Results Subfertility was reported by 9.1% of the women (n=719). Prevalence was 8.7% among primigravidae and 9.5% in multigravidae (34% of the multigravidae were multipara). Almost 2/3 sought for medical help. Among young primigravidae, subfertility decreased with education (>12 vs ≤6 years: OR 0.20 95% CI 0.11 to 0.39), and was lower among single (OR 0.27 95% CI 0.12 to 0.59) and smokers (OR 0.60; 95% CI 0.40 to 0.94). Only education presented a significant association with subfertility in older primigravidae. Within multigravidae higher education increased the odds. Maternal childhood conditions were no longer significant after adjustment for current social circumstances. Conclusions Age and the number of previous births modified the effect of social conditions on subfertility which was stronger among younger and primigravidae women.

Conclusions

The informal social support network is required only for instrumental support needs that are not served by the formal support network. The emotional aspects influencing independence and autonomy when they are not adequately considered.