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MD. LUTFUR RAHMAN: WOMEN'S SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN BANGLADESH. THESIS ADVISORS: ASST. PROF. YOTHIN SAWANGDEE, Ph.D., ASSOC. PROF. CHAI PODHISITA Ph.D., ASSOC. PROF. SUPAVAN PHLAINOI, Ed.D. 67 P. ISBN 974-664-628-1

This study has made an attempt to investigate the relationship between women's social participation and contraceptive use in Bangladesh. The data for this study was obtained from Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, 1996-97 conducted by National Institute for Population Research and Training. A sample of 8,306 currently married women of reproductive age 15-49 living with their husbands were chosen for this study.

Univariate analysis with frequency distribution was used to examine the background characteristics. Logistic regression model was employed for examining the effect of each independent variable as well as control variable on dependent variable. Multivariate analysis showed that the effect of women's participation in the labor force and organized group memberships remains statistically significant and has great influence on their use of contraceptives, even after adding the control variables into the model.

In this study, it is concluded that women's labor force participation and organized Group membership seemed to empower women through strengthening economic roles and diffusion of knowledge and ideas associated with their contraceptive use. For enhancing the current rate of contraceptive use in the country, women's social participation and education must be taken into consideration through intervention and development programs by the government as well as non-governmental organizations.