POPULATION MONOGRAPH OF BANGLADESH

TRENDS, PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

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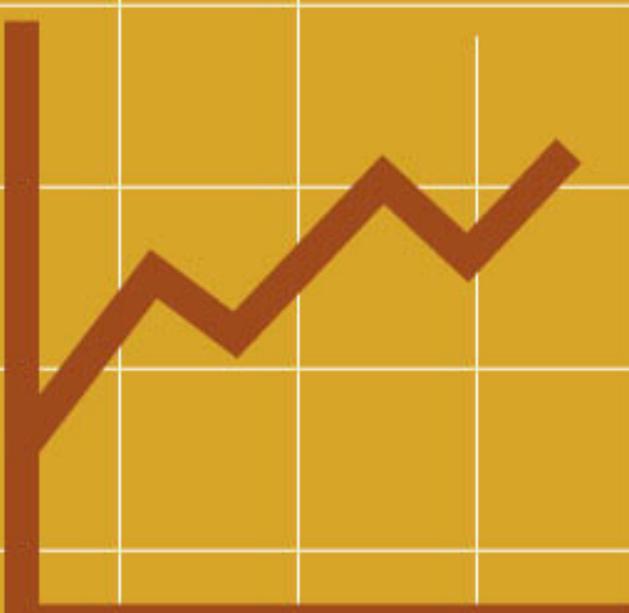
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
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November 2015

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Message

I am delighted to know that Population and Housing Census 2011 Project of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) has prepared fourteen Population Monographs using the census data of different years. This is the first time BBS is publishing population monographs with in-depth analysis of the population census data. The present monograph on 'Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Marriage in Bangladesh' is one of such monograph series.

Each monograph deals in a particular issue related to population and housing where census data have been used in multidimensional approaches. In addition, cross country comparison and in country comparison have also been made to oversee the representativeness of data with other national sources. It is expected that the monographs will be useful in national planning and policy making particularly in the field of population and development.

I would like to thank concerned officials of SID and BBS and also authors of the monographs for their relentless effort in preparing these monographs and publication thereof. Special thanks to European Union (EU) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their generous support in conducting 5th decennial census of Bangladesh and preparing the population monographs.

AHM Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP

Dhaka
November, 2015

State Minister
Ministry of Finance
and
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Message

I have come to learn that Population and Housing Census 2011 Project of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division has prepared fourteen Population Monographs using census data of different years. Population is the main ingredient for national planning and policy making. Therefore, Population Monographs are of vital importance in the field of population planning of the country.

Each monograph has been prepared with a particular issue related to population and housing. To prepare these Monographs census data have been used widely in multidimensional way where secondary data from other sources have also been used. The monographs are a new dimension in the wide use of data generated through national censuses of the country.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to the honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning for his dynamic leadership and active guidance in implementing all our activities including census undertaking. I would like to thank Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Director General, BBS for their relentless effort in preparing these monographs and publication thereof. Special thanks to European Union (EU) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their generous support in conducting 5th decennial census of Bangladesh and preparing the population monographs.

M.A. Mannan, MP

Dhaka
November, 2015

Secretary
Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Foreword

Population Census is the single most important statistical undertaking in any country. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics of the Statistics and Informatics Division has conducted the 5th decennial census of the country during 15-19 March, 2011. In order to supplement the main census a large scale sample survey was conducted in October 2011 which covered detailed information on Population & Housing. The Monograph on 'Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Marriage in Bangladesh' is mainly based on the findings of the sample census conducted during 2011. Data from other secondary sources have also been used to prepare the Monographs.

It may be mentioned that Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has been publishing a number of Population Monograph series and Population Monograph on 'Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Marriage in Bangladesh' which is one of the fourteen monographs being published by BBS using Population Census Data. Monographs are the in depth analysis of a particular topic of interest. It may be mentioned that child marriage is still prevail in the country which is detrimental to health of young mothers.

In light of that, population monograph on 'Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Marriage in Bangladesh' will be useful for addressing the problem of reproductive health of the mothers in Bangladesh. This monograph covered the pattern of marriage in Bangladesh over the years from the data available from censuses.

I like to express my sincere thanks to Director General, Deputy Director General of BBS, Project Director of Population and Housings Census 2011 Project and his team for preparing this Monograph. I acknowledge with gratitude the support of European Union (EU) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for successful completion of the Population and Housing Census 2011 and preparing the Monographs.

Dhaka
November, 2015

Kaniz Fatema ndc

Director General
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Preface

The fifth population and housing census of Bangladesh was conducted during 15th March to 19th March, 2011. The main objective of the census was to collect information on the basic characteristics related to housing, households and population for developing a comprehensive database for development planning and human resource development programmes as well as economic management.

Population and Housing Census 2011 were conducted in three phases. In the First Phase, basic data about all households and individual members of the households were collected through ICR formatted questionnaire during 15th March to 19th March, 2011. In the Second Phase, quality and coverage of the main count were verified through a Post Enumeration Check (PEC) survey during 10th April to 14th April, 2011. For the first time in the census history of Bangladesh, PEC was conducted by an independent organization, namely Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). In the Third Phase, detailed socio-economic information was collected by administering a long machine readable questionnaire in a sample survey held during 15th October to 25th October, 2011.

One of the objectives of the Population and Housing Census 2011 Project was in-depth analysis of census data and preparation of Population Monograph series. Monographs are useful to the users to know the detailed information about the related area for taking appropriate policy measures and further research.

The Population Monograph on 'Trends, Patterns and Determinants of Marriage in Bangladesh' is one of the 14 monograph series which covered the situation of marriage in Bangladesh.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Minister for Planning for his effective guidance and significant cooperation in making the census a success. I express my deepest gratitude to Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) for her whole-hearted support and cooperation to the census. Moreover, members of 'Steering Committee', 'Standing Technical Committee', Consultants and the participants of the Seminar-cum-Expert Consultation deserve special thanks for their valuable contributions for finalizing the questionnaire and the census programme. I am thankful to the researchers of the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka for preparing this monograph. Thanks to European Union (EU) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their technical and financial support to the Population and Housing Census 2011 Project.

Finally, I like to thank Deputy Director General, BBS, Project Director, Population and Housing Census 2011 Project, members of the Technical Committee and other officers & staff members of BBS for bringing out this monograph.

Dhaka
November, 2015

Mohammad Abdul Wazed

Message

This report is part of a series of 14 monographs developed by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNFPA has supported the BBS since the very first census in 1974, a cooperation that has grown stronger with each census. Through the "Support to 2011 Bangladesh Population and Housing Census" project UNFPA has been working closely with the BBS to ensure that best use is made out of the resources invested in the census. The project has put a major emphasis on in-depth analysis of census data and the production of thematic reports in the form of these monographs. This series will provide its readers a better and clearer understanding of the trends, the current country scenarios and the gaps indicating where targeted interventions are necessary.

The availability of quality, reliable and timely data, as well as a thorough, methodologically sound and user-friendly analysis of data is more important than ever before. The information generated by population and housing census, the numbers of people, their distribution, their living conditions, are all critical for development. Without accurate data, policymakers do not know where to invest in schools, hospitals or roads and the most in need remain invisible. The implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the guiding framework for the development agenda 2030, will require the production and analysis of a large amount of data, big data, requiring strong and independent National Statistics Offices, which UNFPA will continue to support.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Statistics and Informatics Division and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' authority and the project team for their efforts to produce this series, as well as the experts who contributed to the development of the monographs. My special gratitude goes to the Delegation of European Union in Bangladesh for their generous support and co-operation in implementing the "Support to Bangladesh Population and Housing Census 2011" project and in the preparation of these monographs.

Dhaka
November, 2015

Argentina Matavel Piccin
Representative
UNFPA Bangladesh

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Acknowledgements

Dhaka
November, 2015

Md. Mashud Alam

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study seeks to identify emerging changes if there is any in the marriage pattern in Bangladesh which is universal in general and onsets at an early age for girls in particular. The broader objective of this research monograph is to examine the patterns of marriage and identify the factors associated with marriage in Bangladesh.

This study found that in Bangladesh the proportion of never married men gradually increased over time but never married women has increased at an accelerated pace than that of men. However, the prevalence of widowed, divorced and separated women decreased substantially overtime in Bangladesh. The prevalence of widower, divorced and separated men is low but the rates of divorce and separation are higher among the poorest category irrespective of sex. The separation is higher among female than male in the poorest category, which indicates a relationship between divorce/ separation and household wealth background.

In Bangladesh the average age at marriage had risen substantially over what it was a few decades earlier. Bangladeshi males who are currently aged between 25-54 years have the highest median age at marriage whereas women who are aged between 25-49 years have the lowest median age at first marriage. The difference in mean age at marriage for rural and urban areas declined and the difference is only half a year where it is high in rural areas. As we know marriage is considered as the foremost social and demographic indicator for the exposure of women to the risk of pregnancy. Study shows that the mean age at first marriage in Bangladesh for both male and female differ significantly by different socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The mean age at first marriage for both male and female has been observed higher in: urban area; non-slum; non-Bengali population; non-Muslim population; who has higher than secondary education; and those who belongs to richest quintile.

Although the legal age of marriage in Bangladesh is 18 years, but this study found that almost half of all marriages take place before the legal age. There are variations in terms of the age at first marriage among different districts of Bangladesh. By examining the effects of socioeconomic characteristics to child marriage this study finds that slum dwelling status, Muslim religion, rural residence and media exposure stands out as the strongest contributor.

In Bangladesh majority of male-females are married once. However, those who married more than once are in rural place of residence, substantially larger in slum when compared with non-slum, Bengali ethnic people, rent free tenancy, among the age group of 45 years and over, male population, Muslim religion, who have no education, and poorest wealth quintile. We found that Muslim religion, slum dwelling status, employed, media exposure and urban residence stands out as the major determinants in terms of remarriage.

More strategic targeting and responsive social policies are needed to implement towards the differential marital status of the population in Bangladesh. For that addressing poverty through economic empowerment of girls and women can increase the age at marriage. Continuing existing emphasis on education for women can reduce child marriage. As the purpose of sample census is not to provide in-depth information on any specific topic rather to describe the situation of many variables detailed studies on marriage are needed to explore marriage related vulnerabilities of men and women and for ethnic population to understand marriage dynamics in Bangladesh.

1. Background

1.1 Introduction

Age at first marriage is of special interest to demographers, particularly because of its temporal link with fertility. Most of the demographic studies across the countries have examined how changes in the timing of marriage led to fertility transition (Westoff, 2003; Raj et al., 2009; Arun, 2010; Dommaraju, 2008). However, investigation of age at marriage and its determinants merits on its own right and is worth beyond their demographic implications (Mensch et al., 2005). Age at entry into marital union is reflective of social values and norms of a population (Malhotra and Tsui, 1996). In fact examination of age at which men and women marry can contribute in understanding the social and economic factors underneath and social change that has been accompanied with it. Literature on age of entry into marriage across the countries mainly focuses on seeking its association or causal link with females' acquisition of formal education, labour force participation and urbanization (Bates, Maselko and Schuler, 2007; Mensch et al., 2005; Ikamari, 2005; Hossain and Tisdel, 2003; Westoff, 2003; Basu, 2002; Sing and Samara, 1996).

Marriages before 18 years have been internationally established as a yardstick for measuring early marriages or child marriages for it being recognized as the age at which people enter into adulthood. Human rights advocates and health advocates have brought this issue at the forefront of development agenda for its wide ranging negative consequences (Santhya, 2010; Raj et al., 2009; Santhya, Jejeebhoy and Ghosh, 2008). Thus, countries with widely prevalent child marriage are on the run to reverse it.

There exists considerable variation across countries in the age at first marriage. Despite such variations, over all a declining trend has been set by gradually replacing the traditional pattern of early entry into marital unions in the developing world. However, variations exists in their pace of decline (Westoff, 2003; Garenne, 2004; Mensch et al., 2005). This declining trend in age at first marriage is found most prevalent among the urban and better-educated population (Harwood-Lejeune, 2000; Garenne, 2004; Mensch et al., 2005). Studies have identified economic growth and formal schooling as factors that are more likely to influence the rate at which early entry into marital union takes place (Garenne, 2004).

Bangladesh is known for its early age of entry into marital union and near-universality of marriage (NIPORT et al. 2013). Marriage being near-universal in the country and fertility mostly occurring within marriage, marriage rates, age at marriage and marital fertility significantly affect the demographic features of the country. Bangladesh also is among one of the few countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where child marriages persisted

at a very high level (UNICEF, 2014). Child marriage is now considered as the main bottleneck in the way to move the country further.

Women in Bangladesh, like many other developing countries, despite having overall vulnerability, showed a progressive change towards their participation in formal education and employment market since nineties. Growth of female secondary education in last two decades in Bangladesh marks its development in social sector (World Bank, 2008). Calculation based on Bangladesh Labour Force Surveys 1999-2000, 2002-2003, 2005-2006 and 2010 (GoB, 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2011) shows women's labour force participation has increased from 8.6 million in 1999-2000 to 17.2 million in 2010 with an annual rate of 5.06 percent (Ali, 2013). Thus, it is important to examine if there has been any change in marriage dynamics as a whole (i.e., trend in age at first marriage and its determinants, marital dissolution and remarriage) in the context of increased education and employment of women in Bangladesh.

The study seeks to identify emerging changes if there is any in the marriage pattern in Bangladesh which is universal in general and onsets at an early age for girls in particular. Detailed examination of age at marriage will provide information on the changes in the trends of child marriage over time and among different cohorts and determinants of child marriage. The study examines the trends in the proportion of never married men and women, trends in the marital status, age at first marriage for men and women, prevalence and determinants of child marriage, prevalence and determinants of remarriage, the association and causal link between age at marriage and socio-demographic characteristics at the individual and household level. The study examines age at first marriage and the prevalence of early marriage for the major geographic regions of the country.

This study will contribute in the knowledge of marriage dynamics of the country. Most of the previous studies on age at marriage and its determinants were based on Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (BDHS). This study using Census data for examining age at marriage and its determinants, prevalence and its determinants, prevalence of remarriage and its determinants, differential marital status by age, sex, socio-economic characteristics and ethnicity will make further contribution in understanding demographic dynamics of the country. It will contribute in the knowledge of vulnerable men, women and children in the context of marital status. Child marriage being one of the most crucial social issues of the country, in depth study of age at marriage will provide insight on the changes in the trend of child marriage over time and among different cohorts and determinants of child marriage. Child marriage prevention policies will be able to conceive more context specific strategies for prevention of child marriage.

1.2 Objectives of this Research Monograph

The broader objective of this research monograph is to examine the patterns of marriage and identify the factors associated with marriage in Bangladesh since 1991 by using data from census 1991, 2001, and 2011. However, the specific objectives of this research monograph are given below:

- To examine the trends of marriage pattern over the censuses (1991, 2001, 2011);
- To identify the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female;
- To examine the prevalence and determinants of child marriage; and
- To identify the determinants of remarriage among males and females in Bangladesh.

