

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **LEVEL AND TRENDS IN CONTRACEPTIVE USE AND FERTILITY IN THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNORATES**

Little is known about contraceptive use and fertility in Egypt at the governorate level. Most of the research work is carried out at the regional level (Urban Governorates, Urban Upper, Urban Lower, Rural Upper, and Rural Lower) or at the level of residence (Urban/Rural). Fortunately, the 1988 and 1992 Egypt Demographic and Health Surveys (EDHS) include data on contraceptive use at the level of the governorate.

This chapter comprises two sections. Section 1 throws some lights on contraceptive use by governorate in 1988 and 1992. Section 2 is devoted to the estimation of fertility level and trends.

#### **4.1 CONTRACEPTIVE USE:**

Contraceptive use is the most important factor affecting fertility decline in both developed and developing countries. Egypt has achieved spectacular success in promoting contraceptive use. This is reflected in the continuous marked increase in the currently married women using contraception (Osheba, 1993). The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) increased from 24% in 1980 to 38% in 1988 and to 47% in 1992 (CAPMAS, 1983; Sayed et al, 1989; El-Zanaty et al, 1993). This overall increase in the CPR was an outcome of a varying degrees of increase among governorates.

This section comprises two subsections. The level and trends in contraceptive use between 1988 and 1992 is examined in the first subsection. The method mix is examined in the second one.

##### **4.1.1. Level and Trends in Contraceptive Use:**

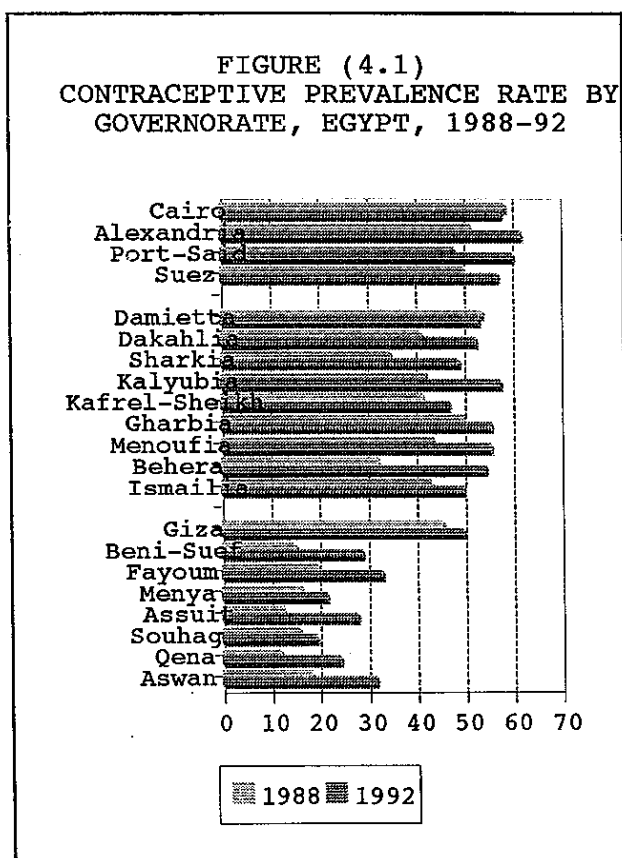
The percent of currently married women currently using any method of contraception by governorate of residence in 1988 and 1992 (where the data are

available) is given in Table (4.1). This Table shows that the highest level of contraception was found in Alexandria (62%). The Urban Governorates have higher contraceptive prevalence rate than other governorates in both 1988 and 1992. Among Lower Egypt governorates, current use falls below 50 percent only in Sharkia and Kafrel-Sheikh governorates (49% & 47% respectively). In Upper Egypt, current use exceeds 50% only in Giza governorate. It exceeds 30% only in Fayoum and Aswan. The lowest level of contraceptive use was found in Souhag where it was only 20% (Sayed, 1989; El-Zanaty, 1993).

Current use increased between 1988 and 1992 in all the governorates but two. Cairo and Damietta show a slight decline in contraceptive use, from 58.9% and 54.1% to 58.1% and 53.4% respectively.

The level of contraceptive use in Cairo in 1988 was five-times that of Qena in the same year, while the level of contraceptive use in Alexandria in 1992 was three times that of Souhag in the same year.

The governorate differences in contraceptive use have narrowed between 1988 and 1992 because governorates with initially lower levels in 1988 were able to achieve



**TABLE (4.1)**  
**PERCENT CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN CURRENTLY USING ANY**  
**METHOD OF CONTRACEPTION BY GOVERNORATE OF**  
**Residence, Egypt, 1988-92**

Governorate	CPR 1988	CPR 1992	Increase % 88-92	Increase 88-92
Cairo	58.9	58.1	-0.8	-1.4
Alexandria	51.6	62.1	10.5	20.3
Port Said	48.2	60.5	12.3	25.5
Suez	50.3	57.3	7.0	13.9
Urban Govs.	56.0	59.1	3.1	5.5
Damietta	54.1	53.4	-0.7	-1.3
Dakahlia	41.3	52.8	11.5	27.8
Sharkia	35.2	49.2	14.0	39.8
Kalyubia	42.3	57.9	15.6	36.9
Kafrel-Sheikh	41.7	47.2	5.5	13.2
Gharbia	50.1	55.9	5.8	11.6
Menoufia	43.9	55.7	11.8	26.9
Behera	32.5	54.7	22.2	68.3
Ismailia	43.4	50.2	6.8	15.7
Lower Egypt	41.2	53.5	12.3	29.9
Giza	45.7	49.9	4.2	9.2
Beni Suef	15.3	29.2	13.9	90.8
Fayoum	20.2	33.3	13.1	64.9
Menya	16.6	21.9	5.3	31.9
Assuit	12.7	28.2	15.5	122.0
Souhag	16.2	19.8	3.6	22.2
Qena	12.2	24.7	12.5	102.5
Aswan	18.6	31.9	13.3	71.5
Upper Egypt	22.1	31.4	9.3	42.1

Source: Calculated from :El-Zanaty et. al. (1993) "EDHS II".

much faster increases than the governorates with initially higher levels. This can be noticed also from the third column in Table (4.1) which presents the percentage increases in contraceptive use between 1988 and 1992.

#### **4.1.2 Method Mix:**

Looking at the change in the method mix by governorate, in 1988 the Intra Uterine Device (IUD) was the predominant method only in 7 of the 21 governorate (Cairo, Alexandria, Suez, Dakahlia, Kalyubia, Behera, and Giza). By 1992, the IUD had replaced the pill as the predominant method in all governorates but four - Menya, Souhag, Qena, and Aswan - (Sayed et al, 1989; El-Zanaty et al, 1993). The method mix by governorate in 1988 and 1992 is given in Table (4.2). Although the use rate in Damietta decreased from 54.1 to 53.4 between 1988 and 1992, the proportion of women relying on the IUD more than doubled. It increased from 25.7% to 54.9% of married women currently using contraception. The increase in the percent of women using IUD is not only due to the shift from using pills to the IUD , but also due to the new users of contraceptive methods accepting the IUD more than the pills. Switching to IUD may be due to IUD is encouraged as a long time method, more suitable for non educated women in rural areas.

#### **4.2 FERTILITY LEVEL AND TRENDS:**

As a consequence of the variations in contraceptive prevalence rates by governorate, it is expected that the fertility level and trends also differ. Since all the fertility surveys in Egypt were carried out at the national level, data to calculate the conventional fertility measures by governorate are not available from the survey data. To overcome this problem, the total fertility rate by region of residence is used as shown in Table (4.3).

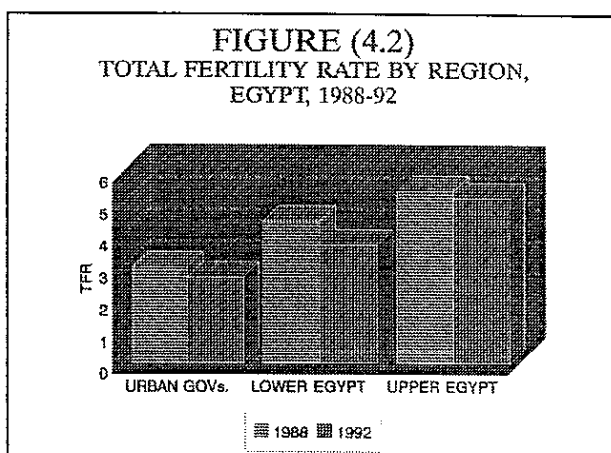
**TABLE (4.2)**  
**METHOD MIX BY GOVERNORATE,**  
**EGYPT, 1988-92**

