 yrs. | 32.3 | 34.1 | 30.7 |
| 15-49 yrs. | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.1 |
| 15-64 yrs. | 64.7 | 63.2 | 65.8 |
| 65 years or more | 9.1 | 8.7 | 9.5 |

- 50 percent of females are in the reproductive age group.

Table 2: Age dependency ratio size in Matara District 2006/7

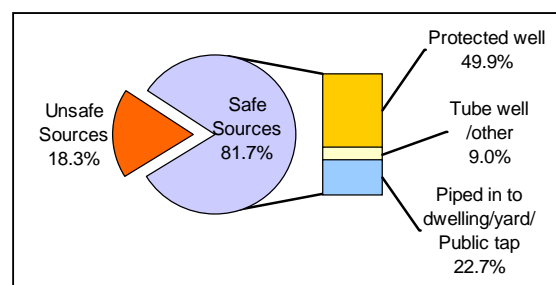
| Age Dependency Ratio | Total |
|----------------------|-------|
| Below 15 yrs. | 40.8 |
| 65 years or more | 14.1 |

- Young age dependency ratio (40.8) is thrice that of old age dependency ratio (14.1).



Access to safe drinking water -

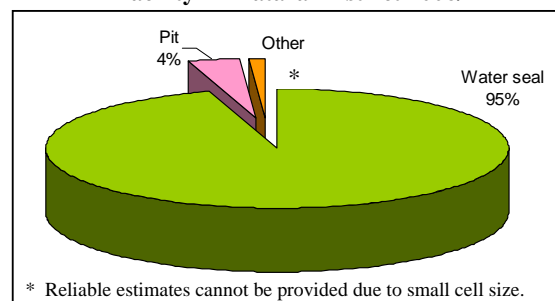
Figure 2 : Households by availability of safe drinking water size in Matara District 2006/7



- 82 percent of households have access to source of safe drinking water. About 22 percent households have water piped in to the home or yard. Nearly 50 percent have access to water from protected well.

Sanitation Facility -

Figure 3 : Households by availability of sanitation facility in Matara District 2006/7



- More than 95 percent of households use water sealed toilets while 3.6 percent use pit toilets.

Electricity

84.8 percents households in Matara District have electricity.

Ownership of household consumer goods -

Table 3: Percentage of household by ownership of household equipments in Matara District 2006/7

| Equipment | Percentage of Households |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Television | 76 |
| Radio | 85 |
| Refrigerator | 31 |
| Mobile phones | 33 |
| Land phones | 27 |

Main source of cooking fuel –

- About 89 of percent households in Matara District use firewood for cooking while about 9 percent use LP gas as main source of fuel for cooking.

Use of Mosquito nets -

- About 65 percent of the households in Matara District currently use mosquito nets and 18 percent of households use mosquito coils.

About Children in Matara District -

- Out of the children in 5 – 15 year age group 98 percent have ever attended a school.
- It is reported that 16.2 percent children in 5-17 year age group do not have enough school books.
- Fathers of 3.6 percent of the children in 0-17 year age groups were not alive at the time of the survey.

Child Health -

Immunization Coverage

- It was observed that 100 percent of children in Matara District have received specified vaccines BCG, Polio, DPT and Measles by 12 months of age.

Birth Weight

- 80 percent of children (with or without health development report) of 0-59 months in Matara District have birth weight as equal or above 2.5kg.
- 20 percent of children have low birth weights.

Mother's Health Care in Matara District 2006/7-

- The Government health facilities have served 95 percent of deliveries which occurred during the 5 year period preceding the survey.
- The survey further reported that almost every mother has received assistance of skilled health person at their last delivery.

Exclusive breast feeding

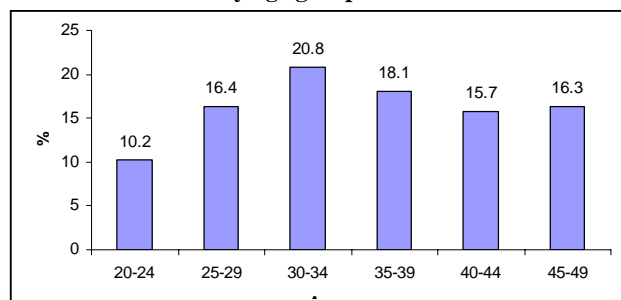
- The proportions of mothers who have exclusively breast fed during the first 4 months at their last birth in Matara District is 82.

Background characteristics of ever married females of 15-49 years

Age distribution of eligible women* -

- Figure 4 shows that highest proportion (20.8 percent) of eligible women belong to 30-34 age category.

Figure 4: Distribution of eligible women in Matara District by age group 2006/7



Note: Percentage of 15-19 age group is negligible

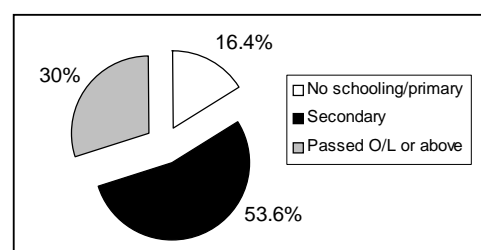
Marital status of eligible women -

- About 94 percent of eligible women were married at the time of the survey while only 6 percent of them were not in union (widowed or separated).

