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Emerging Social Issues Division
Social Policy and Population Section

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Article **Community Characteristics, Leaders, Fertility and Contraception in Bangladesh**

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Abstract This article is based on the results of an operations research project in four rural upazila (sub-districts) of Bangladesh. It examines the influence of social and economic institutions on the community members, particularly with respect to contraceptive use and women's status. The results suggest that community leaders support the use of modern contraceptives but oppose women's participation in jobs outside the home. It observes that male children are considered "old age security." The majority of the religious leaders report that they have little or no influence on individuals' fertility decisions. However, they expressed a willingness to participate in family planning activities. The article concludes with several recommendations.

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