

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CURATIVE MEASURES

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- 355** Huffman, Sandra L.; Chowdhury, A.K.M. Alauddin; Sykes, Zenas M. **Lactation and Fertility in Rural Bangladesh.** 22 pp. 22 references. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., April 1978.

The authors interviewed women in this "semi-prospective" study to determine the effect of maternal nutritional status on postpartum amenorrhea. The site of the investigation was Matlab Thana, Bangladesh, a rural area south of Dacca. Results of a follow-up to a previous "cross-sectional" study (see document 200) are discussed in this paper.

The three phases of activities in this investigation are explained: Phase I collected information on whether the women had begun menstruating, and if so, when; Phase II interviewed women who were still breastfeeding to get heights and weights of mother and infant and collect more data on menstrual status; Phase III re-interviewed approximately 1,000 women who were amenorrheic at Phase II.

Results indicate that maternal nutritional status and its relationship to postpartum amenorrhea will "have little, if any, effect on a woman's fertility." In addition, the seasonal effects in the resumption of menses in Bangladesh have been substantiated.

Possible explanations for the observed seasonal occurrence include a woman's occupational activities during harvest, which cause a decrease in breastfeeding and a subsequent resumption of menses. Alterations and supplementation in the infant's diet during harvest and subsequent diminution in breastfeeding may have similar results.

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- 356** Rowland, M.G.M.; McCollum, J.P.K. **Malnutrition and Gastroenteritis in The Gambia.** *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, Vol. 71, No. 3, 1977, pp. 199-203. 14 references.

Referring to an analysis of patterns of infection in Keneba, The Gambia (see documents 354 and 358), this paper attempts "to determine some simple specific measures that can be introduced at rural village level to reduce the contribution of diarrhoeal disease to growth failure."

Routes and sources of transmission of diarrhea are examined. The well water



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