Short Communication

Association Between Age and Family Size on Conscious Use of Fresh Water: A Case Study of Faisalabad City

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ABSTRACT

The major cities of Pakistan like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and even Islamabad are facing scarcity of water. The urban areas of Faisalabad city get fresh water from various sources. As Faisalabad is an industrial city, therefore, industries are creating serious problem of mixing wastes and pollutants in safe drinking water. Therefore, this investigation was carried out to study the association of age and family size with conscious use of fresh water by the residents. Faisalabad city was taken as a universe, the urban localities of Samanabad, Ghulam Muhammadabad, People's colony, Madina town, Gulistan colony and Steam Power Station were selected as sample through simple random technique. From each selected area, 50 female household respondents were selected randomly. Thus, making total sample size of 300 respondents. Chi-square test was used to analyze the data. It was found that age and family size of the respondents were significantly associated with conscious use of fresh water.

Key Words: Age; Association; Family size; Freshwater

INTRODUCTION

Earth is the only planet in whole of the solar system, which bears life. This life is directly related to temperature, air and water, which are not found on any other planet in an appropriate proportion. Three quarters of the earth are covered with water. Saltish water covers about 97% of the total water. Out of remaining 3%, two–third is frozen in the polar icecaps and glaciers around the world and only 1% is available to all living organisms on earth. The quality of this 1% is continually being degraded. The truth is that some of earth's liquid fresh water can no longer support life because it is contaminated with harmful elements that cause illness or death if ingested. Recent human activity has rendered a portion of 1% available water as undrinkable (Rehman, 2000).

The scarcity of water has become an established factor now and the intensity of problem is increasing day by day. Human use of natural water particularly of fresh water resources has increased steadily over the centuries. It has been argued by a strong group of intellectuals that clashes for the control of fresh water will follow the clashes of civilizations in near future. One billion people lack access to safe affordable water and over two billion people lack adequate sanitation. Water related diseases are the largest cause of death in the world. As the world's population grows and demand for water increases, the UN predicts that two out of three people will be living with serious water shortage by 2025 (Eline, 1999). By realizing the importance of the problem, the issue of fresh water supply and management has been addressed globally. Various countries are adopting strategies and plan to cope with situation (UNICEF, 2001)

The situation in South Asia is not better. In Western, North-Western, India and Pakistan, where, in recent years over a million irrigation wells have got added every year, ground water withdrawal exceeds annually as compared to recharge. Where this process has been rapid, the consequences are serious and visible (Khan, 1994).

In the developing countries like Pakistan, the problem of water pollution is also growing on an alarming rate. Majority of rural and urban population lack safe drinking water, which leads to stomach diseases and high mortality rate. Main sources of water pollution are:

❖ Domestic sewage
❖ Industrial waste
❖ Agricultural pollutants

It is now well-recognized that unavailability of safe and clean drinking water and general absence of proper sanitation are among the principle reasons for poor health of human beings in developing countries (Sattar, 1987).

Pakistan is also suffering from dire consequences of fresh water. Water decreased by 150% per head from 1947 to date and still reducing 5% annually. The major cities of Pakistan like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and even Islamabad are facing scarcity of water (Anonymous, 2002).

The urban consumers of Faisalabad city get fresh water through different sources such as canals, man–made reservoirs, pumps and government water supplies. The

industry in Faisalabad city is responsible for adding industrial waste and sewage water into drinking water.

This paper reports the association of age and family size with the conscious use of fresh water by the residents of Faisalabad city.

METHODOLOGY

Faisalabad city was taken as universe, the urban localities Samanabad, Ghulam Muhammadabad, People's colony, Madina town, Gulistan colony and Steam Power Station were selected as sample through simple random techniques. These localities had been facing serious problem of water shortage and mixing of sewage water. From each selected area 50 female household respondents were selected randomly. Thus, making a total number of 300 respondents. The data thus collected was tabulated and analyzed to draw conclusions. Chi-square test was used for statistical analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There was a highly significant association between age and level of conscious use of fresh water by the respondents (Table I). There was also significant relationship between family size and level of conscious use of fresh water by the respondents (Table II). Similar results were found by Ashraf (2000) and Shah (2002).

CONCLUSION

The age and family size of the respondents were significantly associated with the level of conscious use of fresh water.

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Table I. Association between the age of the respondents and their level of conscious use of fresh water

Age (years)	level of Consciousness			Total
	Fully conscious	**Not much**	**Not at all**	
Less than 25	21	11	33	65
26-45	40	30	56	126
46-65	12	13	22	47
Above 66 years	06	17	39	62
Total	79	71	150	300

d.f= 6; χ^2_{tab} =0.0331; χ^2_{cal} =13.70 Highly significant

Table II. Association between the family size of the respondents and their level of conscious use of fresh water

Family Size (Nos)	level of Consciousness			Total
	Fully Conscious	**Not much**	**Not at all**	
Less than 5	8	5	23	36
5-10	66	58	118	242
Above 11	5	8	9	22
Total	79	71	150	300

d.f. =4; χ^2_{tab} = 0.2664; χ^2_{cal} =5.20 Highly significant

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