

programmatic, socioeconomic, and demographic factors related to contraceptive use and unmet need were in the expected direction.

**Conclusions:** In a recent paper, Pritchett (1994) argues that fertility is principally determined by desired fertility, and that contraceptive supply or efforts of family planning programme are not major factors influencing fertility behaviour. Results of the study indicate that socioeconomic factors (education of both women and men, women's work, and women's participation in NGO activities), cultural factors (gender preference and religion), and diffusion of ideas are important determinants of desired fertility. Activities that affect these factors may change the pace of fertility decline by changing desired fertility and contraceptive use.



## Desire for Additional Child and Subsequent Family Planning Practices in Matlab

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**Objective:** Evaluate desire for additional child as reflected in information given by women of reproductive age and relate it to socioeconomic variables and adoption of family planning practices.

**Methods:** Data for this study came from the ICDDR,B's Maternal and Child Health-Family Planning (MCH-FP) Project in Matlab, Bangladesh. In the project area, improved health and family planning services were provided and relevant data were collected. Every 18 months, all women of reproductive age were questioned about their preferences for additional children. Each woman was asked if she wanted to have another child (and if so, whether sooner or later) or not. In the present investigation, these answers have been compared with sociodemographic variables, including family size and sex composition of living children; births and deaths occurring between the surveys; and subsequent contraceptive use, by method. Data from 1990 to 1993 were used in this study.

**Results:** Subsequent contraceptive use was related to desire for additional child. Number, sex composition of children in the family, and maternal age and education, were important correlates of desire for an additional child.

**Conclusions:** The desire for an additional child as expressed by women in the Matlab MCH-FP intervention area usually has a strong positive relationship with subsequent contraceptive use. A woman who reports that she wants no more children, or that she wants the next child "later" rather than "sooner", is likely to become a contraceptive user.

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## Determinants of Abortion in Rural Bangladesh

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**Objective:** Examine the trends in induced abortion and attempt to identify associated risk factors since induced abortion contributes to a substantial proportion of maternal mortality in Bangladesh.

**Methods:** Data for this study came from the Demographic Surveillance Systems of three ICDDR,B field sites: Matlab, Abhoynagar, and Sirajgonj. Although these data collection systems are extremely thorough, it is recognized that there may have problems in the quality of data with an outcome as sensitive as abortion. Several hypotheses developed by the authors were tested using the data on over 80,000 pregnancy terminations during 1982-1991. Induced abortion was defined as any voluntary termination of pregnancy. The study included bivariate analyses, using the ratio of abortions per 1,000 live-births, and estimating the effects of multiple factors in logistic and hazard models.