

# **AWARENESS ABOUT AND USE OF FAMILY PLANNING IN YOUNG ROHINGYA REFUGEE WOMEN IN BANGLADESH**

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## **Background:**

Bangladesh hosts 1.2 million Rohingya (52% of them are Women and children). This vulnerable community faces poor sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes and low contraceptive usage. This study examined SRH literacy, knowledge, and service access among young Rohingya women in Bangladesh, focusing on factors influencing their family planning (FP) practices.

## **Methods:**

Between 14 March and 10 April 2023, a cross-sectional quantitative survey was conducted among young Rohingya women aged 15-24 residing in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. A pretested, structured questionnaire assessed socioeconomic status, FP literacy, access, attitudes, and practices. We used univariable and multivariable logistic regression to assess the associations and report odds ratios (ORs) with corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95%CI).

## **Result:**

We interviewed 686 women, 44% of whom used contraceptives (35.7% were current users). Awareness of contraceptives was low (emergency methods 9% and knowledge of lactational amenorrhea - 6.6%), and so was their use (5.3% and 4.5%, respectively). Only 46.7% intended to use contraceptives in the future. Reasons for non-use included a desire for more children (32%), religious constraints (17.8%), and husband's disapproval (7%). Factors positively associated with contraceptive use in multivariate analysis included women's age (OR=3.97; 95%CI:1.40-11.28), husband's education (OR=1.50; 95%CI:1.02-2.18) and employment (OR=.83; 95%CI:.48-1.43), exposure to FP information (OR=2.21; 95%CI:1.41-3.46), knowledge of FP (OR=.44; 95%CI:.24-.81), home visits by field workers (OR=2.09; 95%CI:1.40-3.13), and women's assertiveness in marital decisions (OR=2.20; 95%CI:1.50-3.24).

## **Conclusion:**

We found very low levels of contraceptive awareness and use, which calls for targeted interventions to enhance SRH literacy and FP access for young Rohingya refugee women in Bangladesh. To be successful, intervention should expand contraceptive options, address cultural and religious influences on contraceptive use, promote women's informed decision-making, and community support.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:***Ethics approval*

The study (registration number: 52324012023) was reviewed and approved by the National Research Ethics Committee, Bangladesh Medical Research Council, Bangladesh.

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