

Title: Family Planning Activities and Behaviour: Study on Four Villages in Bangladesh

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a. Objectives of the Study: The general objective of the study is to review the family planning programme in Bangladesh and identify the strategies for accelerating the program.

The specific objectives are to:

- review the past and present situation of family planning activities in Bangladesh;
- identify the constraints and their causal factors facing by the family planning program to achieve the desired result; and
- develop recommendations for strengthening family planning program in Bangladesh.

b. Research Methods

Selection of Study area: The present study was conducted in two separate geographical locations – one is relatively advance and the other one is relatively less advance in contraceptive prevalence rate. In order to collect village level data from the eligible couples, four villages, two from each of Dhaka and Sylhet division, were selected for in-depth household level data collection. The four selected villages were completely enumerated through structured schedule.

Determination of Sample Size and Selection of Respondents

About four hundred respondents were selected from four villages. Sample size were determined by using the formula.

$$n = \frac{z^2 \cdot p \cdot q}{e^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2 \cdot .5 \cdot .5}{(.05)^2}$$
$$= 384 \cong 400$$

Eligible couples, field workers, health centers, community clinics, concerned Upazila level officials, Headquarters of Family Planning Department were the key respondents of the study.

Area wise Respondents

The study was conducted in two different socio-cultural geographical locations of Bangladesh-Dhaka and Sylhet. Location wise number of respondents is shown below.

Area wise Female Respondents

Division	District	Upazila	Union	Village	No. of respondents	%
Dhaka	Narayanganj	Sonargaon	Sonargeon	Dattopara	100	25.64
				Hatkopa	90	23.08
Sylhet	Sylhet	South Surma	Tetli	Bodikona	100	25.64
			Daudpur	West Daudpur	100	25.64
Total	2	2	3	4	390	100

Source: Field Survey 2014

Methods of Data Collection:

Relevant information was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaire and checklist. In addition, qualitative data were generated through observation, focus group discussions (FGDs) and case studies. Secondary data were gathered through literature review from different documents and reports like Census Reports, Five Years Plans, etc.

Data Processing and Analysis:

Primary data were processed for analysis. Qualitative data were processed through manually. After collecting, editing and processing quantitative data were tabulated and analyzed by using average, percentage, graphs etc.

c. Major Findings

The present study is an evaluation of the ongoing activity of family planning and its effect in four villages of Dhaka and Sylhet division. Within this context, the study is designed mainly to review the family planning program in Bangladesh and identify the strategies for accelerating the program.

The study reveals that there are wide ranges of socio economic variation in terms of age structure, sex composition, marital status, capacity of letter writing, education and occupation, ownership of land, cultivable land, and household income in both the study locations. It has been found that women's share in cash income of the household is very negligible. Most of them are housewives (95.13%). About 73.59% of respondents have no land at all and 94.87% of the respondents have no gardening land. In case of education, 22.31% of the eligible couples have no capacity of letter writing. Age at marriage is still remarkably lower for women than men. The socio-economic findings imply that between the two study locations, Dhaka is more developed in terms of socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

The study reveals that fertility and mortality vary from area to area or population to population. During the last year 35 birth giving mothers were found and out of them 82.86% were house wife. Mentionable that all birth giving mothers' age range were from below 20 to 36 plus age. out of 35 infants, 21 were male and 14 were female. On the contrary 6 female and four male were died during the last year. Out of them three were infants and all were located in Dhaka division and the rest seven were the over 60. Infections, pneumonia, aged, heart problem and brain stroke are the major causes for death. The study also reveals that 390 married women product 570 male and female child in their whole life and out of them 290 are male and 280 are female. At present 555 are alive and out of them 280 are male and 273 are female.

Early marriage (7.18%) is still prevailed. About 84% of the brides' age at first marriage were 16 to 20 year. Cent percentage of the married couples adopted with different methods of family planning, though the number of permanent method is very poor. Nearly 18% of the female respondents adopted the ligation method. Now a days community clinic, family planning workers, family welfare centre and different media (television and media) are the significant sources for getting family planning related information. But the sad part is that still 20.77% of the respondents are not happy for the service of family planning. In the last month 68% of the respondents mention that no family planning workers did visit their home. It is revealed that the level of knowledge and satisfaction for all family planning methods and services among the women of Dhaka division is higher than the level of knowledge of Sylhet division.

Family planning method means the use of all techniques, practices, and medical devices that help a couple plan their family. Currently 61.54% eligible couples are taking different types of family planning methods. Out of 390 female respondents, 61.53% of the respondents use the temporary family planning methods. The study reveal that 390 household, 150 households do not use the family planning methods. There are many social, religious, psychological or physical cases for not using the family planning methods. Though permanent method is a long acting method but people are not feel comfort for using this method and most of the husband still think that permanent method is not for the male, it is for women's matter only. Out of 20 permanent method use of clients, 75% clients have got the prize or subsidy from the Government office. Regarding the source of getting contraceptives, 33.18% of the users mention that they got their contraception from the family planning workers.

There is a gender inequality by using the family planning methods. The major trends of using the method were pill and condom (92.86 altogether). After having one son 54.24% of the respondents adopt the family planning method in the four villages of Dhaka and Sylhet division. The study reveals that one or two child is not barrier for using the family planning method. In both cases, the percentage is almost same. But after having three daughters 13.25% respondents use family planning method. Regarding family planning materials the role of wife is very much important, 100% women are willingly taking the family planning method. The male members of the household still take most of the decisions including family planning.

Awareness is the state or ability to perceive, to feel, or to be [conscious](#) of events, [objects](#), or sensory [patterns](#). About 99% know the slogan of no more than two child and only 3 inhabitants of Bodikona do not familiar with this slogan. Television and family planning workers are the major sources of information inflow or disseminations. Most of the respondents mention that advertisement should be accelerated and home to home delivery of family planning should be enhanced. The policy implication of the findings are that after well trained up on various family planning methods, the field workers should visit continuously.

d. Recommendations

To accelerate the family planning activities, the study has recommend the following suggestions

- Engage more manpower especially for the post of FWA and FWV
- Resolve the conflict between cadre and non-cadre
- Emphasis given on man adoption on family planning methods
- Increase to door to door approach
- Promoting family planning related message or advertisement signboard should be hung at the in front house of FWA, market places, or crowded areas
- Readjust the MIE and supply system
- To implement the national target, target should be fixed at Upazila and Union level
- co-curriculums and population Education should be included in the various stages of education.
- Family planning program can be integrated with the poverty reduction and other development programs.
- In the World Population Day certificate or award can be given for the best family planning worker through the prime minister, minister or Upazila chairman