**Mortality, Fertility and Family Planning in South Asia: The Case of Bangladesh**

**Abstract**

As in many other countries in South Asia, population development in Bangladesh has been favorable. There has been a decline in mortality, fertility and an increase in family planning through the increased use of contraceptives. Bangladesh is unique in showing a decline in mortality and fertility, and a relatively high contraceptive prevalence rate in an environment of low socioeconomic development.

The main purpose of this study is to analyze the development of mortality and fertility and the family planning situation in Bangladesh. The study attempts to determine the relation between the secular decline of mortality and fertility and the increased use of modern contraception between 1970 and 1995. The relation and interaction between child mortality and fertility decline through the direct or indirect effect of contraceptive use has been described, based on the materials from several national surveys. In addition, information from other sources were utilized to assess a consistency and to arrive at reasonable conclusions to determine the interaction between mortality, fertility and family planning.

A substantial decline in child mortality and fertility has occurred between 1975 and 1995. The decline is greater in the urban than in the rural areas, and also a noticeable regional variation can be detected. The level of infant mortality has declined from 153 deaths to 82 deaths per 100 live births through the influence of family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) programs. The level of total fertility has fallen from more than 7 births to 3.3 births per women of reproductive age. The fertility decline has resulted primarily from the family planning programs with the key proximate determinant of contraceptive use.

Family planning services and the use of contraceptives have increased sharply between 1975 and 1995. The contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from about 8 to 49 percent among married women of reproductive age. The prevalence rate of contraception is higher in the urban than in the rural areas, among women with secondary or more education than among women with no or low education, and also noticeable regional differences can be detected. The high level of contraceptive practice has had a direct effect on the decline in fertility and an indirect effect on the decline of infant mortality during previous decades.

The contemporary secular decline in mortality, fertility and the increased use of modern contraception have provided clear evidence of the interaction between infant mortality, total fertility and family planning.

**Keywords**

Bangladesh
child mortality
fertility
family planning
contraception

**Additional information**

**Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe**

Where deposited

Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter