

Adolescent Motherhood in Rural Rajshahi of Bangladesh

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Abstrak

In recent decades, adolescent motherhood has emerged as an issue of increasing concern throughout the developing and the developed world. There is a growing awareness that early childbearing is a health risk for both the mother and the child. Also, it usually terminates a girl's educational career, threatening her future economic prospects, earning capacity, and overall well-being. Thus, adolescent motherhood has significant ramifications at the personal, societal and global levels. The aim of this paper is to investigate the scenario of early marriage and adolescent motherhood in rural Rajshahi of Bangladesh. Using the data from 196 currently married adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 years it was found that 50% of them gave first birth before 19 years of age. Mean age at marriage and mean age at first birth of these currently married adolescents was found to be 15.18 and 16.16 years respectively. Using the most reliable statistical technique simultaneous linear probability model was fitted and found that education was the single most significant factor that affected both early marriage and earlier first birth after getting marriage. In addition, the result of the study shows that increased education level increased the age at first marriage and delayed adolescent motherhood.