

**INFLUENCE OF MOTHER'S EDUCATION ON INFANT
MORTALITY IN BANGLADESH**

PENJOR

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M.A (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the influence of a mother's education on infant mortality in Bangladesh. The mother's level of education here measured by ordinal scale which has been divided into four categories such as no education, primary, secondary and higher than secondary. The study has focused only on maternal education, so demographic, socio-economic factors and MCH/reproductive health service utilization were controlled. The study utilized secondary data from the Bangladesh, Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2004. The study has included mothers who had given birth (5341) during the last five years preceding the survey.

In the analysis, bivariate analysis with chi-square has been used to examine the direct effect and binary logistic regression model have been utilized for assessing the net effect of the mother's education on infant mortality. The result from the bivariate analysis has revealed that the independent variable (mother's education) has a statistically significant effect on infant mortality. Among the control variables, current age of the mother, birth order, mother's occupation, father's education, antenatal care, and tetanus toxoid immunizations also have a statistically significant effect on infant mortality, indicating that these are also important variables in determining infant dying. In the multivariate analysis, the relationship between independent variable and the outcome variable remained statistically significant after controlling for all other control variables. This means that mother's education still has a strong negative effect on the probability of an infant dying. Therefore, findings of this study strongly suggest that a mother's education is an important factor in determining infant mortality. In the Bangladesh context, mothers who have completed at least a primary level of education appear to be a most powerful variable for reducing infant mortality. As revealed by bivariate and multivariate analysis that maternal education has a significant relationship with infant mortality. Hence, in order to reduce the infant mortality further, appropriate intervention programs should be designed to effectively target this vulnerable group and also enhance of the female education. In addition, ongoing female education should be sustainable with universal coverage for every woman to reach the MDG goal for the year 2015.

KEY WORDS: INFANT MORTALITY/ MOTHER'S EDUCATION/
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