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**THE TIPPS PROJECT
GULF OIL COMPANY OF NIGERIA
MALE SURVEY REPORT**

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Gulf Oil Company of Nigeria and The TIPPS Project

INTRODUCTION

The *TIPPS* Project (Technical Information on Population for the Private Sector) in Nigeria is providing information to management of private companies, particularly Gulf Oil Company (GOCON), on the effects of providing birth spacing services to employees and dependents. The *TIPPS* philosophy is to demonstrate through business analyses that companies can benefit from establishing a birth spacing program in financial terms as well as improving the overall health and standard of living of employees and dependents. Once management is convinced to invest in a birth spacing program, *TIPPS* provides technical assistance in establishing a program designed specifically to meet the needs of GOCON.

To facilitate GOCON's decision to invest in birth spacing services, *TIPPS* designed a two-part business analysis: 1) a market survey to estimate the demand for birth spacing services among all permanent employees and spouses (nearly 2000 people) and 2) a cost-benefit analysis (CBA), to measure the costs and benefits of integrating birth spacing services into GOCON's existing health care program.

GOCON Market Survey

The results from both the male and female GOCON market surveys will provide guidelines for designing a company-sponsored birth spacing program. Specifically, the male survey was designed to ascertain the men's future fertility desires, measure their attitudes toward birth spacing and perception of the need for birth spacing services as well as to request permission to interview spouses at home. The female survey, on the other hand, was designed to provide further information on current fertility levels. A comprehensive analysis of both the male and female surveys will provide input to the *TIPPS* cost-benefit computer model and project the overall demand for services. *TIPPS* subcontracted the data collection component of this study to UNILAG CONSULT, a consulting branch of the University of Lagos.

GOCON Cost-Benefit Analysis

The GOCON CBA was designed to project the costs and benefits associated with providing birth spacing services to employees and dependents. The CBA is based on three components:

- 1) Estimated demand for services as determined by the market surveys;
- 2) Actual current company health care expenditures;
- 3) Estimated cost of providing services in terms of personnel, training, equipment, supplies, clinical facilities

The results of the CBA provide management with financial information on the costs of, and the savings derived from, the provision of birth spacing services to employees and dependents. *TIPPS* provides this information in the following manner:

- * Benefit to cost ratio;
- * Projected costs over a five-year period discounted to present value;
- * Breakeven point in terms of time necessary to recover costs;
- * Internal rate of return on investment.

Male Employee Survey: Preliminary Findings

This report represents the preliminary findings from the *TIPPS* male survey of 560 GOCON employees. *TIPPS* has also conducted a second survey of female employees and wives which will measure their knowledge, attitudes, and practices on contraception and birth spacing. Information from both the male and female surveys will be used to estimate the demand for birth spacing services. Most of the savings which will be accrued by GOCON providing birth spacing services will result from averted health procedures for women and children. Similarly, most of the health benefits will accrue to women and children.

The preliminary findings from the male employee survey reported in the next several pages are particularly significant because of the traditionally dominant role played by males in familial decision-making. The male employees expressed a strong interest in receiving more information on birth spacing for themselves and their wives. Surprisingly, the survey revealed that 40% of the male employees would have preferred a longer interval of time between the births of their last two children. If longer birth intervals are encouraged and practiced this would result in smaller family sizes and healthier women and children. Overall, the preliminary findings indicate an interest in birth spacing services among GOCON male employees. A more specific estimate of demand for actual services will be produced after a comprehensive analysis of data from both the male and female surveys. *TIPPS* will present these results to GOCON management in June, 1987.

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Age

The age distribution of the respondents (male employees of Gulf) is shown in Table 1. The youngest age reported is 22, while the oldest is 66. About 70 percent of these men are in the age-range 30-44. The mean age is 37.5 years, while the median age is 37 years.

Education

An overwhelming majority of these men (96 percent) have had more than primary school education. Nearly three quarters (73 percent) have had either technical education or some high school education, while a little more than one-fifth (21 percent) have had university education. [These percentages include those who have not completed the level, but they constitute only a small fraction of each group] The younger men are generally better educated than the older men.

