

**FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF FAMILY
PLANNING METHODS AMONG THE MARRIED WOMEN OF
REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN METHAPUKUR UPAZILA,
RANGPUR DISTRICT, BANGLADESH**

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ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional study was conducted on factors related to the acceptance of family planning methods among the married women of reproductive age in Methapuker Upazila in the Rangpur district, Bangladesh. The aims were to identify socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, attitude, availability and accessibility as factors related to the acceptance of family planning, and explore the association between these factors and acceptance of family planning. A total of 420 married women of reproductive age were interviewed using a structured questionnaire from four randomly selected clusters during January 2006. Results were presented in frequency and percentage, and chi-square test was applied to show the association between independent and dependent variables.

The results of the study revealed that the prevalence of family planning methods was 56.31%. The majority of the acceptors stated, "Don't want child" as a reason for using family planning and oral pills were the most popular method. More than half of the respondents had fair knowledge, and had a positive attitude toward family planning. Most of the respondents, who received services from service centers, resided less than 3 km from the service center. The time for receiving service was less than 1 hour in a majority of the cases. The findings also showed that there was a significant relationship between acceptance of family planning and age of married women, duration of marriage, number of living children, desire for additional children, attitude toward family planning, place of service and waiting time (p-value <0.05). This study indicates that motivation, counseling, effective communication and appropriate strategy is essential for improving family planning acceptance in rural, Bangladesh.

**KEY WORDS: FAMILY PLANNING METHODS/REPRODUCTIVE AGE/
ACCEPTANCE/RURAL AREA**