

Extended abstract: This study attempted to measure Coale's three preconditions of fertility decline-ready, willing, and able-and examine their impacts on fertility regulating behaviour of women in view of the rapid fertility decline in Bangladesh. It was observed that with the exception of women without living children, most women want to control their reproduction. For most women fertility regulation is found acceptable on normative and health related grounds, while for most women family planning methods are available, accessible, and convenient in terms of costs. It is not possible to know from this study whether and when these conditions have directly played roles in the Bangladesh fertility decline. However, the study implies that socioeconomic and cultural changes which are favourable to fertility transition have already taken place in Bangladesh. The logistic regression analysis indicated that regardless of controlling for the background variables women who are ready, willing and able are significantly more likely to use contraception. The latter are the principal determinants of contraceptive use and are often acting as intervening variables between the background variables and contraceptive use. However, changes in these background characteristics are key to changes in the readiness, willingness and ability to use contraception.