1.3 Outline of the Research Monograph

This monograph consists of five chapters. The chapter one is on background of the study, which includes introduction, objectives and outline of this research monograph. Chapter two is the literature review and it also depicts the theoretical framework for studying marriage. Chapter three is on methodology of this research monograph where data and analytical approach are explored. In chapter four findings of this study are reported. Finally, chapter five is on discussion, policy implications and conclusions of this study.

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks for Studying Marriage

Most widely used theoretical frameworks in the study of marriage is categorized into two groups: a) macro level theories like family ecology framework, structural functionalism framework and conflict and feminist framework; and b) micro level theories like social exchange theory, family life-course development framework and family system framework. The family ecology framework views families in the context of their broader environment. It focuses on how families are influenced by its environment and vice versa. Thus, it analyzes family life, family decisions, and children's outcome in the context of its physical-biological and socio-cultural environment. This framework points out the way broader environment creates differential constraints and opportunities for different families and therefore differentially affect family lives and choices (Lamanna, Reidmann and Stewart, 2014).

The structural-functional framework stresses on the importance of functionality of society through its institutions. This framework considers family as one of the basic institutions of society and emphasizes on the functions of family for maintaining social stability. It focuses on both structural and functional aspects of family as a basic unit of society to keep society functional. This framework generally considers marriage between two heterosexuals as the mode of family formation to perform its functions i.e., reproduction, child-care, etc. Families through reproducing children supply new members for society and socialize its children to confirm to the norms of society (Strong, DeVault and Cohen, 2011). This framework strongly maintains gendered division of family functions and husbands are always considered as breadwinners. This framework is skeptical about rapid social change because sudden change may threaten social stability. This framework gives a perspective for researchers to investigate how age at marriage remains as a family or individual response to maintain family functions and social stability.

Conflict and feminist framework takes an opposite direction from structural-functionalism. While structural-functionalism notices benefits in the functioning of its institutions, conflict-feminist framework seeks to know if functions of institutions address the existing inequalities or uphold inequalities (Strong, DeVault and Cohen, 2011). Thus, this framework investigates the ways various institutions of society including family contribute to sustain inequalities in society. This framework considers various forms of inequalities as the source of social problems. This perspective suggests radical changes in the way various social institutions are organized and function to contribute to the existing inequalities. Conflict theory has its roots in the theory of Karl Marx and his colleague Frederich Engels. However, their focus was limited to conflict between economic classes in a capitalist society. Feminist movement across the world has applied conflict theory in the context of gender inequality since 1970s

(Lamanna, Riedmann and Stewart, 2014). Feminist perspective focuses on conflicts arising out of gender based inequalities rather than conflicts generating from class based inequalities. Conflict and feminist perspective always promote social change to reduce inequality. Thus, this perspective shows how family as social institution contributes to sustain gender based inequality at the family and societal level. It argues that families do not always function in a way that is beneficial to all its members (Lamanna, Riedmann and Stewart, 2014).

Social exchange theory is one of the most popularly referred frameworks in the study of marital and familial relationships. This has been used to explain why people go for marriage, reproduce children, maintain division of labour, etc. Central to this framework is human beings rationality. Human being develops, maintains or dissolute marital relationships in terms of the balance between the rewards obtained from marital relationship and the costs that incurred for the marital relationships (Nakonezni and Denton, 2008). Social exchange theory resembles market exchange except for limiting social exchanges for goods and services. Social exchanges go beyond materials and physical resources and include intimacy, emotional bondage, companionship, sexual gratification, prestige, etc. (Bianchi, Casper and King, 2005). This framework in explaining marital relationships imply that possession of more resources allows either to bargain on family decision or to dissolute marital union.

The family life-course development framework assumes changes in individuals, relationships and family roles over time (Cox and Demmitt, 2013).This framework considers every stage in life has important functions and therefore, has its affect on subsequent stages of life. This framework is widely used for studying various pathways or transitions to family formation as well as how transitions to adulthood, parenthood, etc. affect family formation and family interaction. This framework also looks at intergenerational interactions within family. This perspective allows researchers to investigate family behaviour over time (Lamanna, Reidmann and Stewart, 2014).

Family system theory framework views family as a whole or system composed of interrelated parts. It conveys the idea of interconnectedness within the family system where change in one member will cause change in the whole family system. Like, death or chronic sickness of breadwinner will affect all other member in a family system (Cox and Demmitt, 2013). From this perspective family is viewed as an organic system where family members behave predictably and family as a system maintains equilibrium or balance through creating pressure on family members to continue to play his or predictable role. Any family member showing change or deviance from predicted role or behaviour is put under pressure to get back to his or her expected behaviour to match with the family system (Lamanna, Reidmann and Stewart, 2014).

This study is not based on any single theoretical framework for analyzing marriage patterns in Bangladesh. Multiple frameworks inform this study in developing its research questions and constructing its analysis plan, supporting its arguments. The study draws from family ecology framework and family system framework in identifying a set of socio-demographic variables as independent variables for examining the marriage pattern in the country. The issue of examining child marriage is perceived from family ecology, social exchange and conflict-feminist framework. The issue of examining remarriage is perceived from life-course development, social change and conflict-feminist framework.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data

The sample census data collected in 2011 has been used to address the objectives of this monograph. The questions based on the nuptiality of the respondents: marital status, age at first marriage, number of times married, are of primary interests. Respondents aged 10 years and above have been selected for the analysis of this monograph.

3.2 Dependent Variables

Age at first marriage has been considered as a separate dependent variable while child marriage (marriage before reaching 18 years of age), and number of times married, have also been used.

3.3 Independent Variables

A number of individual and household level variables have been used as independent variables: division, place of residence (rural-urban), dwelling status (slum-non slum), ethnicity (Bengali-others), tenancy status of house (owned, rented, rent free), wealth index, age, birth cohort, sex, religion, educational attainment, literacy, employment status and household media exposure.

3.4 Analytical Approach

A combination of three different analytic approaches have been considered: univariate or descriptive analysis has been performed where only proportions, means or medians have been calculated; relationship between dependent and independent variables have been investigated by using bivariate techniques, namely, Chi-square, and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA); and multivariate analysis where the effects of different independents variables on the dependents variables have been examined by using the multiple regression method. The data analysis starts with the percentage calculation of all relevant dependent and independent variables. The proportion of marital status has been calculated for different censuses to examine the trends of marital status. Median age at first marriage has been calculated for the censuses to see the trends of marriage pattern. Both bivariate and multivariate analyses have been performed to see the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female. The data analysis has also focused on the child marriage issue. This research monograph has calculated the prevalence child marriage for sample censuses and has also investigated the determinants of child marriage. Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis of this monograph have been performed by using SPSS Version 21.0.

4. FINDINGS

The findings of the following four research objectives have been presented in this chapter: (1) examining the trends of marriage pattern over the censuses; (2) identifying the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female; (3) examining the prevalence and determinants of child marriage; and (4) identifying the determinants of remarriage among males and females in Bangladesh.

4.1 Trends and Patterns of Marriage in Bangladesh

4.1.1 Trends of Marriage Patterns in Bangladesh

Different published reports of the BBS have been used to examine the trends of marriage pattern over the censuses (1961 to 2011). The findings show (figure-4.1and appendix table-1) that percentage of never married men gradually increased over time from one third in 1961 to more than half in 2011 (43.3percent in 1974, 42.8percent in 1981, 42.1percent in 1991, and 43.6percent in 2001). Increase in never married men has been the highest (by almost 10percent) during 1961 (33.5percent) to 1974 (43.3percent). The highest increase in never married men has occurred among men aged 20-24 years. Increase in never married men among this age group occurred by more than 10 percent (from 49.7percent in 1961 to 60.1percent in 1974) (Appendix table-1).

Increase in never married men has been followed by nearly 16.6 percent decline in currently married men from 1961 (63 percent) to 2011 (46.4 percent). Percent of currently married men remained around 54 to 56 during 1974 to 2001. Only in 1991 it went up to 57 percent. The highest decline in currently married men has occurred during 1961 to 1974 by 9.1 percent (from 63 percent to 53.9 percent). This was followed by 9.4 percent decline during 2001 to 2011 (from 55.8 percent to 46.4 percent). Highest decline in currently married men has occurred among 20-24 years during 1961 to 1974 by 9.7 percent (from 48.8 percent to 39.1 percent).

Percentage of never married women has increased more than that of men. It has gone up from only 10.55 percent in 1961 to 41.6 percent in 2011 (24.4 percent in 1974, 23.7 percent in 1981, 25.2 percent in 1991, and 28.7 percent in 2001). It has increased by more than 14 percent during the period 1961 to 1974 (from 10.5 percent to 24.4 percent). The highest increase in never married women has occurred among 10-14 and 15-19 years during 1961 to 1974. For 10-14 years there had been an increase in never married women by 23.1 percent and for 15-19 years it increased by 16.2 percent.

Figure 4.1 : Trends of Marital Status by Sex in Bangladesh, 1961-2011

3.5	18.8	2.8	14.4	1.3	12.9	0.7	10.0	0.6	8.0	0.8	7.5
63.0	70.7	53.9	61.2	55.9	63.4	57.2	64.8	55.8	63.3	46.4	51.0
33.5	10.5	43.3	24.4	42.8	23.7	42.1	25.2	43.6	28.7	52.9	41.6
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1961		1974		1981		1991		2001		2011	

■ Never Married   ■ Currently Married   ■ Widowed, Divorced, Separated
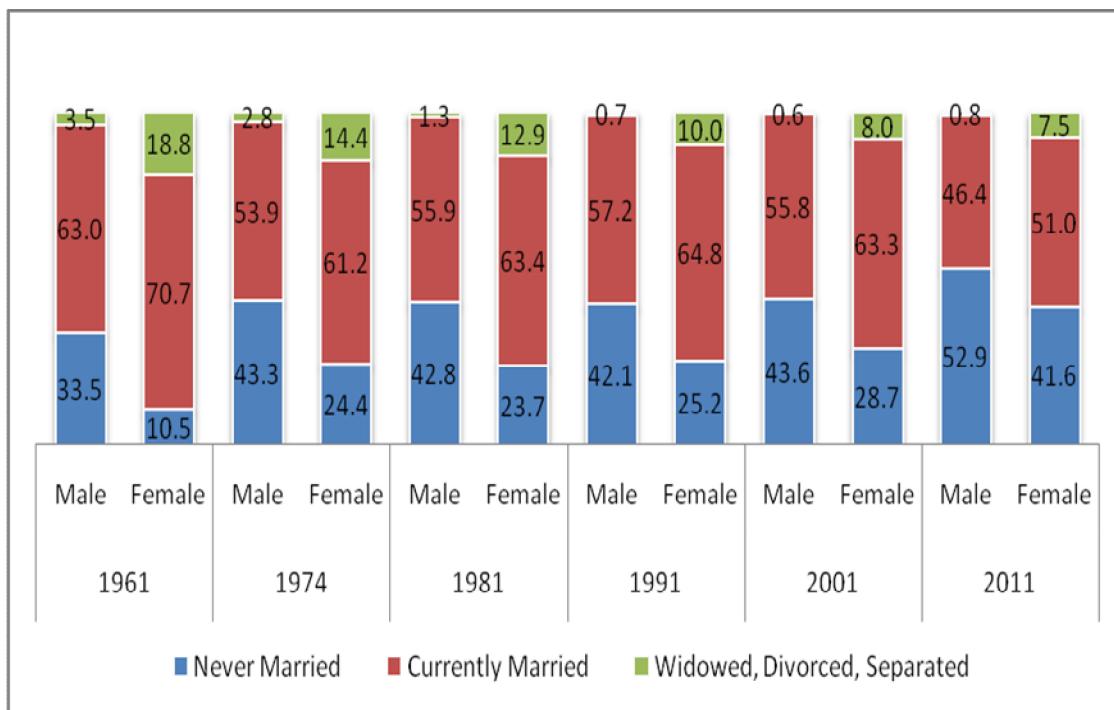
Sources: Population Censuses; Sample Census, 2011

Increase in never married women has been followed by a gradual decrease in currently married women from 70.7 percent in 1961 to 51 percent in 2011. This decline has great implication on fertility in a country like Bangladesh where child birth outside marriage is not common for it not being accepted by the society. The highest decline in currently married women has occurred during 2001 to 2011 by more than 12 percent (from 63.3 percent to 51 percent). Decline in currently married women by 9.5 percent during 1961 to 1974 comes next to the decline occurred during 2001 and 2011. The highest decline in currently married women also occurred for 10-14 years by 5.7 percent during 2001 and 2011. During 1961 and 1974 the highest decline in currently married women also occurred for 10-14 years by 23 percent and the second highest decline occurred for 15-19 years by 17.6 percent. These trends are showing a slow but steady change in age at first marriage for girls from early teens towards late teens.

Prevalence of widowed, divorced and separated women substantially decreased overtime from 18.8 percent in 1961 to 7.5 percent in 2011. Decline in their prevalence has occurred for almost all age groups. However, their prevalence is still there among very young age group like 15-19 years even though their prevalence is no more there among 10-14 years. Decline in the prevalence of widowed, divorced and separated has been the highest during 1961 to 1974 (from 18.8 percent to 14.4 percent). Decrease in currently married women and increase in widowed women concurrently occurs among women aging 45-49 years. Prevalence of

widower, divorced and separated men has been low at all censuses. Their prevalence decreased from 3.5 percent in 1961 to 0.8 percent in 2011.

4.1.2 Currently Married Male and Female in Bangladesh by Districts

The Maps 4.1 and 4.2 constructed on the basis of the sample census 2011 show the distribution of currently married male and female in Bangladesh by districts. The map (4.1) shows that Gazipur has the highest percentage (68.8 percent) of currently married men followed by Chuadanga (68.3 percent), Meherpur (67.1 percent) and Joypurhat (67 percent). It shows that Sylhet has the lowest percentage (49.4 percent) currently married men followed by Chittagong and Moulvibazar (51.7 percent), and Feni (51.9 percent). Thus, the districts located in the south-west and north-west part of Bangladesh has got more currently married men in comparison to other parts of the country.

The map 4.2 shows the distribution of currently married female in Bangladesh by districts. It can be seen from the map that Meherpur has the highest (74 percent) percentage of currently married women followed by Gazipur (72.7 percent), Kushtia (72 percent), and Tangail. On the other hand, Sylhet has the lowest percentage (55.7) of currently married women followed by Moulvibazar (58.2 percent), Cox's Bazar (58.6 percent), Sunamganj (58.9 percent), and Chittagong (59.4 percent).

