

# **Future fertility intensions in Namibia: Evidence from Demographic Health Survey, 2013**

*Gyan Chandra Kashyap*

PhD Student, International Institute for Population Sciences, Govandi Station Road Donor  
Mumbai, 400088, India, Email: [statskashyap@gmail.com](mailto:statskashyap@gmail.com)

Namibia observing the fertility transition is picking down momentum in sub Saharan Africa. Namibia is the country have currently lowest fertility rate, which is declining total fertility rate 5.4 to 3.6 during 1992-2013 according to demographic health survey. Until the turn of the century the fertility transition in Sub-Saharan Africa has been either very hesitating or stalling after a brief start. The aim of this study is to investigate the socio-economic and demographic factors which are responsible for the future fertility intension in Namibia. This study utilized the data from the latest round of Demographic Health Survey (DHS, 2013) of Namibia. This is the fourth comprehensive, national-level population and health survey conducted in Namibia as part of the global Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) program. A total of 9,849 households were interview out of 9,176 women of age group 15-49 and 4,481 men has interviewed. The study used bivariate analysis and chi-square test to explain the association between future fertility intension and socio-economic and demographic variables. Findings from the table 1 reveals about the currently married couple having fertility preferences, preferred waiting time and ideal number of children in Namibia. Results explain that the wife and husband both desire to have another child almost same 44 percent. But there is gap in taking decision, whether they want or not another child, wife (5.54%) and husband (14.6%) reported, at the same time wife (50%) and husband (42%) reported they do not want any more child in Namibia. Further, preferred waiting time to have child within 12 months wife (26.7%) and husband (16.5%) reported which is the highest percentage of wife having waiting time less than 12 months. Other side Substantial proportion (24.4%) husbands reported about one year waiting time to have a child. Wife and husband expressed their desire about the Ideal number of children, wife (23.1%) reported ideal number of children would be 4. While husband (26.9%) reported 6+ child would be the ideal number, which is the highest. Only 2.9 percent wife reported 0 child and 3 percent husband told one child is the ideal number of children.

Results from the table 2 explain the future fertility preferences by some selected socio-economic and demographic variables and their association with the predictor variables in Namibia. Currently married women living in a rural area at a one point of time unsure (8.9%) about their future fertility while only 3.3 percent women those who are living in urban area reported the same, chi-square test show the statistically significant association between fertility preferences and place of residence. Substantial proportion of married women having higher education only 3.3 percent women are unsure about the future fertility and this proportion is 8.5 percent among the women who have no education. Chi-square test show the statistically significant association between fertility preferences and education women. On the other hand husband (8.3%) having higher education and (3.3%) reported about the unsure for future fertility. Women having 6+ children (9.9%) reported they are undecided about the future fertility and Chi square test shows a statistically significant association between future fertility preferences and number of living children. 3.75 percent man and 4.9 percent women who are working reported they are undecided about the future fertility. Economic status of household reveal the positive association between fertility preferences which is statistically significant. 4.9 percent household belong to richest wealth quintile reported they are unsure about the future fertility and it is the highest (12.3%) those belong to poorest wealth quintile. 53.4 percent household belong to richer wealth quintal reported they do not want any more children. According to religion, Roman Catholic, Protestant/Anglican and Elcin households 7.0, 5.9, 3.5 percent reported they are unsure about the future fertility.

Table 1: Currently married couple having following fertility preferences, preferred waiting time and ideal number of children in Namibia, DHS, 2013.

	Female	Number	Male	Number
<b>Fertility preference</b>				
Have another	44.5	419	43.6	378
Undecided	5.54	56	14.6	139
No more	49.9	472	42.0	405
<b>Preferred waiting Time</b>				
<12 months	26.7	117	16.5	77
1 year	15.8	57	24.4	93
2 years	13.8	56	18.3	68
3 years	9.9	40	9.4	35
4 years	7.0	28	5.4	22
5 years	6.9	34	4.9	22
6+ years	8.4	35	6.0	16
Don't know	11.4	52	15.2	45
<b>Ideal number of children</b>				
0	2.9	34	4.4	35
1	6.2	70	3.0	32
2	22.5	244	20.9	188
3	21.6	219	14.9	145
4	23.1	247	17.1	175
5	8.9	97	12.7	126
6+	14.8	155	26.9	253

Table 2: Percentage of women having future fertility preferences by some selected socio-economic and demographic characteristics in Namibia DHS, 2013.

	<b>Have another</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>No more</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Chi<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>P- Value</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>						
Urban	46.9	3.3	49.9	506	9.548	0.008
Rural	41.1	8.9	50.0	441		
<b>Women education</b>						
No education	34.9	8.5	56.7	98		
Primary	37.6	8.7	53.7	246	21.388	0.002
Secondary	45.9	4.1	50.0	535		
Higher	64.4	3.3	32.2	68		
<b>Husband education</b>						
No education	37.9	3.1	59.5	133		
Primary	35.9	7.1	56.9	239	24.075	0.001
Secondary	45.9	4.7	49.4	488		
Higher	62.8	8.1	29.2	87		
<b>Number of living children</b>						
0	84.1	2.7	13.2	79		
1	71.3	5.3	23.4	195		
2	42.6	4.4	53.0	241	195.295	0.000
3	33.7	6.5	59.8	169		
4	28.0	5.8	66.1	109		
5	12.2	5.7	82.2	67		
6+	9.5	9.9	80.6	87		
<b>Female working status</b>						
Not working	33.21	0	66.8	29	3.623	0.163
Working	48.38	3.75	47.9	443		
<b>Male working status</b>						
Not working	40.19	0	59.8	34		
Working	46.43	4.96	48.6	744	2.630	0.268
<b>Wealth index</b>						
Poorest	43.38	12.3	44.4	165		
Poorer	42.12	6.6	51.3	173		
Middle	49.83	2.7	47.6	220	19.063	0.015
Richer	44.03	2.5	53.4	197		
Richest	43.03	4.9	52.1	192		
<b>Religion</b>						
Roman catholic	46.4	7.0	46.6	212		
Protestant/Anglican	45.4	5.9	48.7	204	4.740	0.315
Elcin	42.7	3.5	53.8	362		
<b>Last child wanted</b>						
Wanted then	44.9	8.2	46.9	337		
Wanted later	45.1	7.4	47.6	167	50.658	0.000

Wanted no more	10.0	0.0	89.9	68		
<b>Current pregnancy wanted</b>						
Then	43.0	9.0	47.9	50		
Later	21.1	0.5	78.5	27	16.070	0.003
No more	0.0	4.4	95.6	14		
<b>Overall</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>947</b>		