

## Women's Opinion about Women's Rights regarding Family Planning in Hegarmanah Village, Jatinangor Subdistrict, West Java in 2013

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### Abstract

**Background:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that all mankind have equal right and dignity. Both woman and man have rights regarding family planning. It is often assumed that in developing country, women do not consider their rights in family planning decision making process. This study was carried out to determine the opinion of women regarding women's rights in family planning.

**Methods:** A descriptive study was carried out to 99 respondents during the period of August to October 2013, in Hegarmanah village, Jatinangor subdistrict. The inclusion criteria were women aged 15–49 years old, able to speak Bahasa Indonesia, and agreed to participate. Variables for this study were the opinions of the respondents regarding woman's rights in family planning which were represented in 12 questions. Collected data were presented as percentages shown in tables.

**Results:** Most of the respondents stated that they had the rights in family planning decision making, including choosing contraceptive methods, number of children, and spacing of each child. However, all of the respondents agreed that men should be involved in it. More than half of the respondents stated that they asked opinion from family member regarding family planning especially their mothers. Cultural norms did not influence the family planning decision making. However, religion influenced the family planning decision making.

**Conclusions:** Majority of the women in Hegarmanah village have the role to make decision on family planning by considering the opinions of their spouses, other family members, friends and their religions. [AMJ.2015;2(3):308–13]

**Keywords:** Cultural norms, family planning, men, religion, women's rights

### Introduction

As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all mankind have equal right and dignity. However, experts considered cultural and religious norms are still the barrier for women's rights in decision making. From the human right perspective and through the Millennium Development Goals, barriers to contraceptives can be recognized and reduced.<sup>1</sup> According to traditional cultural norms, men are the most important factor in family life decision making. Both woman and man have rights on family planning and decision making that should involve spouse. The ability of spouse to choose and decide on the number, spacing, and timing of

children has become the main focus of current international family planning programmes.<sup>2</sup> There were many studies conducted regarding family planning but no study was conducted on woman's rights in family planning.

West Java is one of the provinces in Indonesia which has the largest population. It is the first province that implemented family planning programme and by the end of 2012, about 55.7% reproductive age population practiced family planning.<sup>2</sup> Jatinangor as one of the subdistricts in West Java, is designated by the Faculty of Medicine Universitas Padjadjaran to be a subdistrict where medical students carried out researches on various health issues including family planning. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the opinion of women regarding women's rights

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