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Emerging Social Issues Division
Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article **Female Autonomy and Fertility: An Overview of the Situation in South Asia**

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Abstract This article explores several dimensions of the socio-cultural milieu in countries of the South Asian subcontinent that account for the persistence of moderate to high fertility. It finds that, because the resistance to change is deep-rooted at the structural and cultural level, policy intervention, the emphasis of which is on service delivery only, is not likely to bring about any appreciable shift in the behaviour of the population. It concludes that fertility will tend to decline slowly until the forces of modernization help women in South Asia to resist pronatalist pressures.

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