Map-4.1

Currently Married Male (10 Years and Above) by Districts, Sample Census 2011

Legend

Currently Married Male (10 Years and Above) Range

- 49.39 - 55.37
- 55.37 - 58.83
- 58.83 - 61.91
- 61.91 - 64.69
- 64.69 - 68.79

Map-4.2

Currently Married Female (10 Years and Above)
by Districts, Sample Census 2011

Legend

Currently Married Female (10 Years and Above) Range

- 55.69 - 59.35
- 59.35 - 63.91
- 63.91 - 67.42
- 67.42 - 70.27
- 70.27 - 73.95
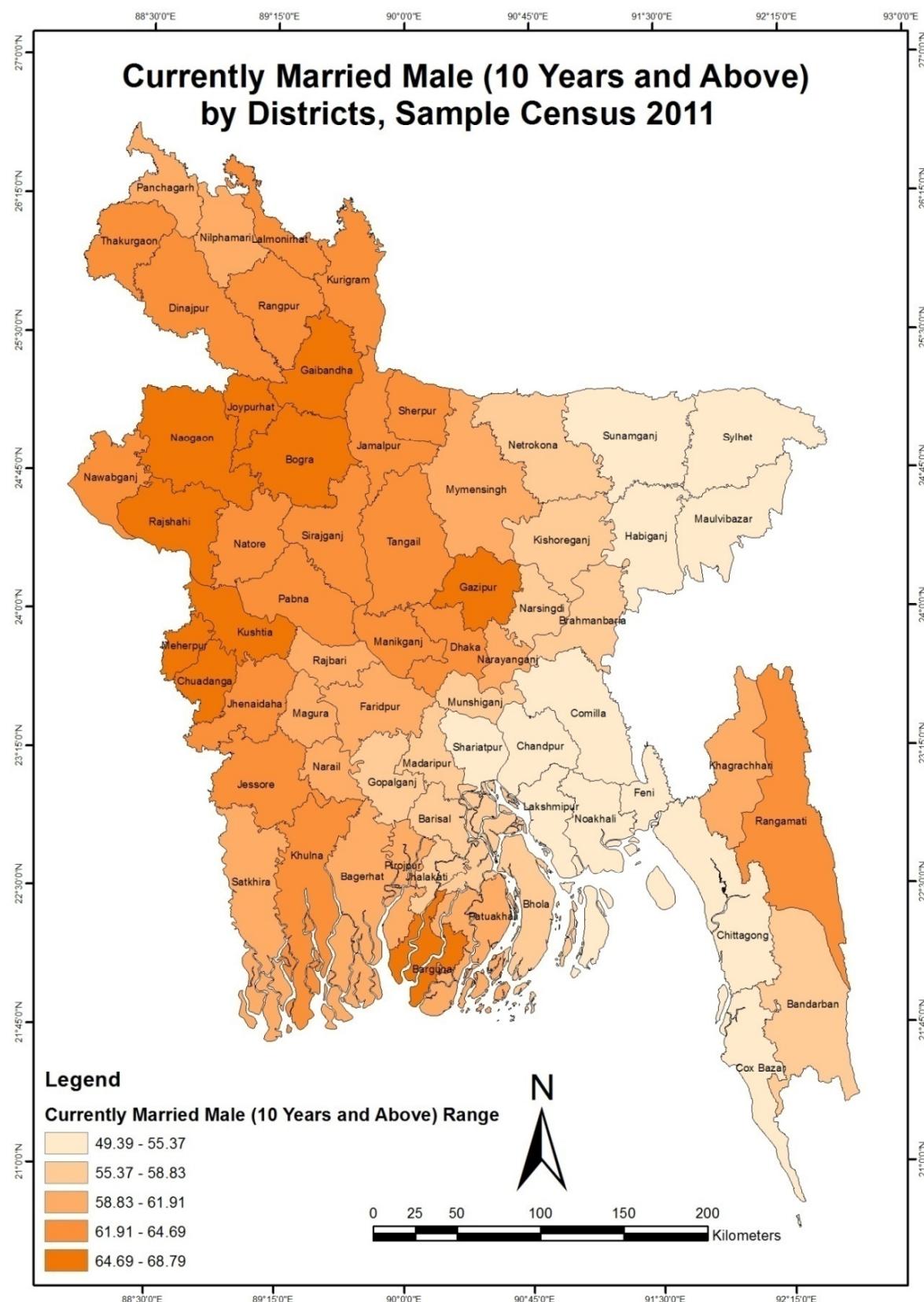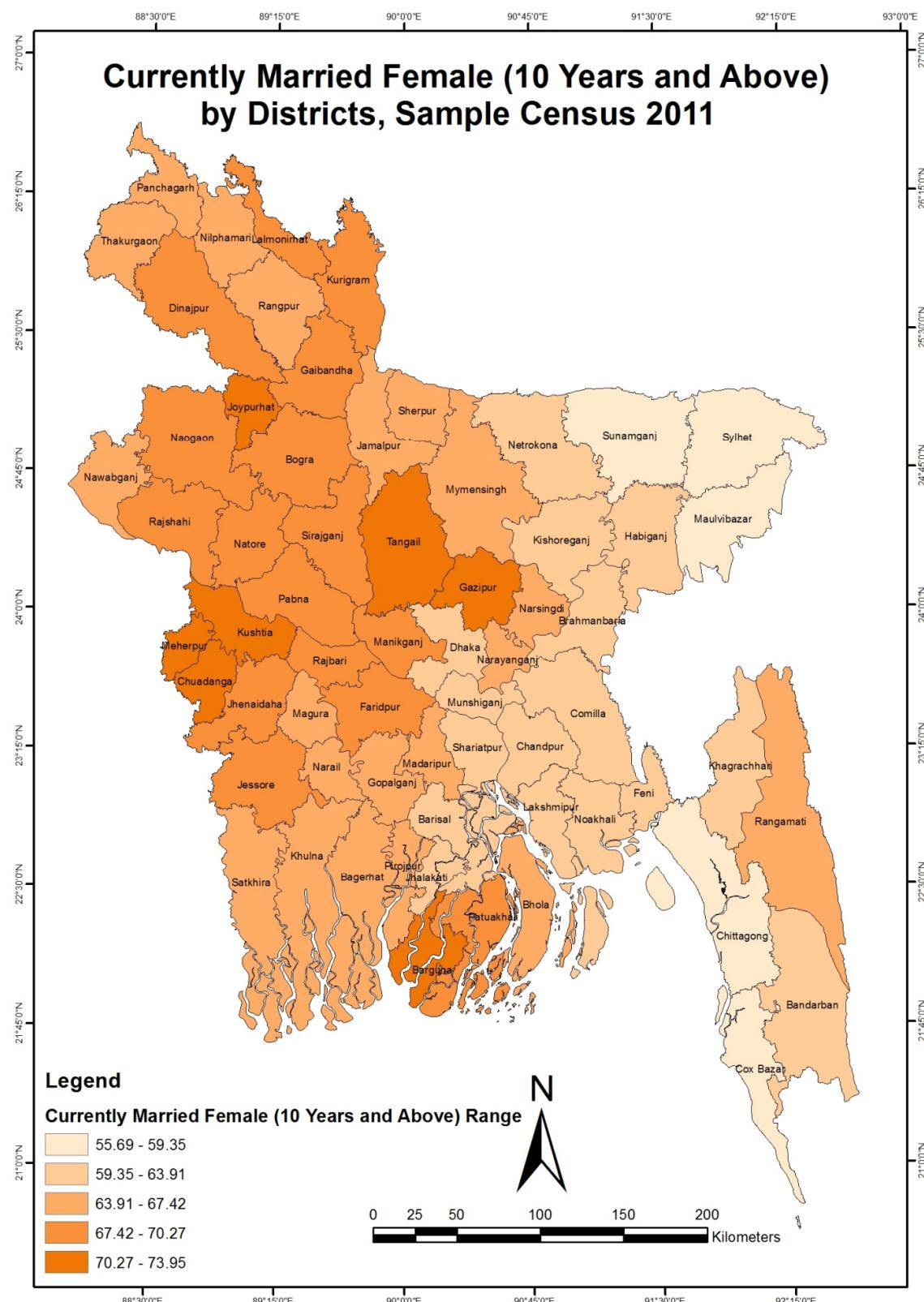
Figure 4.2 presents the distribution of marital status by wealth and sex among the population aged 10 years and above. The figure shows that the rate of divorce is higher among the poorest category irrespective of sex. Nearly 30 percent (29.7) of the divorced population are from the poorest category of which 31.5 percent are male and 29.5 percent are female. The lowest rate of divorce is observed in the fourth quintile. Rate of separation is also higher among the poorest category. Almost 24 percent (23.9) of the total population in the poorest category are separated of which 20 percent are male and 24.8 percent are female. Never married population remains the highest among the richest wealth quintile category for the total population (21.9 percent) and female population (23.4 percent) aged 10 years and above though this rate is highest among the middle quintile for male (21.5). The rate of currently married population is also highest (20.6 percent) among the richest category for the total population as well as for male population 10 years and above. However, the rate of currently married population is highest among the fourth quintile (20.8 percent) for the female population aged 10 years and above.

Figure 4.2: Marital Status by Wealth and Sex: Sample Census 2011
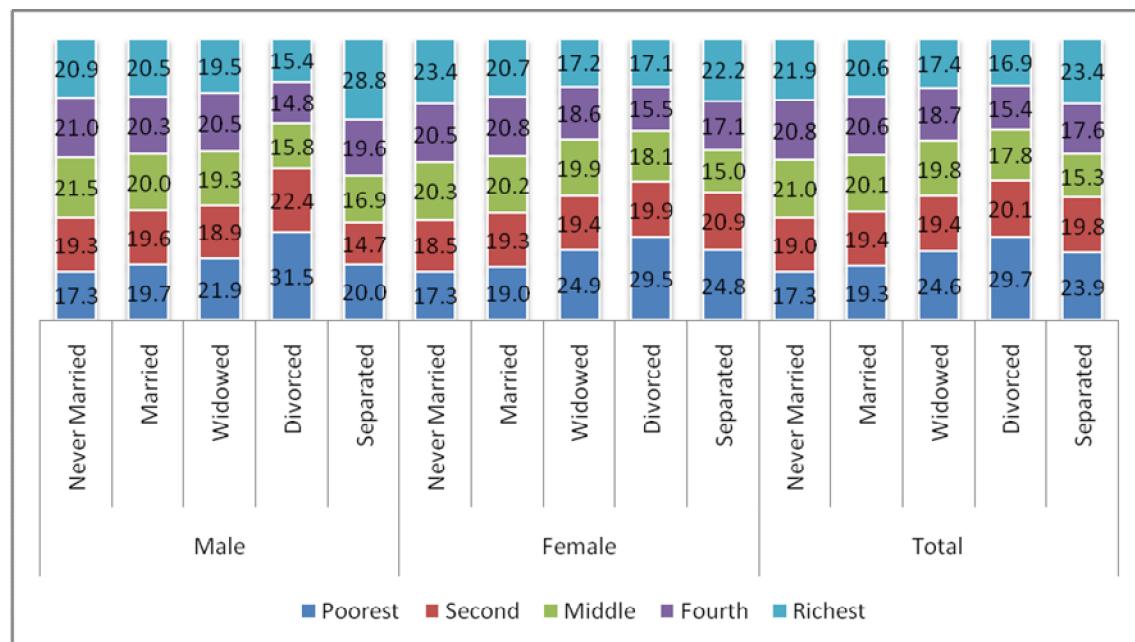
4.1.3 Currently Married Male and Female: South Asian Scenario

We have compared the rate of currently married male (15-54 years) and female (15-49 years) of Bangladesh with Asian countries. The figure 4.3 shows that Pakistan has the highest rate of currently married male (98 percent) among the South-Asian countries followed by Maldives (94.6 percent) while Bangladesh has the highest rate of currently married female (80 percent) followed by Nepal (75.8 percent). The lowest rate of currently married female among the South-Asian country is observed in Afghanistan (53.9 percent).

Figure 4.3: Currently Married Female (15-49 years) and Male (15-54 years) in South Asian Countries
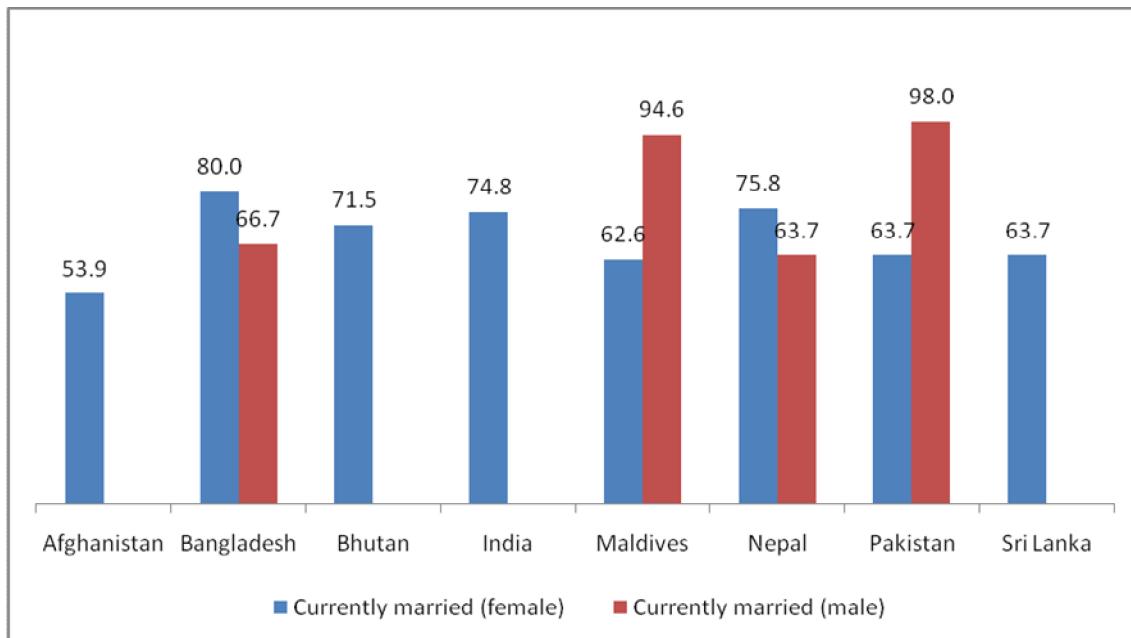
Sources: Afghanistan: 2010 AMS; Bangladesh: 2011 DHS; Bhutan: 2010 MICS; India: 2005-06 DHS; Maldives: 2009 DHS; Nepal: 2011 DHS; Pakistan: 2012-13 DHS; Sri Lanka: 2006-07 DHS

4.2 Age at First Marriage in Bangladesh

The data of Sample Census 2011 and different published reports have been used to identify the average age at first marriage in Bangladesh and its determinants. The presentation of this section begin with the description of background characteristics of the respondents of the sample census 2011 followed by median age at first marriage, singulate mean age at marriage, and determinants of average age at first marriage. The discussion on median age at first marriage will focus on Bangladesh as well as South Asian perspectives.