Job Class

Over one-third (36 percent) of these men are in the junior job class, while well over half (60 percent) are in the senior job class. The remaining (4 percent) are equally divided between the management and expatriate job classes. Older men are generally more likely than younger men to be in a higher job class.

Place of Birth

About one-tenth of these men were born in Lagos, while a majority (85 percent) were born outside Lagos. Only a small fraction (5 percent) were born outside Nigeria.

Religion

The respondents in the survey are predominantly Christians (86 percent), Catholics being the major denomination. The next largest religious group is Muslim (8 percent). The remaining (6 percent) subscribe to other religions, including traditional ones.

Marital Status

The different categories of marital status provided in the questionnaire are i) Married living with wife, ii) Married not living with wife, iii) Single, iv) Cohabit, and v) Other. Note that the categories divorced and widowed are not explicitly provided. None of the respondents in the survey have reported their status as "Other", and it is not clear from the data how divorced and widowed men, if any, have reported their marital status.

The distribution of men by age and marital status is given in Table 4. Ninety-four percent of these men are married, either living with wife or not living with wife. Only a negligible fraction of these men are cohabiting. The others have reported their status as single. The men who reported their status as married either living with wife or not living with wife are considered as currently married in this analysis. Since this is the group of major interest from a birth spacing perspective, subsequent analysis is confined to this group.

NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN

The number of living children for the currently married men among the respondents varies from 0 to 16. About 4 percent have no living children, 36 percent have 1-3, about 47 percent have 4-7, and the remaining 13 percent have 8 or more (Table 5). The average number of children for each 5-year age group, (shown in Table 5) varies somewhat irregularly with age, probably because of small numbers of cases (and associated sampling error) in some of the age groups. Between the age groups 25-29 and 50-54, the trend in the average number of living children is generally one of increase (varies from 1.8 to 7.4).

DESIRE FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

The respondents in this survey were asked whether they wanted to have more children in the future and, if so, how many more. Overall, 56 percent of the currently married men desire additional children, while 35 percent do not and 9 percent are uncertain about the matter. As the desire for additional children is very likely to be influenced by the present number of living children, a cross tabulation of these two is given in Table 6. At the level of 3 living children, nearly two-thirds of these men desire additional children; and at the level of 7 living children, a little over one-fifth desire additional children. Up to the level of 7 living children, the proportion desiring additional children declines; but at levels higher than 7 living children, the proportion desiring additional children varies irregularly. A substantial proportion (56 percent) of those having 12-16 living children desire additional children. Thus, the desire for additional children persists even at fairly high levels of living children among these men.

The average number of additional children desired by this group of men is 1.5 (Table 7). Those who do not have any living children desire, on average, 3.8 children. The average additional number of children desired then declines, although not consistently, up to the level of 10 living children.

PREFERRED NUMBER OF CHILDREN

A matter of importance in this study is to ascertain the preferred number of children for the men surveyed. Clearly the preference in this regard will have a bearing on the fertility behavior and contraceptive use of couples. For this purpose the respondent was asked: "If you were able to choose the number of children to have during your entire life, how many children would you have or how many would you have had?". Of the currently married men in the sample, 93 percent have given a numerical response to this question. The number they have given varies from 0 to 30. About 13 percent said 3 or fewer children, 44 percent 4-5 children, 25 percent 6-7 children, and 18 percent 8 or more children (Table 8). Overall, the average preferred number of children for this group of men is 5.7. The average preferred number increases consistently (from 4.7 to 8.2) as age increases from 25-29 to 50-54, and then declines (to 5.0); small number of cases at the extreme age groups may be responsible for this unsystematic variation.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS BIRTH SPACING METHODS

A topic of major interest in this study is the males' attitude towards birth spacing methods or contraceptives. For this purpose the respondent was asked "Do you agree or disagree with birth spacing methods or contraceptives?". The responses obtained show that over two-thirds (69 percent) agree with all or almost all methods, while a little over one-fifth (22 percent) agree only with natural methods. A small fraction (6 percent) of these men have said that they don't believe in any method, and a still smaller fraction (3 percent) have no opinion on the matter. The proportion agreeing with all or almost all methods remains high for all age groups -- above 65 percent -- which indicates that approval of contraceptives is fairly pervasive among male employees.

NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Questions were included in the survey to determine the perceived need for birth spacing services among the sample of men. The respondents were asked if they needed more information about the use of birth spacing methods. Overall, 70 percent of the currently married men said that they would like more information, while 29 percent said they would not, and 1 percent have no opinion on the matter (Table 10). It is possible that some of those who have said that they have no need for more information may feel they already know enough about the use of birth spacing methods. For this reason, the expression of no need in this case should not be construed as necessarily negative to the concept of birth spacing. As for age differentials in the perceived need, the younger men are more likely to express the need for more information than the older men; the proportion expressing need declines from 90 percent to 40 percent as age increases from 20-29 to 50-69.

The respondents were also asked if they felt that their wife needed more information on the use of birth spacing methods. Nearly two-thirds of the men stated that their wives need more information, while a little over one-quarter (28 percent) said that their wives do not need more information. The remaining 6 percent had no opinion on the matter (Table 11). The younger men, again, are more likely to respond positively than the older men.

It is also observed from responses to another question that the most widely preferred source for more information on the use of birth spacing methods among those who would like to have more information is the physician.

Each respondent was also asked whether he would have changed the interval between the last two live births, and if he would have, whether he would have liked to make it longer or shorter. A majority (55 percent) of the men who responded to this question would not have changed the interval, while 40 percent would have made it longer, and the remaining would have made it shorter (Table 12). The younger men are more likely than the older men to have made the interval longer. This preference regarding the length of birth interval, preference for a longer interval, as opposed to shorter one, generally implies a need for birth spacing services. However, if the actual birth interval was fairly long, say 7 years or more, preferring a shorter interval does not indicate the lack of demand. The information on the actual interval between the last two births will be derived from the female survey.

SUMMARY

This report presents the findings from the survey of male employees of GOCON. This male survey was conducted as one component of the TIPPS subproject with GOCON in Nigeria to ascertain the males' future fertility desires, attitude towards birth spacing and their perceived need for birth spacing services. A total of 560 interviews were obtained from a sample of male employees of Gulf in this survey.

The respondents in this survey are between 22 and 66 years of age, with about 71 percent of them in the age range 30-44. Nearly three-quarters of them have had either technical or high school education, while a little more than one-fifth had university education. Over one-third of these men are in the junior job class while well over half of them are in the senior job class. They are predominantly Christians, Catholics being the major denomination among the Christians. About 94 percent of these men are currently married (either living with wife or not living with wife).

About 4 percent of the currently married men have no living children; while 36 percent have 1-3, 47 percent have 4-7, and the remaining 13 percent have 8 or more. The average number of children for this group of men is 4.5. A majority (56 percent) of these men desire additional children, while more than one-third (35 percent) desire no more and the remaining are undecided. The desire for additional children persists even at fairly high levels (e.g. 7) of living children. These men desire, on average, 1.5 additional children.

The average preferred number of children for this group of (currently married) men is 5.7; roughly 69 percent of them prefer 4-7 children.

Over two-thirds (69 percent) of these (currently married) men agree with all or almost all birth spacing methods, while a little over one-fifth (22 percent) agree only with natural methods.

Nearly 70 percent of these men have expressed the need for more information on the use of birth spacing methods. The proportion expressing this need is higher among younger men. Nearly two-thirds of these men have stated that their wives need more information on the use of birth spacing methods.

Among those who have had a least two live births, 40 percent would have made the interval between the last two live births longer, if they could have, while 55 percent would not have changed it. Younger men are more likely than the older men to prefer longer intervals. The preference for a longer birth interval generally implies a need for birth spacing services, however, further analysis of both the male and female surveys will estimate actual need for birth spacing among GOCON employees and spouses.

Table 1

Distribution of Men by Age - Gulf Employees

Age	Number	Percentage
20-24	7	1.3
25-29	66	11.9
30-34	136	24.5
35-39	134	24.1
40-44	123	22.2
45-49	59	10.6
50-54	19	3.4
55-59	10	1.8
60-64	0	0.0
65-69	1	0.2
All	561	100.0

- Note:
- i) Age is not available for 5 cases.
 - ii) The youngest age reported is 22 and the oldest is 66.
 - iii) Mean age = 37.5 years.
 - iv) Median age = 37.0 years.

