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Emerging Social Issues Division
Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article **Strength of Fertility Motivation: Its Effects on Contraceptive Use in Rural Sri Lanka**

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Abstract This article analyzes the effect of strength of fertility motivation on contraceptive use among rural Sinhalese Sri Lankan couples. Measures of strength of motivation are derived from questions on how strongly respondents want or do not want another child. Among those who want no more children, strength of motivation against having more children makes little difference in contraceptive use rates, which are quite high. Among those who want more children, however, strength of motivation makes a substantial difference in use rates. Strength of motivation has a larger effect on use of traditional methods than on use of modern methods. Even among women who want another child very strongly, contraceptive use rates are moderately high, indicating widespread use of contraception for birth spacing.

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