4.2.1 Background Characteristics of the Respondents of the Sample Census 2011

Appendix table 2 presents socio-demographic and other characteristics of the population in Bangladesh aging 10 years and above. Distribution of the respondents by division shows one-third (32.7 percent) were from Dhaka division followed by Chittagong (19 percent), Rajshahi (13.3 percent), Khulna (11.5 percent), Rangpur (11.1 percent), Barisal (6.2 percent), and Sylhet (6.2 percent). Distribution of the population by urban and rural residence shows that one-fifth of the total population of the sample census lived in urban areas (80.2 percent). Distribution of population by dwelling in non-slum and slum areas shows that less than 2 percent (1.6 percent) of the population lived in slum area while 2.2 percent population belong to ethnic minority group. Distribution of population by tenancy of the dwelling place shows that 82.6 percent lived in their own house followed by rented house (11.9 percent) and rent

free space (5.5 percent). Distribution of population by wealth quintile shows that 20.9 percent respondents are from riches quintile followed by fourth quintile (20.5 percent), middle quintile (20.4 percent), second quintile (19.3 percent), and poorest quintile (19.0 percent).

In terms of age distribution of the respondents, it has been found that highest number of respondents (24.8 percent)is above 45 years of age followed by less than 15 years (14.9 percent), 15-19 and 25-29 years (11.8 percent), 20-24 years (11.2 percent), 30-34 years (9.1 percent), 35-39 years (9 percent), and 40-44 years (7.4 percent). Majority (41.1 percent) of the respondents were born between 1971-1990 time-period, followed by before 1971 (32.2 percent), and after 1991 (26.7 percent). About 50.7 percent women are female. Distribution of population by religion shows that 89.6 percent respondents are Muslim.

Distribution of population by education shows that 51.3 percent have secondary education followed by primary education (37.8 percent), no education (6.2 percent) and higher than secondary education (4.7 percent). In terms of literacy, 56.7 percent respondents can read and write followed by 36.5 percent cannot read and write and 5.6 percent can read only. Distribution of population by employment status shows that only 38.1 percent respondents were employed while the rest were unemployed. Distribution of population by media exposure shows that less than half (45.8 percent) of the total respondent's household don't have any media exposure. Distribution of population by marital status shows that 62.9 percent are married followed by never married (31.8 percent), widowed (4.6 percent), divorced (0.4 percent), and separated (0.3 percent).

4.2.2 Trends of Mean Age at Marriage in Bangladesh by Sex and Locality

Figure 4.4 shows that mean age at marriage for females have increased from 15.9 in 1974 to 19.4 in 2011. From, 1974 onwards it always showed an upward trend to 2001 (15.9 in 1974, 17.8 in 1981, 17.9 in 1991, 19.0 in 2001 and 19.4 in 2011). Mean age at marriage for female in urban areas is higher by 2.6 years from 1974 to 2011. Difference in mean age at marriage for rural and urban areas is 1.41 years in 2011 (19.0 for rural areas and 20.4 for urban areas).

Mean age at marriage for males remained around 24.0 to 25.2 from 1974 to 2011. It very slightly went down at 25.2 in 2011. Mean age at marriage remained higher for urban males in comparison to rural males from 1974 to 2011. However, higher mean age for urban males does not show any pattern in terms of having an increasing or decreasing trend. Rather, mean age at marriage for urban males increased by 1.83 year in 2011 (26.6 for urban and 24.7 for rural males).

Figure 4.4: Mean Age at Marriage by Sex and Locality, 1974-2011
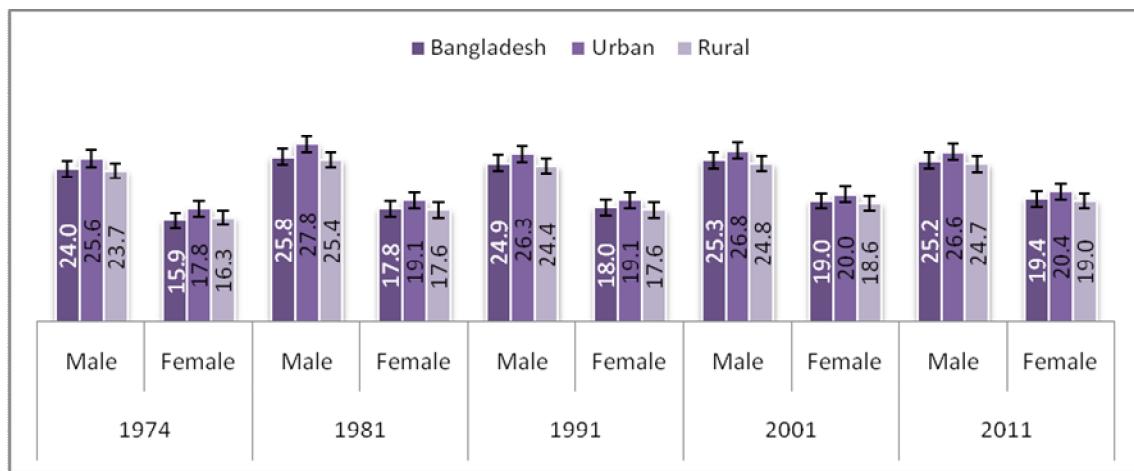
Sources: Population Censuses

4.2.2 Median Age at Marriage: Bangladesh and South Asian Perspective

The figure 4.5 shows the median age at first marriage among the males and females in South-Asian countries. It is observed from the figure that the Bangladeshi males who are currently aged between 25-54 years has the highest median age at marriage (24.2 years) followed by Pakistan (23.9 years) while Sri Lankan females has the highest median age at first marriage (23.3 years) followed by Pakistan (19.5 years). The Bangladeshi women who are currently aged between 25-49 years have the lowest median age at first marriage (15.5 years) among the South-Asian countries.

Figure 4.5: Median age at first marriage of male (25-54 years) and female (25-49 years) in South Asian countries
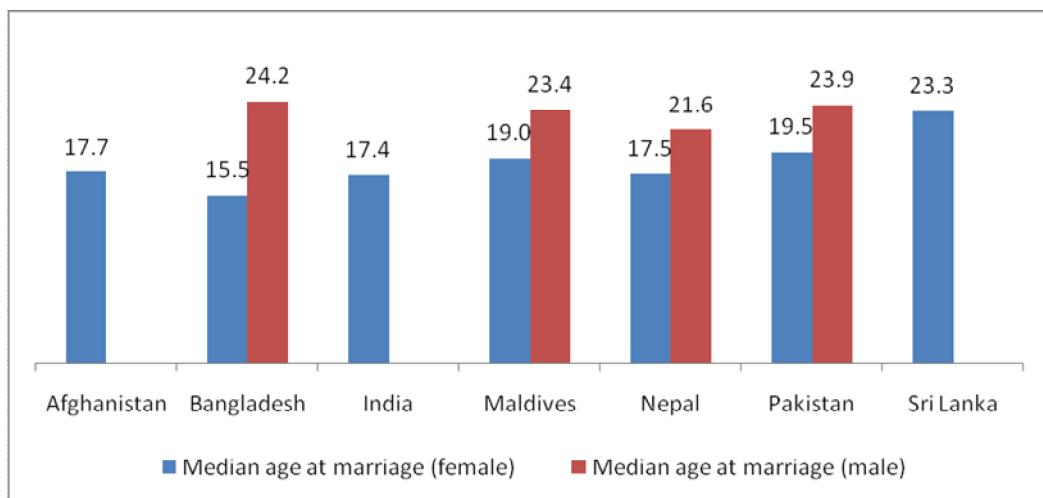
Sources: Afghanistan: 2010 AMS; Bangladesh: 2011 DHS; Bhutan: 2010 MICS; India: 2005-06 DHS; Maldives: 2009 DHS; Nepal: 2011 DHS; Pakistan: 2012-13 DHS; Sri Lanka: 2006-07 DHS

4.2.3 Singulate Mean Age at Marriage in Bangladesh by Sex

Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) for men has swayed during 1974 to 2011. However, the SMAM remained close to 24 and 25 years. For female there has been an increase by 3.5 years from 1974 to 2011. The figure 4.6 shows that SMAM went down to 17.9 years in 1991 from 15.9 years in 1974, which again increased to 19.4 years in 2011.

Figure 4.6: Singulate Mean Age at Marriage by Sex, 1974-2011
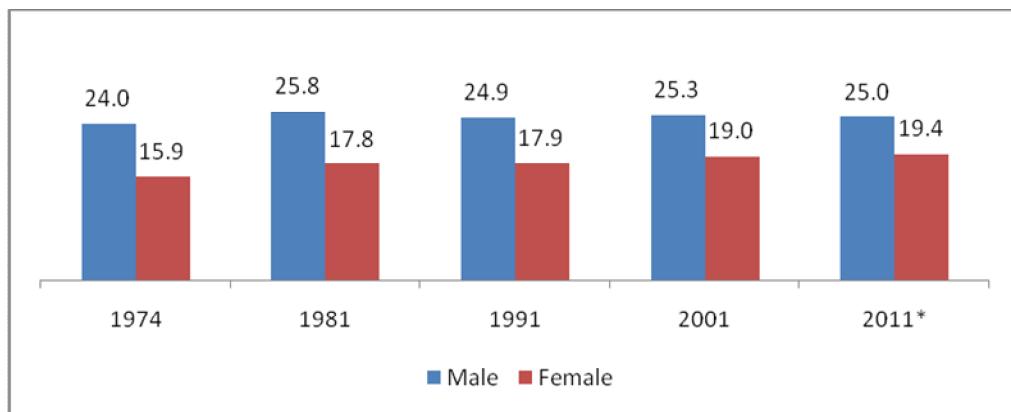
Source: Population Census; * Sample Census, Authors' calculation

4.2.4 Determinants of Age at First Marriage among Male and Female in Bangladesh

The study has used the data of sample census 2011 to examine the determinants of age at first marriage among male and female in Bangladesh. At bivariate level, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and t-test were performed to examine whether mean age at first marriage for both male and female differ significantly by different socio-economic characteristics.

Appendix table 3 shows that Sylhet division has the highest mean age at first marriage for both male (25.5 years) and female 19.2 years) followed by Chittagong division (24 years for male and 18 years for female). On the other hand, lowest mean age at first marriage for male is observed in the Rajshahi division (22.9 years). For female, it is the Khulna division (16.7 years), which has the lowest mean age at first marriage.

The mean age at first marriage for both male and female has been observed higher in: urban area (24.8 years for male and 17.9 years for female); non-slum (23.9 years for male and 17.5 years for female); non-Bengali population (23.9 years for male and 18.4 years for female); non-Muslim population (24.9 years for male and 18.2 years for female); who has higher than secondary education (25.8 years for male and 20.3 years for female); and those who belongs to the richest quintile (25.2 years for male and 18.1 years for female).

The mean age at first marriage among male is higher for those who are living in their own house (23.9 years) while for female it is higher for those who are living in rented house (18 years). On the other hand, mean age at first marriage for male is higher among those who were born before 1971 while for female the mean age at first marriage is higher among those who were born during 1971-1990.

At multivariate level, Cox Proportional Hazard Regression Model was used to identify the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female population. The findings are presented in the appendix table 4. The findings show that after adjusting the effect of respondents' employment, HH media exposure, wealth quintile, religion, ethnicity, dwelling status, place of residence and division, the hazard ratio of getting married for both male and female is lower among those who have education compared to those who have no education. Male who are educated have 6 percent lower risk of getting married compared to those who are not educated while educated female have 13 percent lower risk of getting married compared to non educated (figure 4.7).

Figure 4.7: Adjusted Hazard Ratio (HR) of Getting Married for Male and Female by Education
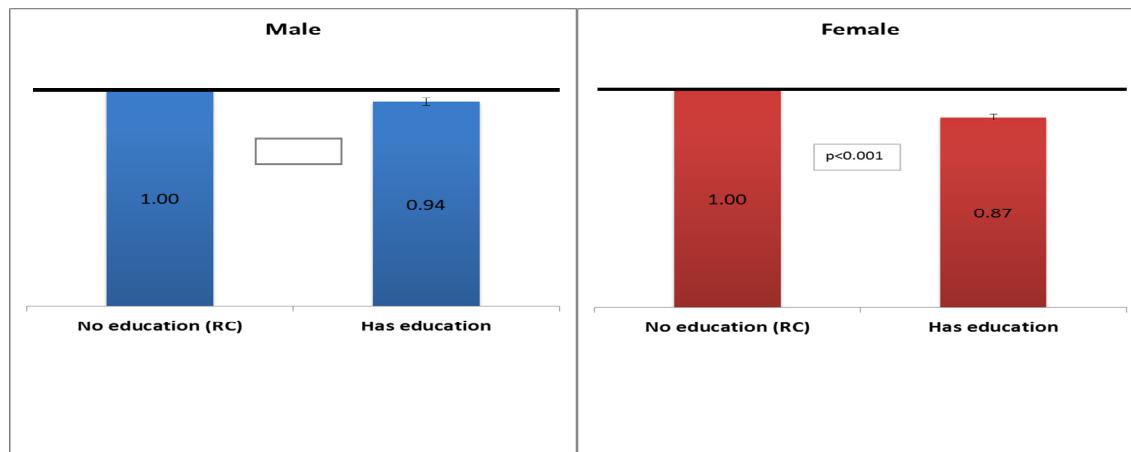
The figure 4.8 shows that after adjusting the effect of respondents' education, HH media exposure, wealth quintile, religion, ethnicity, dwelling status, place of residence and division, the hazard ratio of getting married for male is 23 percent higher among those who are employed compared to those who are not employed. However, female who are employed have 28 percent lower risk of getting married compared to those who are not employed (figure 4.8).

Figure 4.8: Adjusted Hazard Ratio (HR) of Getting Married for Male and Female by Employment Status
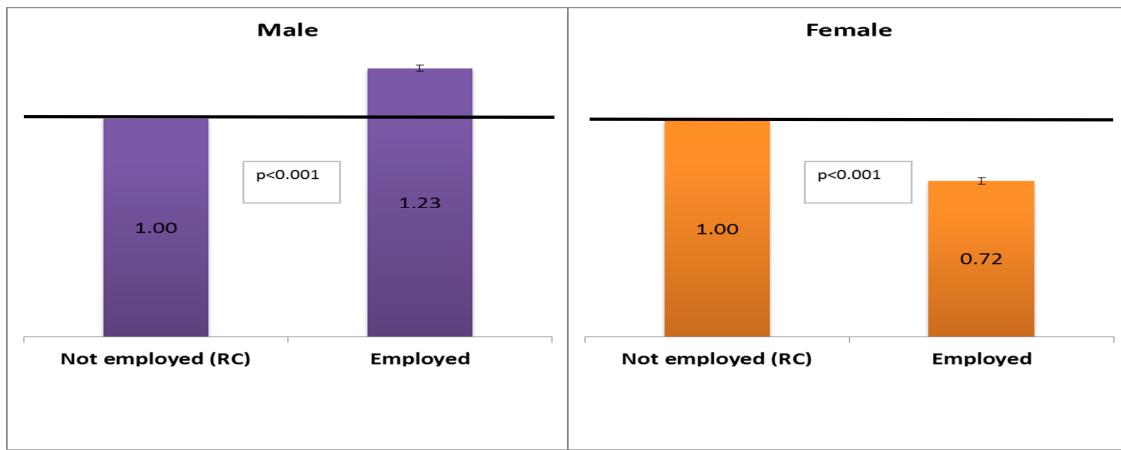
The figure 4.9 shows that after adjusting the effect of respondents' education, employment, HH media exposure, religion, ethnicity, dwelling status, place of residence and division, the hazard ratio of getting married for male is 37 percent lower among those who are in richest quintile compared to those who are in poorest quintile. On the other hand, the risk of getting married for women who belong to the richest quintile is 23 percent lower compared to those who belong to the poorest quintile.