Level of education of eligible women -

- 16.4 percent of eligible women in Matara District have primary level education or never attended school.
- Majority (53.6 %) of them have attended up to secondary level of education.

Figure 5: Eligible women by level of education in Matara District 2006/7



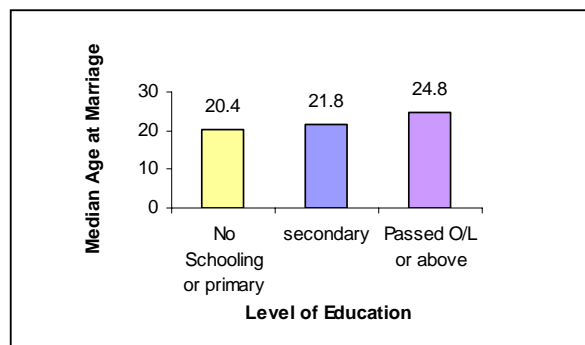
Awareness about HIV AIDS -

About 95 percent of women in Matara District have heard about HIV AIDS. Out of this about 72 percent of women know that the AIDS can be prevented by using condoms, while about 90 percent of them have knowledge about limiting sex to one uninfected partner and abstaining from sex help to reduce HIV AIDS.

Median age at marriage -

- Median age at marriage of women in Matara District is 22.7.
- Median age at marriage increases with the level of education.

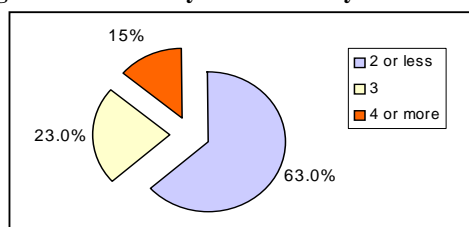
Figure 6: Median age at marriage by level of education in Matara District 2006/7



Desired family size -

Currently married women prefer small families. 63 percent of women would like to have 2 or less than 2 children. Further, 86 percent of women liked to have 3 or less than 3 children.

Figure 7: Women by desired family size



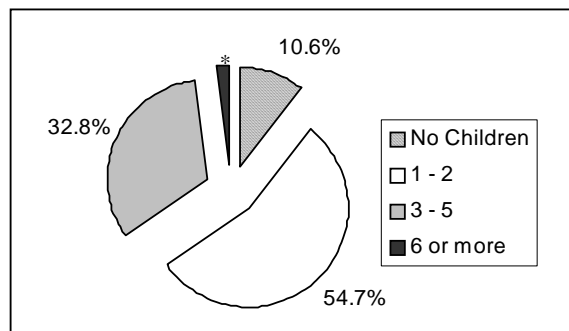
Mean no. of children -

On an average ever married women have 2.1 children.

Children ever born -

10.6 percent of ever married eligible women never have children while about 54.6 percent of women have only 1 or 2 children.

Figure 8: Women by number of children ever born in Matara District 2006/7.

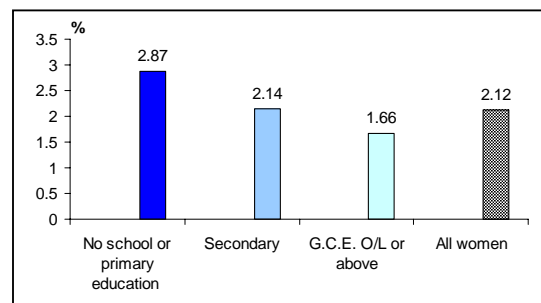


* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

Note *: See Definition

Mean number of children ever born by level of education-

Figure 9: Mean number of children ever born by level of education in Matara District 2006/7

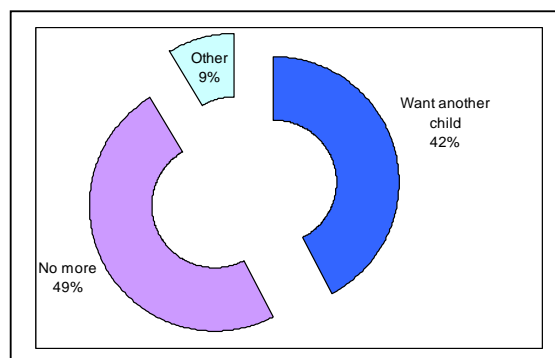


- Mean number of children ever born decreases with increasing the level of education of eligible women.

Fertility preferences -

49 percent of eligible women (Excluding sterilized women) have answered that they do not want to have another child. Proportion of women like to have another child is 42.3 %.