Table 2

Distribution of Men by Age and Education - Gulf Employees

Age	Education				All (N)
	Primary school or less	Technical ¹	High school ¹	University ¹	
20-24	0.0	42.8	28.6	28.6	100.0 (7)
25-29	0.0	53.0	31.8	15.2	100.0 (66)
30-34	2.2	47.1	25.7	25.0	100.0 (136)
35-39	4.4	46.3	25.4	23.9	100.0 (134)
40-44	9.8	35.8	39.0	15.4	100.0 (123)
45-49	11.8	33.9	39.0	15.3	100.0 (59)
50-54	15.8	36.8	26.3	21.1	100.0 (19)
55-59	10.0	10.0	20.0	60.0	100.0 (10)
60-69	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0 (1)
All	5.8	42.5	30.6	21.1	100.0 (555)

Note: ¹ Includes those who have not completed the level.

Table 3

Distribution of Men by Age and Job Class - Gulf Employees

Age	Job Class				All (N)
	Junior	Senior	Management	Expatriate	
20-24	57.1	42.9	0.0	0.0	100.0 (7)
25-29	71.2	28.8	0.0	0.0	100.0 (66)
30-34	50.0	49.3	0.0	0.7	100.0 (136)
35-39	32.1	63.5	2.2	2.2	100.0 (134)
40-44	20.3	75.7	1.6	2.4	100.0 (123)
45-49	16.9	76.3	5.1	1.7	100.0 (59)
50-54	5.3	84.2	5.3	5.2	100.0 (19)
55-59	30.0	30.0	20.0	20.0	100.0 (10)
60-69	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0 (1)
All	36.2	59.8	2.0	2.0	100.0 (555)

Table 4

Distribution of Men by Age and Marital Status - Gulf Employees

Age	Marital Status				All (N)
	Married living with wife	Married not living with wife	Single	Cohabit	
20-24	14.3	14.3	71.4	0.0	100.0 (7)
25-29	63.7	10.6	24.2	1.5	100.0 (66)
30-34	92.0	2.9	5.1	0.0	100.0 (136)
35-39	94.1	3.7	2.2	0.0	100.0 (134)
40-44	97.6	0.8	1.6	0.0	100.0 (123)
45-49	96.6	3.4	0.0	0.0	100.0 (59)
50-54	94.7	5.3	0.0	0.0	100.0 (19)
55-59	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0 (10)
60-69	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0 (1)
All	90.1	3.8	5.9	0.2	100.0 (555)

Table 5

Number of Living Children by Age for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Number of living children										All (N)
	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-69	
0	0.0	12.2	7.0	3.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8 (20)
1	50.0	34.7	10.9	3.8	0.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5 (39)
2	0.0	26.5	32.0	11.5	7.4	1.7	0.0	10.0	0.0	15.4 (80)
3	0.0	16.3	22.7	9.9	7.4	8.5	5.3	30.0	0.0	13.1 (68)
4	50.0	10.2	14.1	27.5	10.8	15.3	10.5	10.0	0.0	16.4 (85)
5	0.0	0.0	7.0	21.4	11.6	22.0	21.1	10.0	0.0	13.5 (70)
6	0.0	0.0	3.9	10.7	17.4	18.6	10.5	10.0	100.0	10.4 (54)
7	0.0	0.0	1.6	6.1	10.8	6.8	26.2	10.0	0.0	6.3 (33)
8	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	15.7	13.6	5.3	10.0	0.0	6.3 (33)
9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	8.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3 (12)
10	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	4.1	5.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	1.9 (10)
11	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	3.3	1.7	5.3	0.0	0.0	1.3 (7)
12	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4 (2)
13	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4 (2)
14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.4 (2)
15	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2 (1)
16	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.4 (2)
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
N	2	49	128	131	121	59	19	10	1	520
Average number children	2.5	1.8	2.8	4.4	6.2	6.0	7.4	5.1	5.0	4.5

Note: Men with either age or number of living children not reported are not included in this table.