Figure 4.9: Adjusted Hazard Ratio (HR) of Getting Married for Male and Female by Wealth Quintile
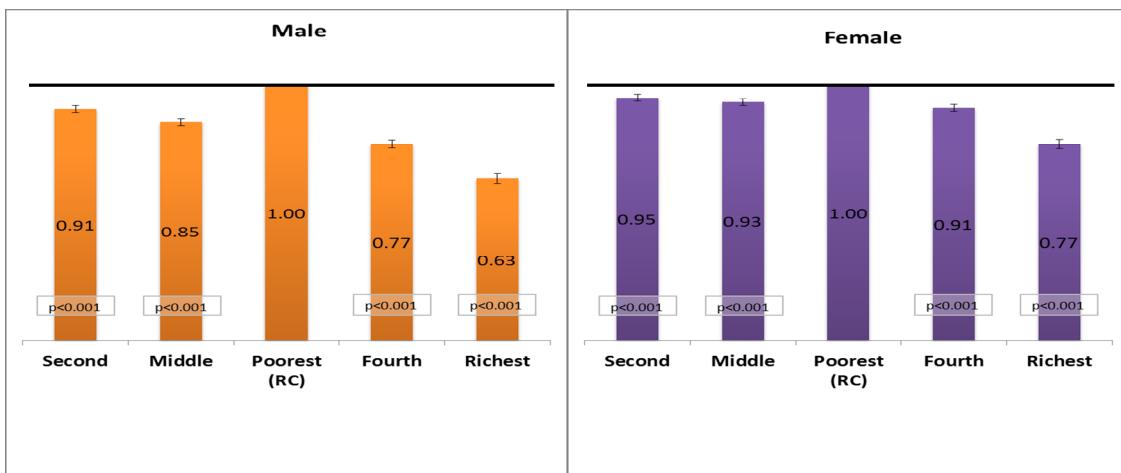
The figure 4.10 shows that after adjusting the effect of respondents' education, employment, HH media exposure, wealth quintile, religion, ethnicity, dwelling status, and division, the hazard ratio of getting married is higher for those who live in slum areas (11 percent for male and 16 percent for female) than those who live in non-slum areas.

Figure 4.10: Adjusted Hazard Ratio (HR) of Getting Married for Male and Female by Dwelling Status
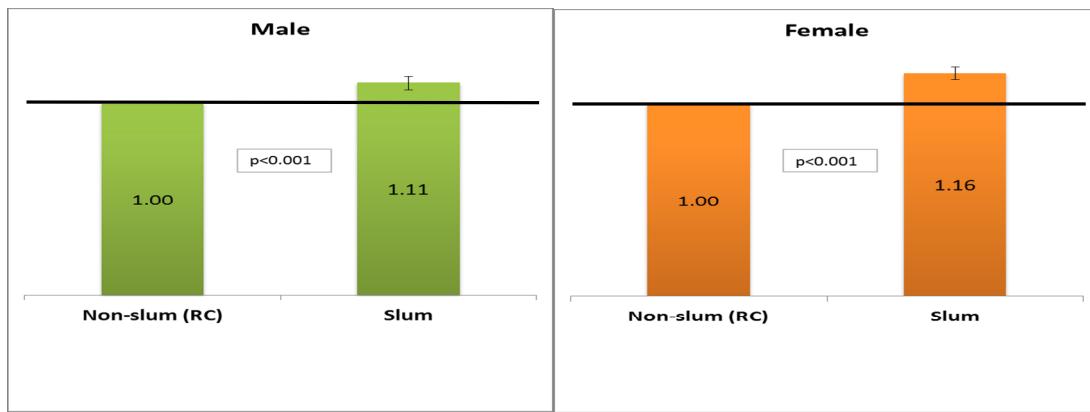
4.3 The Prevalence and Determinants of Child Marriage in Bangladesh

4.3.1 The Prevalence of Child Marriage in Bangladesh

The Maps 4.3 and 4.4 constructed on the basis of the sample census 2011, show the distribution of currently married female aged 15-19 years by districts in Bangladesh. The map (4.3) shows that Meherpur has the highest percentage (57.3 percent) of currently married female aged 15-19 years followed by Chapai Nawabganj (49.2 percent), Bogora (48.4 percent) and Tangail (47 percent). Sylhet has the lowest percentages (11.0 percent) of currently married female aged 15-19 years followed by Moulvibazar (11.9 percent), Habihanj (14.4 percent), Chittagong (15.3 percent) and Sunamganj (16.8 percent). It is clearly visible that the district located in the West-North part of Bangladesh has got lesser currently married adolescent girls aged 15-19 years. Same features are also observed in the map (4.4) constructed on the basis of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013. It shows that Moulvibazar (6.6 percent) has the lowest percentage of currently married adolescent girls aged 15-19 years followed by Sylhet (13.1 percent), Sunamganj (14.3 percent) and Ranagamati (14.9 percent). The map (4.4) shows that Joypurhat has the highest percentage (58.4 percent) currently married adolescent girls aged 15-19 years followed by Kurigram (55.3 percent), Natore (52.2 percent), and Nogaon (50.6 percent). From the map (4.4) it is observed that the district located in the North-East part of Bangladesh has got highest percentage of currently married adolescent girls aged 15-19.

The maps 4.5 and 4.6 constructed on the basis of the Sample Census Survey 2011 and the Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey 2012-2013 show the distribution of currently married female aged 20-49 years who got married by age 18 years by districts in Bangladesh. The map (4.5) shows that Moulvibazar has the highest (73.5 percent) percentage of women aged 20-49 who got married by aged 18 followed by Lakshipur (62.3 percent), Comilla (61.7 percent), and Jessore (60.7 percent). Rangamati has the lowest percentage (15.4 percent) of women aged 20-49 who got married by aged 18 followed by Joypurhat (18.6 percent), Munshiganj (19.1 percent), Sunamganj (20.2 percent), and Sylhet (20.2 percent). However, the map (4.6) shows that Khagrachhari has the highest percentage (83.5 percent) of women aged 20-49 who got married by aged 18 followed by Nilphamari (82.4 percent), Sirajganj

(82.2 percent), and Jamalpur (81.9 percent). It shows that Munshiganj has the lowest (29.1 percent) percentage of women aged 20-49 who got married by aged 18 followed by Magura (32.6 percent), Khulna (36.8 percent), and Chuadanga (38.7 percent).

Map-4.3

Currently Married Girls Aged 15-19 Years by Districts, Sample Census 2011

Legend

Currently Married Girls Aged 15-19 Years Range

- 11.02 - 18.59
- 18.59 - 26.33
- 26.33 - 34.50
- 34.50 - 42.02
- 42.02 - 57.31

Map-4.4

Currently Married Girls Aged 15-19 Years
by Districts, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013

Legend

Currently Married Girls Aged 15-19 Years Range

- 6.60 - 18.50
- 18.50 - 30.50
- 30.50 - 39.60
- 39.60 - 48.40
- 48.40 - 59.70

Map-4.5

Women Aged 20-49 Years Married before Age 18 by Districts, Sample Census 2011

Panchagarh

Thakurgaon
Nilphamari Lalmonirhat
Kurigram
Dinajpur
Rangpur
Gaibandha
Joypurhat
Sherpur
Naogaon
Sunamganj
Sylhet
Bogra
Jamalpur
Netrokona
Nawabganj
Mymensingh
Rajshahi
Maulvibazar
Natore
Sirajganj
Tangail
Kishoreganj
Habiganj
Pabna
Gazipur
Narsingdi
Kushtia
Manikganj
Brahmanbaria
Meherpur
Dhaka
Rajbari
Narayanganj
Chuadanga
Munshiganj
Comilla
Jhenaidaha
Faridpur
Magura
Shariatpur
Chandpur
Madaripur
Khagrachhari
Narail
Gopalganj
Feni
Rangamati
Jessore
Lakshmipur
Noakhali
Barisal
Khulna
Pirojpur
Jhalakati
Bhola
Satkhira
Bagerhat
Patuakhali
Chittagong
Barguna
Bandarban
Cox Bazar

Legend

Women Aged 20-49 Years Married before Age 18 Range

	15.35 - 25.71
	25.71 - 34.96
	34.96 - 44.80
	44.80 - 55.04
	55.04 - 73.50

N

0 25 50 100 150 200
Kilometers

Map-4.6

Women Aged 20-49 Years Married before Age 18 by Districts, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013

Panchagarh
Thakurgaon
Nilphamari Lalmonirhat
Kurigram
Dinajpur
Rangpur
Gaibandha
Joypurhat
Sherpur
Netrokona
Sunamganj
Sylhet
Naogaon
Bogra
Jamalpur
Nawabganj
Mymensingh
Maulvibazar
Rajshahi
Natore
Sirajganj
Tangail
Kishoreganj
Habiganj
Pabna
Gazipur
Narsingdi
Kushtia
Manikganj
Brahmanbaria
Meherpur
Dhaka
Rajbari
Narayanganj
Chuadanga
Munshiganj
Comilla
Jhenaidaha
Faridpur
Magura
Shariatpur
Chandpur
Khagrachhari
Narail
Madaripur
Gopalganj
Feni
Rangamati
Jessore
Lakshmipur
Barisal
Noakhali
Khulna
Pirojpur
Jhalakati
Bhola
Chittagong
Bagerhat
Satkhira
Patuakhali
Bandarban
Barguna
Cox Bazar

Legend

Women Aged 20-49 Years Married before Age 18 Range

- 29.10 - 48.40
- 48.40 - 61.60
- 61.60 - 70.60
- 70.60 - 77.10
- 77.10 - 83.50

N

0   25   50   100   150   200
Kilometers

4.3.1 Comparison of Child Marriage in Bangladesh and Other Countries

4.3.1.1 Child Marriage in South Asian Countries

A comparative picture of the prevalence of child marriage (women who married below 18 years) of Bangladesh with South Asian countries is shown below (Figure 4.11). The figure shows that Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage (64.9 per cent) among the south-Asian countries followed by India (44.5 per cent), Nepal (40.7 per cent) and Afghanistan (39.2 per cent). The lowest rate of child marriage among the south-Asian country is observed in Maldives (3.9 per cent).

Figure 4.11: Child Marriage Rate in South Asian Countries
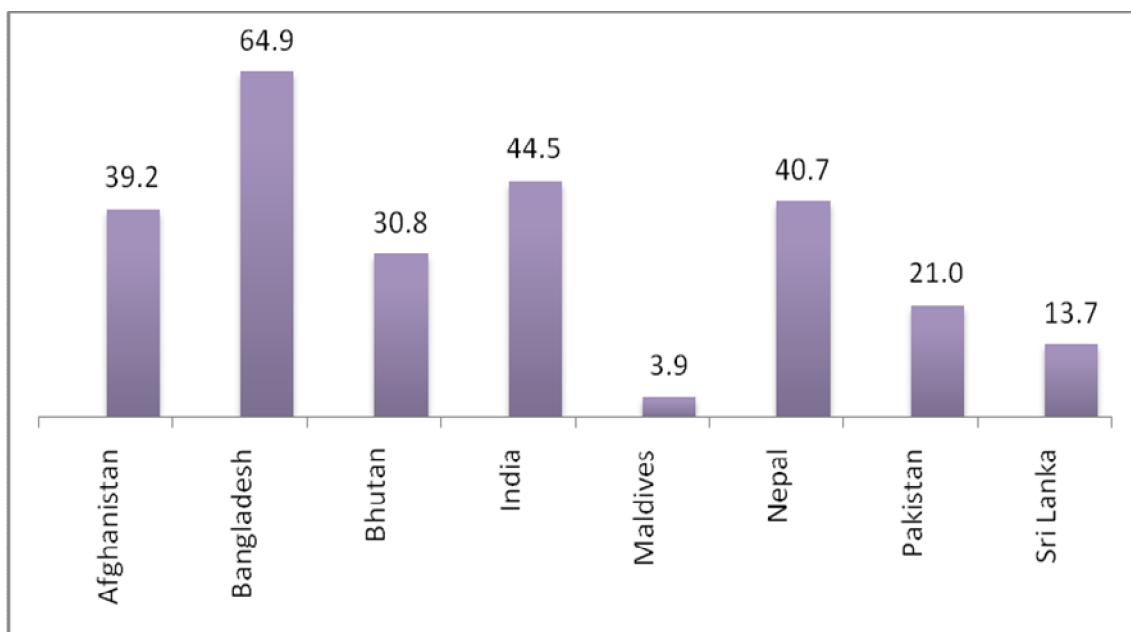
Sources: Afghanistan: 2010 AMS; Bangladesh: 2011 DHS; Bhutan: 2010 MICS; India: 2005-06 DHS; Maldives: 2009 DHS; Nepal: 2011 DHS; Pakistan: 2012-13 DHS; Sri Lanka: 2006-07 DHS

4.3.1.2 Child Marriage across the World

The figure 4.12 shows the prevalence of child marriage (women who got married before 18 years) among women aged 20-24 years in top ten countries across the world. It is observed from the figure that Bangladesh (64.9 per cent) is ranked as third in terms of the prevalence of child marriage in the world where Niger (76.3 per cent) and Chad (71.5 per cent) are ranked as first and second respectively.

Figure 4.12: Top Ten Countries with Child Marriage across the World

Country	Percent
Niger	76.3
Chad	72.0
Bangladesh	64.9
Mali	59.6
Central African Republic	57.0
Guinea	51.7
Burkina Faso	51.6
Malawi	49.6
Madagascar	48.2
Mozambique	48.2
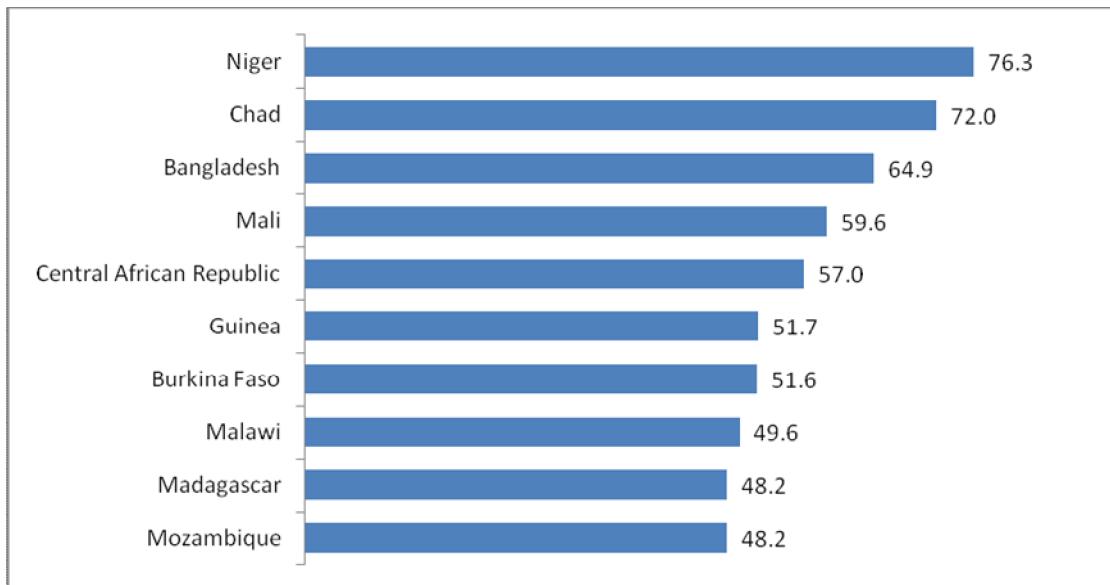
Sources: Bangladesh: 2011 DHS; Burkina Faso: 2010 DHS; Chad: 2004 DHS; Central African Republic: 1995-96 DHS; Guinea: 2012 DHS; Madagascar: 2008-09 DHS; Mali: 2012-13 DHS; Malawi: 2010 DHS; Niger: 2012 DHS; Mozambique: 2011 DHS

4.3.2 Determinants of Child Marriage in Bangladesh

To examine the determinants of child marriage (women married below 18 years), we used the data of Sample Census 2011. Both bivariate and multivariate analyses were performed to identify variations of child marriage by different socio-economic and demographic characteristics for women aged 10 years and above.

