

and multivariate analyses were done to examine the effects of some socio-demographic factors associated with the awareness of STDs. Family planning workers were interviewed through focus group discussions to determine their attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge about condom use and its effect on STDs.

Results: About 30% of the sample women knew about syphilis and/or gonorrhoea. Among them, about 30% stated that syphilis, and 13% stated that gonorrhoea, are transmitted through sexual activities and contact with previously infected persons. The remaining 57% were not aware of the transmission mechanisms. Although condom use was low, 37% of condom users reported that condom use can prevent STDs. Awareness and knowledge of transmission of STDs were significantly higher among educated and relatively older women than others. The focus group discussions indicated that family planning and health care service providers have some knowledge of the mechanism of transmission of STDs. They think that condom use should be promoted as a method of fertility regulation as well as for prevention of STDs.

Conclusions: Very little is known about STDs in rural Bangladesh. The incidence of STDs may increase with the increase in employment-related migrations. Findings of the study suggest that health and family planning workers already have some knowledge about STDs, and should undertake activities to provide counselling about the mechanisms of transmission and prevention of STDs.



The Pattern of Full and Complementary Breast-Feeding in Rural Bangladesh

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Objective: Examine the sociodemographic characteristics of mothers in relation to the varying durations of breast-feeding.

Methods: The source of data was the Maternal and Child Health-Family Planning Project in Matlab, Bangladesh. In the project area, improved health and family planning services were provided and relevant data were collected. This analysis is based on 6,033 births which took place in 1985 and 1986.

Results: It is hypothesized that the durations of full and complementary breast-feeding are not uniform across socioeconomic levels, which might have an influence on the health of the child and subsequent timing of conception by the mother. The mean durations of full and complementary breast-feeding were 4.8 and 28.8 months respectively. The durations of full and complementary breast-feeding were shorter for younger mothers and those having fewer living children. Mother's level of education had a significant impact on the duration of breast-feeding; educated mothers had fully and complementarily breastfed, respectively, 1.5 and 5 months shorter than uneducated mothers.

Conclusions: Programmes related to infant health and nutrition, and family planning, need to be undertaken in such a way that the pattern of prolonged breast-feeding observed among older mothers, mothers with more living children, and among the uneducated mothers can be used as a good example for other women.

