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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article **Unmet Need for Contraception in South Asia: Levels, Trends and Determinants**

Author *Rafiqul Huda Chaudhury*

Abstract This paper, which covers selected countries in South Asia, attempts to examine levels of and trends in unmet need for contraception, and identify the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the women with the highest unmet need, at the country and regional levels. It also delineates the major reasons for not using contraception and details policy and programme lessons. Based on information collected from currently married women between the reproductive ages of 15 and 49 years, the paper concludes that there is a clear need for improving access to and the quality of reproductive health and family planning services, together with the programmes that are more focused on unmet need. At the same time, the findings show that vigorous information, education and communication programmes on contraception are required for women and men.

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