Appendix table 5 shows that although the legal age of marriage in Bangladesh is 18 years, but a significant proportion of marriage (almost half of all marriages) still take place before the legal age. The highest proportion child marriage was observed in Khulna (62.1 percent) but the lowest in Sylhet (24.4 percent). The highest proportion of child marriage occurring among girls less than 14 years was also observed in Khulna. It is the highest in Rangpur for the age group of 15-17 years.

In general, almost half of the women had child marriage both in urban and rural areas. But it was higher in rural areas than urban areas for aged 15-17 years. Child marriage occurred more in urban (14.6 percent) than rural (13.7 percent) areas for girls less than 14 years of age. On the contrary, child marriage occurs more in rural (36.3 percent) than urban areas (33.7 percent) for girls aged 15-17 years. Child marriage varied by slum (49.6 percent) and non-slum (56.4 percent) areas for those who were married by 17 years. Child marriage occurring below 14 years is also higher in non-slum (17 percent) than slum (13.8 percent) women.

Child marriage is more common among: Bengali women (50 percent) than other ethnic women (35.8 percent), living in rent-free tenancy (63.5 percent) than rented tenancy (46.8 percent), Muslim population (51.4 percent) than non-Muslim population (32 percent), women who have had completed secondary and higher education (27.5 percent) than women with no education (52.4 percent), households belonging to the poorest wealth (51.4 percent) than belonging to the richest wealth quintile (45.3 percent).

Child marriage has also varied by current age of the women and birth cohort. 71.7 percent of the women currently aged 15-19 years were married by 17 years whereas the proportion was 45.7 percent for those who are aged 20-24 years. Among women aged 45 and over, 20 percent were married by aged below 14 years. Prevalence of child marriage who got married by 17 years is higher (72.8 percent) in the birth cohort of , '1991 and after' followed by 'before 1971' (52.9 percent) and ' 1971-1990' (45.3 percent). Almost one-fifth (18.2 percent) women of the birth cohort 'before 1971' got married by 14 years and it was the highest among other birth cohorts.

At multivariate level, logistic regression model was used to identify the differential determinants of child marriage. In this regard, Appendix table 6 shows the relative contribution of the socioeconomic characteristics to child marriage. While all the characteristics examined are strong contributors to child marriage slum dwelling status, being Muslim, rural residency and media exposure stands out the strongest among all others. (OR=1.52, 1.38, 1.06 and 1.03, respectively). In terms of administrative regions Khulna is the greatest contributor to child marriage (OR= 1.67).

Figure 4.13: Adjusted Odds Ratio (OR) of Child Marriage for Female by Education
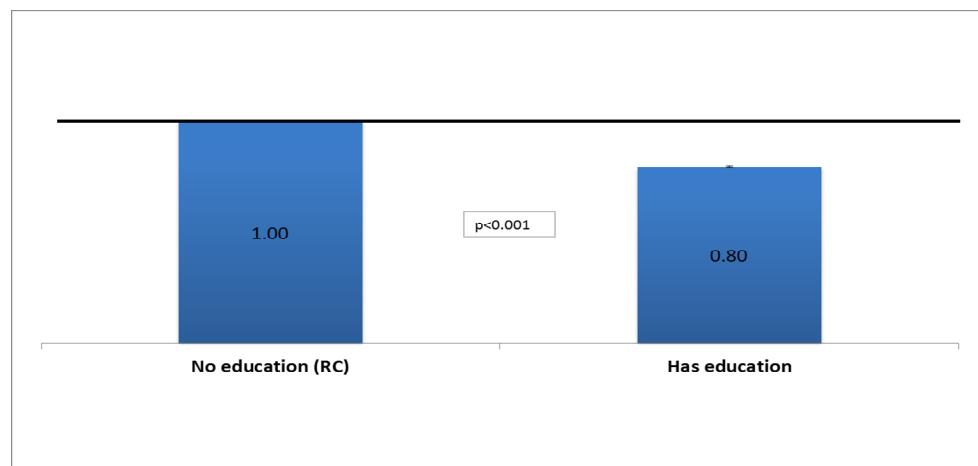
Findings show that if women are educated and employed, they are less likely to be married before age 18 years. But women living in urban areas are more likely to be married as children compared to women residing in urban areas (OR= 1.06 vs. 1.00). The OR for urban

is the main effect. The interaction analysis shows that urban rich are 21 percent less likely to get married as children than the rural poorest.

4.4 The Prevalence and Determinants of Remarriage in Bangladesh

Appendix table 7 shows that remarriage is prevalent among small portion of population (4.1 percent). It is the highest in Khulna (5.7 percent) and the lowest in Chittagong (2.6 percent) division. Rural women are slightly more likely to be married more than once (4.3 percent) than the urban (3.5 percent). However, remarriage is more prevalent among population living in slum areas (6.6 percent) than population in non-slum areas (4.1 percent), population living in rent free tenancy (6.7 percent) than population living in rented houses (3.4 percent). Remarriage is more prevalent among: men (6.6 percent) than in women (2.1 percent), Bengali population (4.1 percent) than in other ethnic population (2.8 percent), Muslim population (4.4 percent) than in non-Muslim population (1.8 percent), population with no education (4.6 percent) than population with higher secondary education (3.9 percent), and population in the poorest wealth quintile (5.9 percent) than population in the richest wealth quintile (2.4 percent).

Prevalence of remarriage is also varied by current age and birth cohort of the respondents. It is highest (6.9 percent) in the age group of 45 years and above where as the lowest (0.2 percent) is observed in 10-14 years age group. Within each birth cohort, the proportion of respondents married more than once is the highest (6.3 percent) in the birth cohort of 'before 1971' while it is the lowest (0.6 percent) in the birth cohort of '1991 onward'.

At multivariate level Appendix table 8 shows the relative contribution of the socioeconomic characteristics to remarriage by sex. All 10 characteristics examined are strong contributors

to remarriage although Muslim religion (2.52), slum dwelling status (2.05), Being employed (1.26), media exposure (1.12) and urban residence (1.17) stands out the strongest. It should be noticed that multiple effects might have had on urban residence due to employment, modernization, slum dwelling and education. Women belonging to the richest wealth quintile are less likely to be married than to those belonging to other wealth quintiles.

Figure 4.15: Adjusted Odds Ratio (OR) of Remarriage for Male and Female by Wealth Quintile
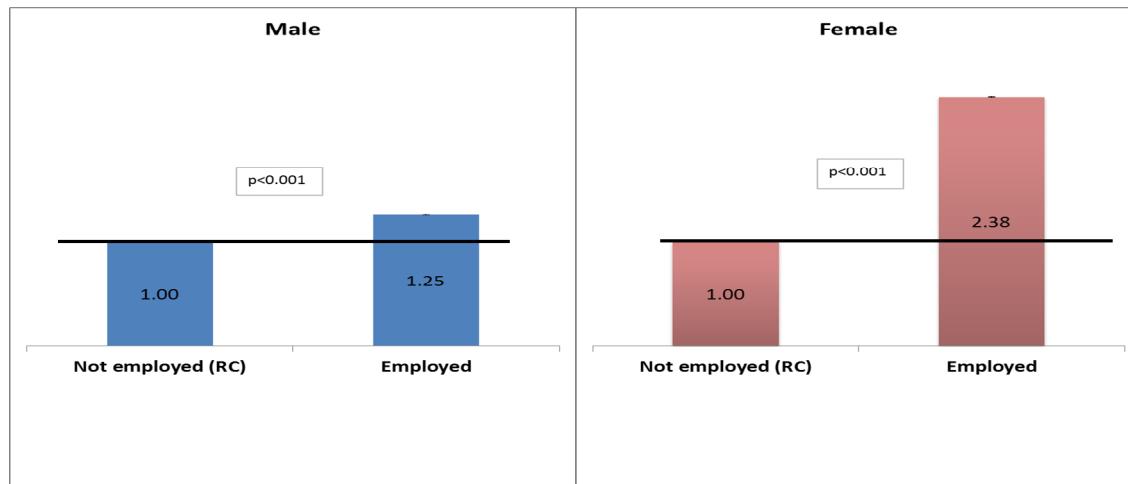
Similar findings were observed for men in the richest wealth quintile. Among the administrative divisions, Khulna (OR= 1.54) is the strongest contributor to remarriage followed by Rajshahi (OR= 1.28) and Rangpur (1.08).

Figure 4.16: Adjusted Odds Ratio (OR) of Remarriage for Male and Female by Employment Status
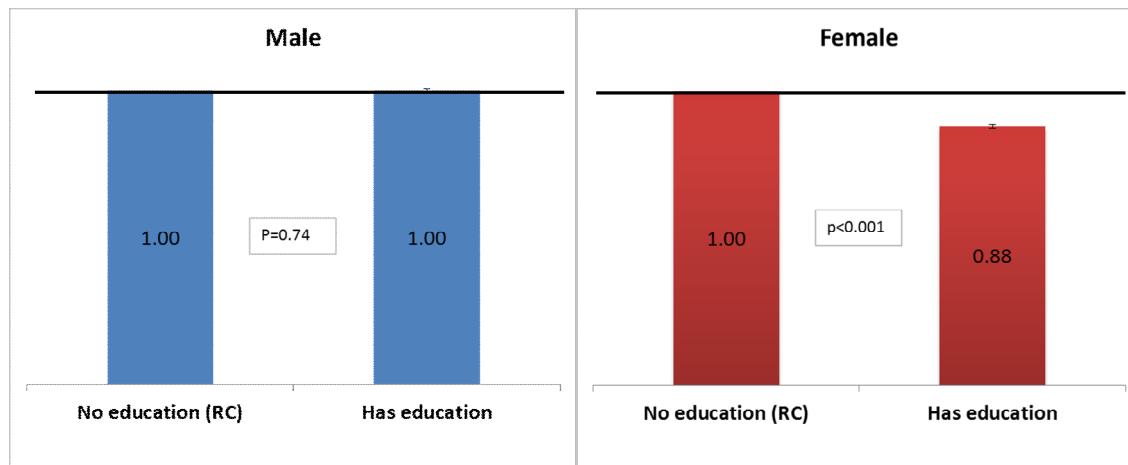
It has been noticed that employed women are more likely to be remarried. This might be due to definitional problem of the concept of employment in the census. In the census

questionnaire, one hour of paid work per week is considered as work. Women with higher education are less likely (22 percent) to be remarried.

Figure 4.17: Adjusted Odds Ratio (OR) of Remarriage for Male and Female by Education
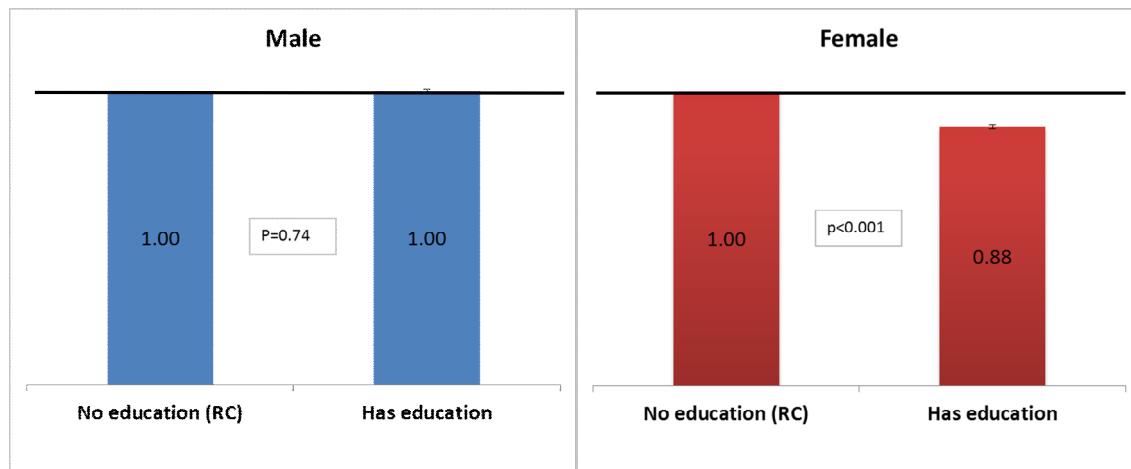
5. DISSCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATION

5.1 Discussion and Conclusion

This research monograph aimed at the following objectives: (1) examining the trends of marriage pattern over the censuses; (2) identifying the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female; (3) examining the prevalence and determinants of child marriage; and (4) identifying the determinants of remarriage among males and females in Bangladesh. The study has used the census data collected in different years to examine the trends and patterns of marriage. It has used the data of Sample Census 2011 to identify the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female, determinants of child marriage and remarriage.

Globally marriage is on decline and in almost all of the countries this trend is more prevalent among women with more education (Cohen, 2013). Postponement of marriage is more marked in developed countries than in developing countries (UNICEF, 2014). The rate of marriage is on decline in South Asia as well. Proportion of currently married female is the highest in Bangladesh among the South Asian countries (Afghanistan: 2010 AMS; Bangladesh: 2011 DHS; Bhutan: 2010 MICS; India: 2005-06 DHS; Maldives: 2009 DHS; Nepal: 2011 DHS; Pakistan: 2012-13 DHS; Sri Lanka: 2006-07 DHS). Distribution of currently married female by districts shows that Meherpur has the highest percentage of currently married female and Sylhet has the lowest percentage of currently married female. However, despite having the highest proportion of currently married women trend analysis of marital status by sex in Bangladesh shows that proportion of never married female in Bangladesh has substantially increased over the period. It has increased from only one tenth in 1961 to more than forty percent in 2011. The highest increase in never married female has occurred among females belonging to age groups 10-14 and 15-19 years. This increase in never married female has been followed by a gradual decrease in currently married female from more than two third in 1961 to a little over half in 2011. The highest decline in currently married female has occurred for female belonging to age group 10-14 years. These trends mark a slow but steady change in age at first marriage for girls from early teens towards late teens. BDHS 2011 shows similar findings. The proportion of women who have never married immensely affects fertility levels in a society like Bangladesh, where childbearing outside marriage is uncommon.

