

**Conference Theme: Fertility: Hans Peter Kohler (Germany)**

## **Fertility Change and Its Proximate Determinants in Bangladesh**

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**Provisional Abstract:** In 1971-75, women in Bangladesh were having on average 6.3 children. The total fertility rate (TFR) declined to 5.1 fifteen years later and to 4.3 in 1989-1991. The TFR plateaued at around 3.3 for most of the 1990s. Recent survey indicates that after almost a decade-long stagnation, the Bangladesh fertility rate has declined slightly to 3.0 children per woman. Four major determinants such as marriage, contraception, postpartum infecundability and induced abortion affect fertility. This study will critically examine the fertility change in Bangladesh through a systematic analysis of its proximate determinants. An attempt will be made to explore the relative importance of the effect of different proximate determinants on fertility in

Bangladesh and their changing role on fertility decline. The data used in this study will come from the 2004 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS). BDHS is a nationally representative survey of 11,440 women age 10-49 and 4,297 men age 15-54 from 10,500 household covering 361 sample points (clusters) throughout Bangladesh. The possible outcomes of the study are, despite the significant decline of TFR, with a TFR of 3.0, Bangladesh is in mid-range countries; contraceptive use does not reach at satisfactory level; a large proportion of marriages still take place before the legal age of 18; median durations of postpartum amenorrhea, abstinence and insusceptibility depend on socio-economic back-ground of the respondents. Although the proximate determinants of fertility are improving, their changing roles affect fertility to decline.