Figure 10: Women by fertility preferences in Matara District 2006/7 (Excluding sterilized women)



Awareness of contraceptive methods -

Table 4: Ever married women by awareness of contraceptive methods in Matara District 2006/7

| Method | Percentage of know method |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Female sterilization | 93.2 |
| Male sterilization | 68.8 |
| Pills | 98.5 |
| IUD | 95.4 |
| Injection | 98.2 |
| Norplant | 38.1 |
| Male Condom | 91.5 |
| LAM | 28.6 |
| Safe period | 66.5 |
| Withdrawal | 77.8 |
| Emergency contraception | 44.9 |
| Other | 16.4 |

- Pill and injection are the widely known methods (98.5 percent and 98.2 percent respectively), followed by the IUD and Female sterilization (95.4 percent and 93.2 percent).
- Percentage who know about condom is also high (91.5).
- Percentage of women knowing LAM, Norplant and Emergency contraception is relatively low.

Current use of contraception -

- Total number of estimated currently married women in Matara District is 128,650.
- 67.3 percent of women are currently using contraception.

Table 5: Currently married women by use of contraceptive method in Matara District 2006/7

| Method | No. | % |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total | 128650 | 100.0 |
| Not using *** | 41983 | 32.6 |
| Any method | 86667 | 67.4 |
| Any modern method | 62411 | 48.5 |
| Sterilization | 11374 | 8.8 |
| Pills | 11641 | 9.0 |
| IUD | 9089 | 7.1 |
| Injection | 20134 | 15.6 |
| Condom | 10058 | 7.8 |
| LAM | ** | ** |
| Any traditional method | 24256 | 18.9 |
| Safe period | 17968 | 14.0 |
| Withdrawal | 6288 | 4.9 |

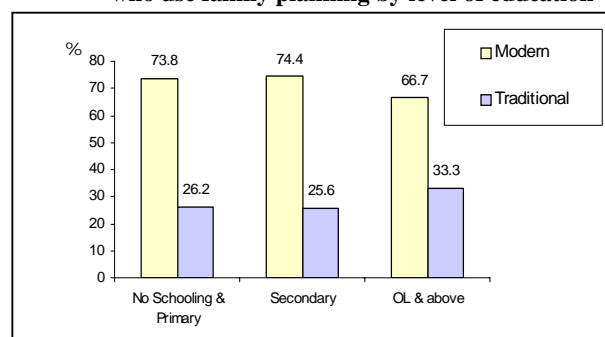
** Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

*** Including pregnant women.

- Survey reveals that about 48 percent of currently married women currently using modern contraceptive methods while another 19 percent use traditional methods.
- 32.6 percent of currently married women are not currently using any contraceptive method. (Including pregnant women) Data shows that the most commonly used method is injection (15.6 percent) followed by pills (9 percent).
- Further, 8.8 percent of eligible women use sterilization (Mostly Female sterilization).
- Among the traditional methods, safe period is the most commonly used method.

Level of education and use of contraception -

Figure 11: Currently married and non pregnant women who use family planning by level of education



- Figure 11 indicate that females in all education levels inclined towards to modern methods.
- Percentage using traditional methods is higher among those who have qualified O/L and above.

Contraceptive use by age -

Table 6: Current use of family planning by age groups in Matara District 2006/7

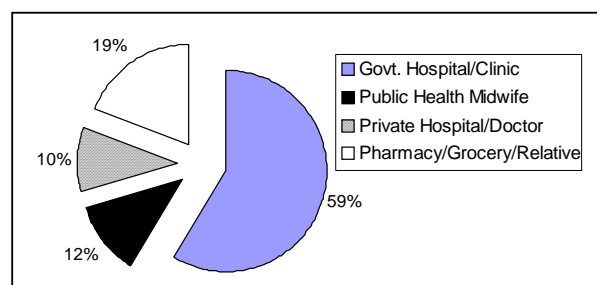
| Methods | 15 -19 | 20 - 29 | 30 - 39 | 40 - 49 | Total |
|--------------------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Any method | * | 63.9 | 70.4 | 69.4 | 67.4 |
| Modern method | * | 55.5 | 54.6 | 35.8 | 48.5 |
| Traditional method | * | 8.4 | 15.8 | 33.6 | 18.9 |
| Not using | * | 36.1 | 29.6 | 30.6 | 32.6 |
| Total | * | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size

- Percentage using traditional methods is higher among the older age groups while modern methods popular among the other age groups.

Source of supply -

Figure 12: Current users of contraceptive by most recent source of supply in Matara District 2006/7



- Government facilities have catered to the needs of more than 70 percent of current users of modern contraceptive methods (Including public health midwife)

Definitions used:

Safe sources of drinking water:

Protected well, tube well, and main water line

Unsafe sources of drinking water:

Unprotected well, bowser, river/tank/stream and other sources such as rain water and spring water.

Eligible woman: Defacto women who were ever married and who were in the age group of 15-49 at the time of the survey.

Level of Education:

No schooling - Never attended school

Primary level- Passed grade 1,2,3,4,or up to grade 5

Secondary level - Passed grade 6,7,8,9 or up to grade 10

O/L and above - Passed GCE O/L or above