Decrease in currently married women and increase in widowed women in Bangladesh concurrently occurs among women aging 45-49 years. BDHS 2011 also shows similar findings for the women of this age group. While this is partly natural, partly it results from the socio-cultural norm that does not encourage remarriage for widows and divorced women (ADB, 2011).

Percentage of never married male has also gradually increased from around one third in Bangladesh from 1961 to more than half in 2011. Highest increase in never married male has occurred among men belonging to age group 20-24 years. This increase in never married male has been followed by 16.6 percent decline in currently male from 1961 to 2011. Thus, findings show that proportion of never married female in Bangladesh has increased at an accelerated rate than that of male. Distribution of currently married male by districts shows that Gazipur has the highest percentage of currently married male and Sylhet has the lowest percentage of currently married male.

There has been an overall decline in the prevalence of widowed, divorced and separated women for all age groups in Bangladesh from nearly one fifth percent in 1961 (18.8%) to less than one tenth in 2011 (7.5%). It has already been mentioned that increase in widowhood and decrease in currently married women occurs concomitantly among women aging 45-49 years. Prevalence of widower, divorced and separated men has always been low in Bangladesh. Distribution of marital status by wealth quintile shows that divorce and separation is higher among the poorest category. Nearly 30 percent of the divorced people are from the poorest category and a little less than one fourth of separated people are from the poorest category. Since there has not been enough study on widowed, divorced and separated men and women in Bangladesh there is little scope for comparing this finding with other studies. However, some small scale studies show that vulnerable women in Bangladesh are mostly consisted of divorced, abandoned or widowed (Momen, Bhuiya and Chowdhury, 1995).

The study findings regarding divorce and separation in Bangladesh are not in line with the scenario existent in the developed countries. Literature on developed world shows that modernization and urbanization promote impersonalization of social interaction, weakens the stigma of divorce, and in turn increases divorce (Esser, 1993; Breault and Kposowa, 1987). The development of urban and industrial economy and improved educational and employment opportunities for women have also been identified as contributing factor to the rising levels of divorce in western societies (South & Spitze, 1986). Remarriage after divorce is common also common in developed countries (UNICEF, 2014). The consequences of divorce, separation and widowhood largely differ across societies based on the cultural, social and institutional arrangements (Jones, 1997).

While literature shows that divorce, separation and widowhood is stressful for both men and women they make women more vulnerable socially and economically than men particularly in developing countries like Bangladesh. It has already been mentioned small scale studies show that vulnerable women in Bangladesh are mostly consisted of divorced, abandoned or widowed (Momen, Bhuiya and Chowdhury, 1995). Female-headed households in Bangladesh are mostly prevalent among divorced, abandoned or widowed women because of existence of highly patriarchal family system. There has been an increase in female headed-households as

reported by a study from 7.4% in 2004 to 9.9% in 2009 (Rahman, Matsui and Ikemoto, 2013). These female headed-households are again disproportionately higher among chronically poor households (Rahman, Matsui and Ikemoto, 2013).

The second objective of this research monograph has been to examine the determinants of age at first marriage for male and female. In Bangladesh the average age at marriage had risen substantially over what it was a few decades earlier (East West Center, 2002). This study shows that among South Asian countries, the average median age at marriage for men is the highest for Bangladeshi males who are currently aged between 25-54 years, whereas it is the lowest for women who are currently aged between 25-49 years. The difference in mean age at marriage for rural and urban areas has declined and it is only half a year higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

The study shows that the mean age at first marriage in Bangladesh for both male and female differ significantly by different socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The mean age at first marriage for both male and female has been higher in: urban area; non-slum area; non-Bengali population; non-Muslim population; population with higher than secondary education; and population belonging to the richest quintile. The mean age at first marriage among male is higher for those who are living in their own house while for female it is higher for those who are living in the rented house. Multivariate analysis shows that age at first marriage for male and female is lower among those who have education compared to those who have no education. Male who are educated have lower risk of getting married compared to those who are not educated while educated female have lower risk of getting married compared to non educated women.

The third objective of this study has been to examine the prevalence and determinants of child marriage. Although the legal age of marriage in Bangladesh is 18 years, the study shows that almost half of all marriages take place before the legal age. The BDHS 2011 also confirmed that more than two-thirds of the Bangladeshi women currently aged between 20-24 years are married although the rate of child marriage is declining (NIPORT et al, 2013). Despite declining rates of marriages of girls at young ages, this practice is far from disappearing in Bangladesh. In South Asia the highest prevalence of child marriage exists in Bangladesh. The country ranks the second position in terms of prevalence of child marriage in the world (UNICEF, 2014). However, adolescent marriage is as rare among males in Bangladesh as it is across the world (UNICEF, 2014).

The study also shows that there are variations in terms of the age at first marriage among different districts of Bangladesh. A recent report of the UNICEF shows, despite differences in the occurrences of child marriage in each region, child marriage clearly persists in all regions as a common practice (UNICEF, 2014). In Bangladesh, child marriages have been lesser among currently married women in the districts located in the West-Northern part.

These findings are also evident in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013 (MICS, 2011-2012).

The study has examined the effects of socioeconomic characteristics on child marriage. It found that slum dwelling status, Muslim religion, rural residence and media exposure stands out as the strongest contributors to child marriage. In terms of administrative regions Khulna is the strongest contributor to child marriage. Educated and employed women are less likely to be married before age 18 years. Women who are urban-rich are less likely to be get married as children than rural-poorest. Quantitative studies on child marriage in Bangladesh are mostly based on Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (BDHS). The country has to restrict its child marriage for its far reaching social, economic, and demographic implications for the girls who marry before 18 years of age. Studies suggest that a number of socioeconomic factors (e.g., lower education, unemployment, poverty, social insecurity, and social pressure) are associated with child marriage. Again these socioeconomic factors compound the vulnerability of child brides, which hamper higher individual educational attainment, employment opportunities and improved wealth condition as well as better health outcomes (Islam et al, 2015, Jensen and Thronton, 2003; Kamal, Hassan, Alam and Ying, 2014, Islam and Gagnon, 2014).

The fourth objective of this study has been to identify the determinant of remarriage among males and females in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, majority population irrespective of sex are married once. However, remarriage is more prevalent among those who live in rural areas slum areas and in rent free tenancy. It is more among Bengali ethnic people, Muslim population and male population. It is also more prevalent among those who have no education, are in the poorest wealth quintile and in the age group of 45 years and above. The study found that Muslim religion, slum dwelling status, employed, media exposure and urban residence stands out as the major determinants of remarriage. Multiple effects might have had on urban residence due to employment, modernization, slum dwelling and education. It has been found that women who are in the richest quintile are less likely to be married than those who are in the poorest and other quintiles, the same is the findings for males who remarry. Employed women are found to be more likely to remarry. This finding should be considered cautiously because it could be due to definitional problem of employment in the census where one hour of paid work per week – has been considered as work. Women with higher education are found to be less likely to be re-married. This finding complements recent findings on remarriage across the countries which show better education and employment to be inversely associated with remarriage and marital dissolution (Isen and Stevenson, 2012; Kreager and et al, 2013; Martin, 2006). However, in developed countries remarriage after divorce is common (UNICEF, 2014). Detailed studies on the issue of remarriage, marital dissolution and the vulnerabilities arising from these are needed in Bangladesh.

The following limitations should be kept in our mind before using the findings of this monograph:

1. This study has not been able to show a comparative trend or picture using all the censuses due to non-availability of raw data from the previous censuses. However, the study have showed the trends of marital status by sex, mean age at marriage by sex, and singulate mean age at marriage;

2. Although marriage is one of the very important modes of family formations, there are others modes of family formation as well. This study focused only on marriage due to non-availability of any other indicator on family formation in the census questionnaire;

3. Due to absence of data on tribal population in census the study could not move further to analyze the trends and patterns of the marriage among tribal population;

4. This study does not have a qualitative component and therefore, did not aim to give in-depth analysis of the changes in the incidence of marriage; and

5. This study is mainly based on the Sample Census 2011 which did not use any question to assess the causes as well as consequences of child marriage, remarriage etc.

5.2 Policy Recommendations

More strategic targeting and responsive social policies should be implemented with a stronger orientation towards the differential marital status of the population in Bangladesh. Some of the recommendations provided here based on the findings of this study are:

- Addressing poverty is vital for increasing the age at marriage. Targeted interventions are needed for poorer girls and their parents for empowering them economically particularly where age at marriage is low.
- Government should continue the existing emphasis on education for girls and women.
- Interventions are required to give especial protection to poorer girls for enabling them to continue education and facilitate their participation in formal employment.

As the purpose of sample census is not to provide in-depth information on any specific issue rather it only describes situation of selected variables, detailed studies on marriage are needed, particularly focusing on issue of child marriage and remarriage to explore marriage related vulnerabilities of girls, men and women. Further, quantitative studies on child marriage in Bangladesh are mostly based on Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (BDHS) and therefore, they are limited to the variables available in those data sets.

Table-1: Trends of Marital Status by Sex in Bangladesh, 1961-2011

Age Groups	1961			1974			1981			1991			2001			2011*		
	NM	CM	WDS	NM	CM	WDS	NM	CM	WDS	NM	CM	WDS	NM	CM	WDS	NM	CM	WDS
Male																		
Total	**33.5**	**63.0**	**3.5**	**43.3**	**53.9**	**2.8**	**42.8**	**55.9**	**1.3**	**42.1**	**57.2**	**0.7**	**43.6**	**55.8**	**0.6**	**52.9**	**46.4**	**0.8**
10-14	97.8	2.2	0.1	99.3	0.7	0.0	99.0	1.0	0.0	99.5	0.5	0.0	98.8	1.2	0.0	99.9	0.1	0.0
15-19	87.7	12.0	0.3	92.3	7.5	0.2	93.3	6.6	0.1	95.0	4.9	0.1	96.0	3.9	0.1	96.4	3.5	0.2
20-24	49.7	48.8	1.5	60.1	39.1	0.8	59.7	39.9	0.4	68.4	31.4	0.2	69.3	30.5	0.2	69.1	30.5	0.3
25-29	17.3	80.4	2.3	22.4	76.3	1.2	21.2	78.3	0.5	26.4	73.3	0.3	31.7	68.0	0.3	27.7	71.8	0.5
30-34	5.3	92.1	2.6	5.7	93.0	1.3	6.3	93.1	0.6	7.2	92.5	0.2	11.6	88.1	0.3	8.0	91.6	0.4
35-39	2.6	94.7	2.7	2.2	96.6	1.2	2.3	97.0	0.7	2.1	97.6	0.3	4.4	95.3	0.3	2.9	96.5	0.6
40-44	1.1	95.1	3.8	1.5	96.8	1.7	1.9	97.1	1.0	1.1	98.4	0.5	2.9	96.6	0.4	1.8	97.5	0.7
45-49	0.8	94.3	4.9	1.1	96.8	2.1	1.2	97.5	1.3	0.6	98.7	0.7	2.1	97.4	0.5	1.3	98.0	0.7
50-54	0.7	92.9	6.4	1.0	95.8	3.2	1.7	96.3	2.0	0.7	98.1	1.2	2.7	96.3	1.0	1.4	97.4	1.2
55-59	0.6	91.9	7.5	0.8	95.4	3.8	1.2	96.2	2.6	0.4	98.0	1.6	2.4	96.3	1.3	1.0	97.6	1.5
60+	0.4	84.5	15.1	0.8	90.2	9.0	0.7	90.7	8.6	0.6	95.1	4.3	4.0	92.1	3.9	1.3	93.0	5.7
Female																		
Total	**10.5**	**70.7**	**18.8**	**24.4**	**61.2**	**14.4**	**23.7**	**63.4**	**12.9**	**25.2**	**64.8**	**10.0**	**28.7**	**63.3**	**8.0**	**41.6**	**51.0**	**7.5**
10-14	67.4	31.8	0.8	90.5	8.8	0.7	98.0	70.0	0.0	96.8	3.0	0.2	96.4	3.2	0.4	99.7	0.3	0.0
15-19	8.3	89.4	2.3	24.5	71.8	3.7	31.3	65.4	3.3	48.7	49.6	1.7	62.5	36.4	1.1	68.5	30.7	0.9
20-24	1.3	95.6	3.1	3.2	92.9	3.9	5.1	90.9	4.0	10.5	86.6	2.9	16.9	81.2	1.9	16.9	81.2	1.9
25-29	0.5	94.7	4.8	0.9	95.2	3.9	1.3	94.4	4.3	2.4	94.0	3.6	6.1	91.3	2.5	3.9	93.9	2.2
30-34	0.4	91	8.6	0.6	93.4	6.0	1.0	92.9	6.1	1.1	93.8	5.1	3.4	92.5	4.1	1.3	95.4	3.3
35-39	0.2	84.7	15.1	0.4	89.8	9.8	0.4	89.8	9.6	0.6	92.1	7.3	2.2	91.8	6.0	0.8	94.1	5.0
40-44	0.1	71.5	28.3	0.5	81.4	18.1	0.7	81.9	17.4	0.6	86.9	12.5	2.2	87.2	10.5	0.5	90.0	9.5
45-49	0.1	16.3	38.6	0.3	75.1	24.6	0.3	74.5	25.2	0.4	81.7	17.9	2.0	83.9	14.1	0.6	87.0	12.5
50-54	0.1	45.2	54.7	0.3	60.3	39.4	1.4	62.3	36.3	0.5	70.6	28.9	2.8	75.5	21.1	0.8	77.5	21.7
55-59	0.1	37.5	62.4	0.4	52.9	46.7	0.7	54.4	44.9	0.4	64.3	35.2	2.8	72.1	25.1	0.6	74.3	25.1
60+	0.1	17.4	82.5	0.4	27.3	72.3	0.5	32.9	66.6	0.8	42.9	56.3	5.6	47.9	46.5	1.3	46.6	52.1

* Sample Census, 2011; NM: Never Married; CM: Currently Married; WDS: Widowed, Divorced, Separated

