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KEY WORD FIRST BIRTH INTERVAL/ ADOLESCENT MOTHER/ EDUCATION/ OCCUPATION/ DECISION MAKING POWER/ FIELD WORKERS VISIT/ MEDIA EXPOSURE.

SHAHIN SULTANA: ANALYSIS OF FIRST BIRTH INTERVAL OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS IN BANGLADESH,1993-94. THESIS ADVISOR PIMONPAN ISARABHAKDI, Ph.D., NIMFA B. OGENA, Ph. D., 69p. ISBN-974-589-291-2.

This study investigates the factors influencing the interval between marriage and first birth of adolescent mothers in Bangladesh, using data from Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 1993-94. A total of 680 adolescent mothers who had at least one child were chosen for this analysis.

Findings showed that mean age and age at marriage of the respondents were 17.6 years and 13.6 years respectively. Almost all of the adolescent mothers had one child. A majority of respondents and their husbands had a low level of education. More than half of the respondents' husbands were engaged in blue-collar jobs. However, the vast majority of the women were not engaged in any job.

It was found that the mean interval from marriage with the first birth is nearly twenty-five months. Nevertheless, the mean birth interval was found to be significantly different among adolescent mothers when comparing the following factors : age at marriage, the respondents' educational level and husband's education.

Findings in multivariate analysis also indicated that the delay in age at marriage and an increase in ideal family size reduced the first birth interval among the adolescent mothers. It was also evident that adolescent mothers who had been exposed to family planning information through radio had longer birth intervals from marriage to first birth than those who never heard about a family planning program from radio. Those who were visited by the field workers and those whose husbands had better education were less likely to have longer birth spacing than those who were not visited by the workers and whose husbands had primary or no education. Finally those young women who were working had shorter first birth intervals than those who were not working.