

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF MODERN  
CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN OF  
REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN BHUTAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the determinants influencing modern contraceptive use among married women in Bhutan. It targeted the women of reproductive age (15-49) residing in twenty different districts across the country. The study examined the effects of five variables based on socio-economic and demographic determinants on the practices of modern contraceptive use. The variables identified were place of residence, level of education, occupation, age and marital status of the women.

This study used secondary data from the Bhutan Living Standard Survey (BLSS) conducted in 2003. The sample size of this study was 3,626 married women. The analysis was done using descriptive statistics (frequency distribution and cross-tabulations).

Bivariate analysis showed that the use of modern contraception increases with increase in age of the women in both urban and rural areas ( $p < 0.001$ ). In regard to marital status and contraceptive use, those women who are married tend to use more contraception than those who were never married, separated, divorced or widowed. This was the case in both urban and rural areas ( $p < 0.001$ ).

In regard to socio-economic determinants, level of education had a significant effect upon the use of modern contraception among married women both in urban and rural areas ( $p < 0.001$ ). In addition, the use of modern contraception was greater among married women who have done some type of training like professional, religious or vocational in both urban and rural areas ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no association between occupation and contraceptive use among married women in urban areas however the relationship between these factors in rural areas was found to be statistically significant at  $p < 0.001$ .

**KEY WORDS: CONTRACEPTIVE USE/PLACE OF RESIDENCE/LEVEL OF  
EDUCATION/OCCUPATION/AGE/MARITAL STATUS**

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