Governorate	1988				1992			
	Pill	IUD	Other Modern	Other Trad.	Pill	IUD	Other Modern	Other Trad.
Cairo	28.4	49.4	15.1	7.1	22.9	62.6	10.0	4.5
Alexandria	31.4	46.1	15.3	7.2	15.5	63.2	12.9	8.4
Port Said	55.6	29.0	11.0	4.4	28.8	46.6	10.6	14.0
Suez	32.0	53.0	11.9	3.1	22.0	59.7	10.6	7.7
Damietta	50.5	25.7	15.2	8.6	29.2	54.9	11.6	4.3
Dakahlia	44.6	45.5	6.5	3.4	27.8	61.4	7.0	3.8
Sharkia	50.6	30.1	7.7	11.6	30.7	52.4	6.5	10.4
Kalyubia	39.2	49.2	9.2	2.4	30.7	60.6	7.4	1.3
Kafrel-Sheikh	51.6	31.7	12.4	4.3	29.4	58.5	8.3	3.8
Gharbia	51.1	35.1	9.6	4.2	33.1	61.4	3.9	1.6
Menoufia	46.1	39.6	9.3	5.0	24.8	63.7	6.3	5.2
Behera	41.0	47.4	8.6	3.0	20.7	70.1	6.8	2.4
Ismailia	67.3	23.2	7.1	2.4	28.7	53.8	12.5	5.0
Giza	31.7	48.4	14.4	5.5	19.8	66.9	8.8	4.5
Beni Suef	60.1	28.8	3.9	7.2	30.1	57.9	12.0	0.0
Fayoum	48.0	22.3	13.4	16.3	32.7	60.4	6.9	0.0
Menya	62.0	25.9	9.0	3.1	54.8	37.4	5.5	2.3
Assuit	37.8	39.4	18.9	3.9	28.4	48.9	10.6	12.1
Souhag	46.9	30.2	6.2	16.7	38.9	34.8	13.1	13.2
Qena	83.6	5.7	2.5	8.2	56.6	32.0	4.9	6.5
Aswan	61.3	15.6	10.2	12.9	54.9	28.2	7.2	9.7

Source: Calculated from :El-Zanaty et. al. (1993)

"EDHS II".

In both 1988 and 1992, the highest TFR was observed in Upper Egypt governorates (5.39 and 5.17 live births per woman respectively). In Lower Egypt governorates TFR declined from 4.45 to 3.70 live births per woman within the same period. The lowest TFR was found in Urban Governorates in the two time points (3.01 and 2.69 respectively). The observed TFR in Upper Egypt governorates in 1992 is about twice that of Urban Governorates in the same year.



The highest absolute change in the TFR between 1988 and 1992 occurred in Lower Egypt governorates ( .75 live births), followed by Urban Governorates (.32 live births). The percent change in TFR between 1988 and 1992 ranged between -4.3% and -16.9%.

Though the TFR declined in all regions, its 1992 level is still high in Upper Egypt governorates where the TFR is higher than the overall TFR of Egypt (3.9 live births). The TFR in Urban governorates is also much higher than the replacement-level TFR of 2.1 live births.

After presenting levels and trends in contraceptive use, as the predominant factor affecting fertility decline , and estimating total fertility rate by region of residence, the next Chapter is devoted to development of an index for the socioeconomic setting at the level of the governorate to be used as an explanatory index for the variations in contraceptive prevalence among governorates.

TABLE (4.3)  
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE BY REGION,  
EGYPT, 1988-92

Region	TFR 1988	TFR 1992	Change 88-92	% Change 88-92
Urban Governorates	3.01	2.69	-0.32	-10.6
Lower Egypt	4.45	3.70	-0.75	-16.9
Upper Egypt	5.39	5.17	-0.22	- 4.3
Egypt (Total)	4.38	3.93	-0.45	-10.3

Source: Calculated from :El-Zanaty et. al. (1993)  
"EDHS II".