Table 6

Desire for Additional Children by Number of Living Children
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Number of living children	Desire Additional Children			All (N)
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
0	95.0	5.0	0.0	100.0 (20)
1	95.0	5.0	0.0	100.0 (40)
2	80.0	15.0	5.0	100.0 (80)
3	65.3	27.5	7.2	100.0 (69)
4	57.8	27.6	12.6	100.0 (87)
5	41.4	50.0	8.6	100.0 (70)
6	29.1	58.2	12.7	100.0 (55)
7	21.2	63.6	15.2	100.0 (33)
8	27.3	63.6	9.1	100.0 (33)
9	25.0	50.0	25.0	100.0 (12)
10	20.0	60.0	20.0	100.0 (10)
11	42.9	57.1	0.0	100.0 (7)
12-16	55.6	33.3	11.1	100.0 (8)
All	55.6	35.4	9.0	100.0 (525)

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Table 7

Average Additional Number of Children Desired by Number of Living Children
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Number of living children	Average additional number of children desired	Number of cases
0	3.8	19
1	2.8	39
2	2.0	72
3	1.4	64
4	1.3	69
5	1.5	61
6	0.6	44
7	0.3	27
8	0.5	28
9	0.4	7
10	0.5	8
11	1.4	7
12-16	1.5	8
All	1.5	453

Note: Men who did not know whether they desired additional children and men who did not specify the number of additional children desired are not included in this table.

Table 8

Preferred Number of Children by Age
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Age	Preferred number of children					Average Preferred
	0-3	4-5	6-7	8 or more	All (N)	
20-24	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0 (2)	5.5
25-29	14.3	67.4	12.2	6.1	100.0 (47)	4.7
30-34	16.0	59.7	16.8	7.5	100.0 (119)	4.8
35-39	9.0	42.7	30.3	18.0	100.0 (122)	5.6
40-44	11.5	30.1	31.9	26.5	100.0 (113)	6.3
45-49	13.0	33.3	27.8	25.9	100.0 (54)	6.5
50-54	10.5	26.3	21.1	42.1	100.0 (19)	8.2
55-59	42.9	14.3	28.6	14.2	100.0 (7)	5.0
60-69	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0 (7)	5.0
All	12.8	44.4	24.9	17.9	100.0 (483)	5.7

Note: Those who did not give a numerical response to the question on preferred number of children are not included in this table.

Table 9

Opinion on Birth Spacing Methods or Contraceptives by Age
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Age	Opinion				ALL (N)
	Agree with all/almost all methods	Agree only with natural methods	Don't believe in any method	No Opinion	
20-29	76.5	21.5	2.0	0.0	100.0 (51)
30-39	65.8	26.5	5.8	1.9	100.0 (260)
40-49	70.6	18.3	6.1	5.0	100.0 (180)
50-69	76.7	10.0	13.3	0.0	100.0 (30)
All	69.1	22.3	6.0	2.6	100.0 (521)

Table 10

Perceived Need for More Information About the Use of Birth Spacing Methods
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Age	Perceived Need			All (N)
	Yes	No	No Opinion	
20-29	90.2	7.8	2.0	100.0 (51)
30-39	71.5	26.9	1.5	100.0 (260)
40-49	66.1	33.3	0.6	100.0 (180)
50-69	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0 (30)
All	69.7	29.2	1.2	100.0 (521)

Table 11

Perceived Need of Wife for More Information About the Use of Birth Spacing Methods By Age
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Age	Perceived Need			All (N)
	Yes	No	No Opinion	
20-29	88.3	7.8	3.9	100.0 (51)
30-39	69.1	26.3	4.6	100.0 (259)
40-49	59.5	32.2	8.3	100.0 (180)
50-69	40.0	56.7	3.3	100.0 (30)
All	66.0	28.3	5.7	100.0 (520)

Table 12

Desired Change in the Interval Between the Last Two Births by Age
for Currently Married Men - Gulf Employees

Age	Desired Change			All (N)
	Shorter	No change	Longer	
20-29	3.7	51.9	44.4	100.0 (27)
30-39	2.7	55.6	41.8	100.0 (225)
40-49	5.7	52.6	41.5	100.0 (176)
50-69	13.3	70.0	16.7	100.0 (30)
All	4.6	55.2	40.2	100.0 (458)