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Letter to the Editor

How to combine dual aims of reducing population growth and a rights-based non-coercive approach

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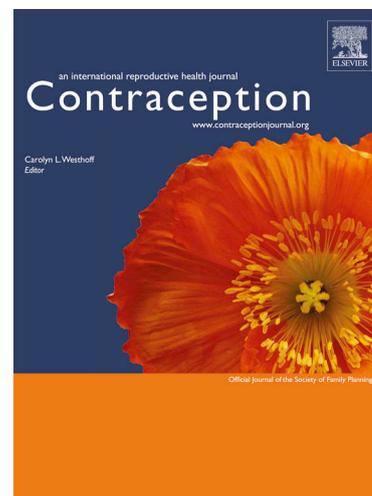
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Title page

Article title

How to combine dual aims of reducing population growth and a rights-based non-coercive approach

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Response to ‘**Family Planning, population growth, and the environment**’ by Jeffrey T. Jensen and Mitchell D. Creinin: *Contraception* 2020;101:145-147.

Dear Editor,

Jensen and Creinin make good points regarding the links between population growth, food insecurity and environmental degradation. They that environmental and social justice advocates often neglect to raise the issue of family planning as a policy objective.(1)

The authors recommend that *“as family planning specialists, we should devote a part of our effort to educating policy leaders and the public about the importance of our work from an environmental standpoint”*. Later in the article, they state that *“we cannot overemphasize the importance of voluntary contraception and global family planning policies as the most humane and practical approach to a just a peaceful future for our children”*. Again, these are good points that I agree with.

However, the authors seem to stop short of advocating for the importance of contraception from a population growth and environmental standpoint during individual contraceptive counselling. I would be interested in whether the authors think that education about family planning from an environmental standpoint should be limited to policy leaders and the public at large, or whether this education can be incorporated into individual contraceptive counseling sessions?

Specifically, would it be helpful to discuss population growth and environmental issues during discussions about family planning to further inform decision-making? Is this possible without running the risk of appearing to coerce clients into having fewer children? Can contraceptive counselling including messages about population control be consistent with a rights-based approach to family planning?

References

1. Jensen JT, Creinin MD. Family planning, population growth, and the environment. *Contraception*. 2020;101(3):145–7.