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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article **Effects of the Productive Role of Bangladeshi Women on their Reproductive Decisions**

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Abstract This article examines the effects of women's productive role on their perceived reproductive decisions in a community where numerous non-governmental organizations have been providing credit-based, income-generating programmes for the poor. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to collect data from a randomly selected sample of 1,145 married women of reproductive age living in 30 villages in two districts in Bangladesh. Findings reveal that women's participation in income-generating activities has influenced their perceptions of sexuality and reproduction when the effects of age, years of schooling, land ownership, religious belief and media exposure variables are controlled. The study concludes that the behavioural aspects of development intervention have the potential to modify the reproductive and childbearing decisions in traditional communities.

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