Table 2: Sample characteristics of the respondents

Division	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Percentage (%)
Barisal	6631696	6.2
Chittagong	20432124	19.0
Dhaka	35256885	32.7
Khulna	12385063	11.5
Rajshahi	14340942	13.3
Rangpur	11976579	11.1
Sylhet	6702126	6.2
Place of residence		
Rural	86346109	80.2
Urban	21379306	19.8
Dwelling status		
Slum	1718691	1.6
Non-slum[1]	106006724	98.4
Ethnicity		
Bengali	105367749	97.8
Others	2357667	2.2
Tenancy		
Owned	88959462	82.6
Rented	12793165	11.9
Rent Free	5972788	5.5
Age (in years)		
<15	16019423	14.9
15-19	12712478	11.8
20-24	12075641	11.2
25-29	12703367	11.8
30-34	9851897	9.1
35-39	9666804	9.0
40-44	7968811	7.4
45+	26726994	24.8
Sex		
Male	45233308	49.3
Female	46472684	50.7
Religion		
Muslim	96501087	89.6
Non-Muslim	11224328	10.4
Educational attainment		
No education	6670362	6.2
Primary	40694932	37.8
Secondary	55281690	51.3
Higher than secondary	5078430	4.7
Marital Status		
Never Married	34224041	31.8
Married	67768032	62.9
Widowed	4975382	4.6
Divorced	382055	.4
Separated	375905	.3
Birth cohort		
Before 1971	34695805	32.2
1971-90	44297709	41.1
1991 onward	28731901	26.7
Employment		
Not employed	66730410	61.9
Employed	40995005	38.1
Household media Exposure		
Don't have exposure	49372057	45.8
Have exposure	58353358	54.2
Wealth quintile		
Poorest	20443143	19.0
Second	20765689	19.3

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[1] Non-slum includes both urban and rural area

Middle	21922525	20.4
Appendix table 2: Cont'd		
Fourth	22116901	20.5
Richest	22477157	20.9
Literacy		
Cannot Read and Write	39356841	36.5
Can Read Only	6095634	5.7
Can Read and Write	62272940	57.8
Total	**107725415**	**100.0**

Source: Sample Census 2011, Bangladesh

Table 3: Average Age at first marriage of male and female respondents by background characteristics, Sample Census 2011

	Male			Female		
	Age at first marriage			Age at first marriage		
Division	Mean	Median	No. of respondents	Mean	Median	No of respondents
Barisal	24.0	24.0	2019504	17.7	18.0	2465109
Chittagong	24.5	24.0	5472441	18.0	18.0	7337909
Dhaka	24.2	24.0	10891137	17.6	17.0	13384517
Khulna	23.6	23.0	3984607	16.7	16.0	4877250
Rajshahi	22.9	22.0	4742077	17.0	17.0	5649937
Rangpur	23.3	23.0	3901682	17.2	17.0	4678897
Sylhet	25.5	25.0	1758949	19.2	19.0	2337357
Place of residence						
Rural	23.7	23.0	26318212	17.4	17.0	32895584
Urban	24.8	25.0	6452186	17.9	18.0	7835393
Dwelling status						
Slum	23.6	23.0	537049	17.2	17.0	653799
Non-slum	23.9	24.0	32233350	17.5	18.0	40077177
Ethnicity						
Bengali	23.9	24.0	32042114	17.5	17.0	39866969
Others	23.9	23.0	728284	18.4	18.0	864007
Tenancy						
Owned	23.9	23.0	26740229	17.5	18.0	33521813
Rented	24.7	25.0	4087653	18.0	18.0	4755955
Rent Free	23.1	23.0	1942516	17.1	17.0	2453208
Age						
10-14	11.8	12.0	34796	12.4	13.0	77579
15-19	16.9	17.0	240908	16.4	17.0	1927254
20-24	20.0	20.0	1685166	17.4	18.0	5494116
25-29	21.9	22.0	4153573	17.8	18.0	6686444
30-34	23.3	23.0	4364192	17.9	18.0	5041697
35-39	24.3	24.0	4460582	17.9	18.0	5030481
40-44	24.6	24.0	4111856	17.8	18.0	3759595
45+	25.1	25.0	13719326	17.3	17.0	12713810
Religion						
Muslim	23.8	23.0	29287721	17.4	17.0	36485523
Non-Muslim	24.9	25.0	3482677	18.2	18.0	4245453
Educational attainment						
No education	23.9	24.0	2205513	17.4	17.0	3919030
Primary	23.5	23.0	10720561	17.3	17.0	15261812
Secondary	23.9	24.0	16916374	17.6	18.0	20289284
Higher than secondary	25.8	25.0	2927950	20.3	20.0	1260850
Birth cohort						
Before 1971	25.0	25.0	17831182	17.4	17.0	16473405
1971-90	22.8	22.0	14663513	17.7	18.0	22252738
1991 Onward	16.2	17.0	275704	16.2	16.0	2004833
Wealth quintile						
Poorest	23.2	23.0	6457167	17.3	17.0	8056414
Second	23.5	23.0	6412156	17.4	17.0	7860125
Middle	23.7	23.0	6544365	17.4	17.0	8189139
Fourth	24.0	24.0	6652457	17.4	17.0	8341302
Richest	25.2	25.0	6704253	18.1	18.0	8283996
Total	**23.9**	**24.0**	**32770398**	**17.5**	**18.0**	**40730976**

Table 4: Determinants of Average Age at first marriage among male and female, Sample Census 2011

	Male			Female		
	HR	95 % CI	p-value	HR	95 % CI	p-value
Educational attainment							
No education							
Has education	0.945	0.927	0.963	0.000	0.874	0.861	0.887	0.000
Employment							
Not employed							
Employed	1.228	1.211	1.245	0.000	0.722	0.712	0.732	0.000
Media exposure							
No exposure							
Has exposure	1.045	1.034	1.057	0.000	0.981	0.972	0.991	0.000
Wealth quintile							
Poorest							
Second	0.907	0.893	0.920	0.000	0.952	0.939	0.964	0.000
Middle	0.854	0.841	0.868	0.000	0.934	0.921	0.947	0.000
Fourth	0.771	0.759	0.784	0.000	0.911	0.898	0.925	0.000
Richest	0.635	0.623	0.647	0.000	0.771	0.758	0.784	0.000
Religion							
Non-Muslim							
Muslim	1.280	1.262	1.299	0.000	1.210	1.194	1.227	0.000
Ethnicity							
Bengali							
Others	1.174	1.144	1.205	0.000	0.880	0.858	0.901	0.000
Dwelling status							
Non-slum							
Slum	1.107	1.067	1.149	0.000	1.165	1.127	1.204	0.000
Place of residence							
Rural							
Urban	0.929	0.916	0.942	0.000	0.961	0.949	0.974	0.000
Division							
Dhaka							
Barisal	1.003	0.986	1.021	0.746	0.976	0.961	0.991	0.002
Chittagong	0.948	0.934	0.963	0.000	0.869	0.857	0.881	0.000
Khulna	1.158	1.141	1.175	0.000	1.271	1.254	1.289	0.000
Rajshahi	1.284	1.264	1.305	0.000	1.146	1.130	1.163	0.000
Rangpur	1.207	1.186	1.227	0.000	1.112	1.095	1.129	0.000
Sylhet	0.768	0.753	0.784	0.000	0.670	0.658	0.682	0.000

Table 5: Proportion of child marriage by background characteristics for women ages 10 and above

	Age at marriage			
	<14	15-17	18 and above	Number of
Division				
Barisal	10.7	36.9	52.4	2465110
Chittagong	8.5	33.2	58.3	7337908
Dhaka	13.9	36.1	50.0	13384518
Khulna	23.0	39.1	37.9	4877250
Rajshahi	18.4	37.5	44.1	5649936
Rangpur	14.0	40.8	45.1	4678897
Sylhet	3.6	20.8	75.6	2337357
Place of residence				
Rural	13.7	36.3	50.0	32895583
Urban	14.6	33.7	51.7	7835393
Dwelling status				
Slum	13.8	35.8	50.4	40077177
Non-slum	17.0	39.4	43.5	653798
Ethinicity				
Bengali	14.0	36.0	50.0	39866969
Others	8.1	27.7	64.2	864007
Tenancy				
Owned	13.7	36.0	50.3	33521813
Rented	13.5	33.3	53.3	4755955
Rent Free	17.2	38.3	44.5	2453208
Age				
10-14	100.0	0.0	0.0	77579
15-19	12.4	59.3	28.2	1927255
20-24	9.3	36.4	54.3	5494115
25-29	10.3	33.9	55.8	6686445
30-34	11.5	33.9	54.6	5041696
35-39	11.0	35.1	54.0	5030481
40-44	12.4	33.7	53.9	3759595
45+	20.0	35.0	45.1	12713810
Religion				
Muslim	14.2	36.4	49.4	36485523
Non-Muslim	10.8	31.2	58.0	4245453
Educational attainment				
No education	16.4	36.0	47.6	3919030
Primary	16.1	36.7	47.3	15261811
Secondary	12.1	36.2	51.7	20289285
Higher than secondary	7.8	19.7	72.5	1260851
Birth cohort				
Before 1971	18.2	34.7	47.1	16473406
1971-90	10.5	34.8	54.7	22252738
1991 Onward	15.8	57.0	27.2	2004833
Wealth quintile				
Poorest	13.9	37.5	48.6	8056413
Second	13.6	36.6	49.8	7860125
Middle	13.8	36.8	49.4	8189139
Fourth	14.9	36.3	48.8	8341303
Richest	13.2	32.1	54.7	8283997
Total	13.9	35.8	50.3	40730977

Table 6: Determinants of Child marriage, Sample Census 2011

Characteristics	Age at marriage <18 years			
	Adjusted OR	95% CI		p-value
Education				
No	1			
Yes	0.797	0.795	0.798	0.000
Employment Status				
Not employed	1			
Employed	0.688	0.687	0.690	0.000
Media exposure				
No	1			
Yes	1.025	1.023	1.026	0.000
Wealth quintile				
Poorest	1			
Second	0.946	0.944	0.948	0.000
Middle	0.964	0.962	0.966	0.000
Fourth	0.954	0.952	0.956	0.000
Richest	0.773	0.771	0.775	0.000
Religion				
Non-Muslim	1			
Muslim	1.375	1.373	1.378	0.000
Ethnicity				
Bengali	1			
Ethnic	0.711	0.707	0.714	0.000
Dwelling status				
Non-slum	1			
Slum	1.521	1.513	1.529	0.000
Place of residence				
Rural	1			
Urban	1.056	1.054	1.058	0.000
Divisions				
Dhaka	1			
Barisal	0.879	0.876	0.881	0.000
Chittagong	0.698	0.697	0.699	0.000
Khulna	1.665	1.661	1.669	0.000
Rajshahi	1.223	1.220	1.225	0.000
Rangpur	1.181	1.179	1.184	0.000
Sylhet	0.315	0.314	0.316	0.000

Table 7: Proportion of remarriage by background characteristics, Sample Census 2011

	Remarriage		
Division	Married	Married more than once	Number of
Barisal	96.6	3.4	4484613
Chittagong	97.4	2.6	12810350
Dhaka	96.2	3.8	24275654
Khulna	94.3	5.7	8861857
Rajshahi	94.5	5.5	10392014
Rangpur	95.3	4.7	8580580
Sylhet	96.7	3.3	4096306
Place of residence			
Rural	95.7	4.3	59213796
Urban	96.5	3.5	14287579
Dwelling status			
Slum	93.4	6.6	1190847
Non-slum	95.9	4.1	72310527
Ethnicity			
Bengali	95.9	4.1	71909083
Others	97.2	2.8	1592291
Tenancy			
Owned	96.0	4.0	60262042
Rented	96.6	3.4	8843608
Rent Free	93.3	6.7	4395724
Age			
10-14	99.8	0.2	112375
15-19	99.3	0.7	2168162
20-24	99.0	1.0	7179282
25-29	98.3	1.7	10840017
30-34	97.3	2.7	9405889
35-39	96.7	3.3	9491063
40-44	95.4	4.6	7871451
45+	93.1	6.9	26433136
Sex			
Male	93.4	6.6	32770398
Female	97.9	2.1	40730976
Religion			
Muslim	95.6	4.4	65773244
Non-Muslim	98.2	1.8	7728130
Educational attainment			
No education	95.4	4.6	6124543
Primary	95.6	4.4	25982372
Secondary	96.2	3.8	37205659
Higher than secondary	96.1	3.9	4188800
Birth cohort			
Before 1971	93.7	6.3	34304587
1971-90	97.8	2.2	36916250
1991 onward	99.4	0.6	2280537
Wealth quintile			
Poorest	94.1	5.9	14513580
Second	95.5	4.5	14272281
Middle	96.0	4.0	14733504
Fourth	96.3	3.7	14993759
Richest	97.6	2.4	14988249
Total	95.9	4.1	73501374

Table 8: Determinants of Remarriage, Sample Census 2011

Characteristics	Remarriage							
	Male				Female			
	Adjusted OR	95% CI		p-value	Adjusted OR	95% CI		p-value
Current age	1.043	1.043	1.043	0.000	1.020	1.020	1.020	0.000
Education								
No	1				1			
Yes	1.001	0.996	1.006	0.741	0.880	0.874	0.886	0.000
Employment Status								
Not employed	1				1			
Employed	1.255	1.249	1.260	0.000	2.384	2.371	2.397	0.000
Media exposure								
No								
Yes	1.124	1.120	1.127	0.000	1.079	1.074	1.084	0.000
Wealth quintile								
Poorest	1				1			
Second	0.767	0.764	0.770	0.000	0.745	0.740	0.749	0.000
Middle	0.670	0.667	0.673	0.000	0.590	0.586	0.594	0.000
Fourth	0.567	0.565	0.570	0.000	0.495	0.491	0.498	0.000
Richest	0.345	0.343	0.347	0.000	0.326	0.323	0.329	0.000
Religion								
Non-Muslim	1				1			
Muslim	2.521	2.505	2.537	0.000	3.757	3.713	3.802	0.000
Ethnicity								
Bengali	1				1			
Ethnic	0.937	0.926	0.948	0.000	0.899	0.882	0.916	0.000
Dwelling status								
Non-slum	1				1			
Slum	2.051	2.032	2.071	0.000	1.508	1.487	1.529	0.000
Place of residence								
Rural	1				1			
Urban	1.168	1.163	1.173	0.000	1.153	1.145	1.161	0.000
Divisions								
Dhaka	1				1			
Barisal	0.776	0.771	0.781	0.000	0.727	0.719	0.735	0.000
Chittagong	0.631	0.628	0.634	0.000	0.798	0.793	0.804	0.000
Khulna	1.536	1.530	1.543	0.000	1.729	1.717	1.740	0.000
Rajshahi	1.279	1.274	1.285	0.000	1.467	1.458	1.477	0.000
Rangpur	1.085	1.079	1.090	0.000	1.195	1.187	1.204	0.000
Sylhet	0.903	0.897	0.909	0.000	0.636	0.628	0.644	0.000

List of Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMS	Afghanistan Mortality Survey
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
HR	Hazard Ratio
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NIPORT	National Institute of Population Research and Training
OR	Odds Ratio
SMAM	Singulate Mean Age at Marriage
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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Subject: Selection of Expert Panel to Review Population Monographs

The following distinguished persons have been nominated as experts to review the Population Monographs
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Terms of Reference:

i)   The members of the panel will remain present in the presentation of the monographs and
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ii)   They will review the draft of the Monographs;

iii)   They will provide guidance in improving the draft;

iv)   They will get financial benefit as per provision in the AWP of the Population and Housing
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