

Family Planning, Fertility and Women's Empowerment

Workshop on Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Population and Societal Impacts

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**POPULATION
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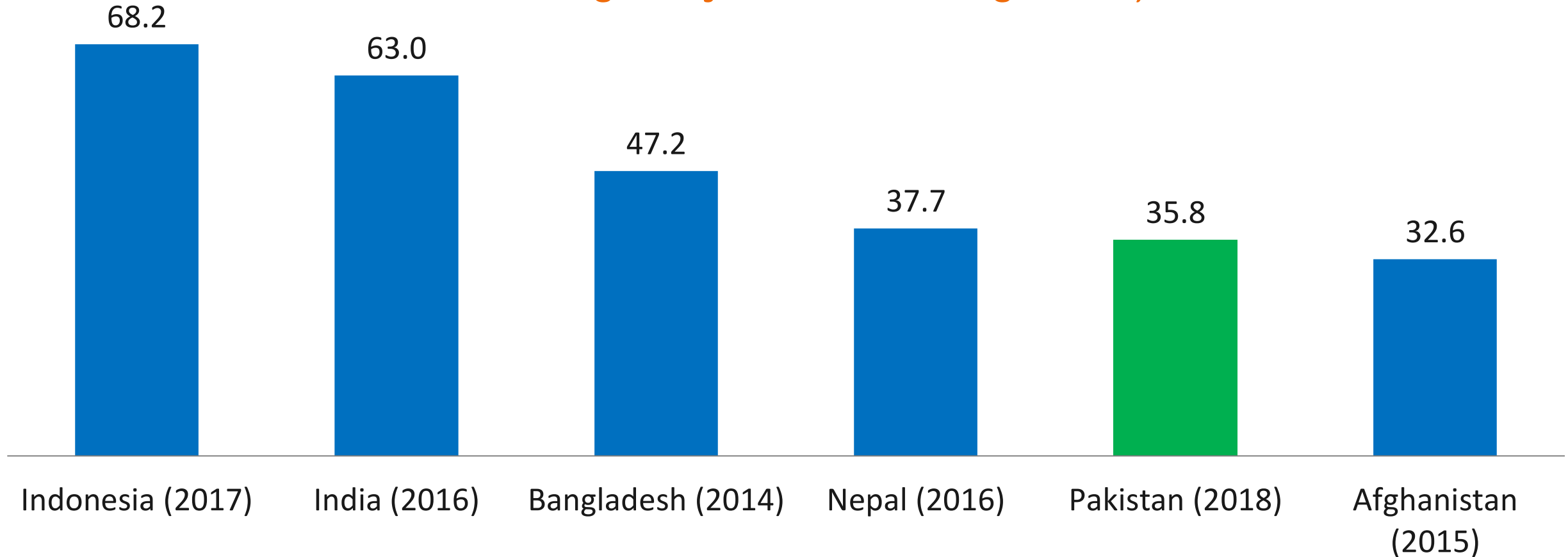
Ideas. Evidence. Impact.

Are the Theoretical Frameworks Adequate?

- ❖ Demographic Transition theory implies women bear fewer children to achieve combined goals of child, women and family, societal welfare **and a lasting equilibrium between fertility intentions and outcomes**
- ❖ Greenhalgh, McNichol, McDonald; Morgan all promote the importance of institutional context in shaping **women and girls' roles, opportunities and fertility but do they always move in the same direction?**
- ❖ Demographic dividend implies lower fertility is good for welfare of households through greater LF participation and household savings: **but does it guarantee women's welfare?**
- ❖ When women **given full choice about marriage and child bearing do they consider societal and family welfare?**
- ❖ Not all outcomes of lower fertility are positive when gender values don't change : **Sex selective abortion and gender violence continues with low fertility**

Are the Indices as Developed by Mason et al. Adequate and Sufficient?

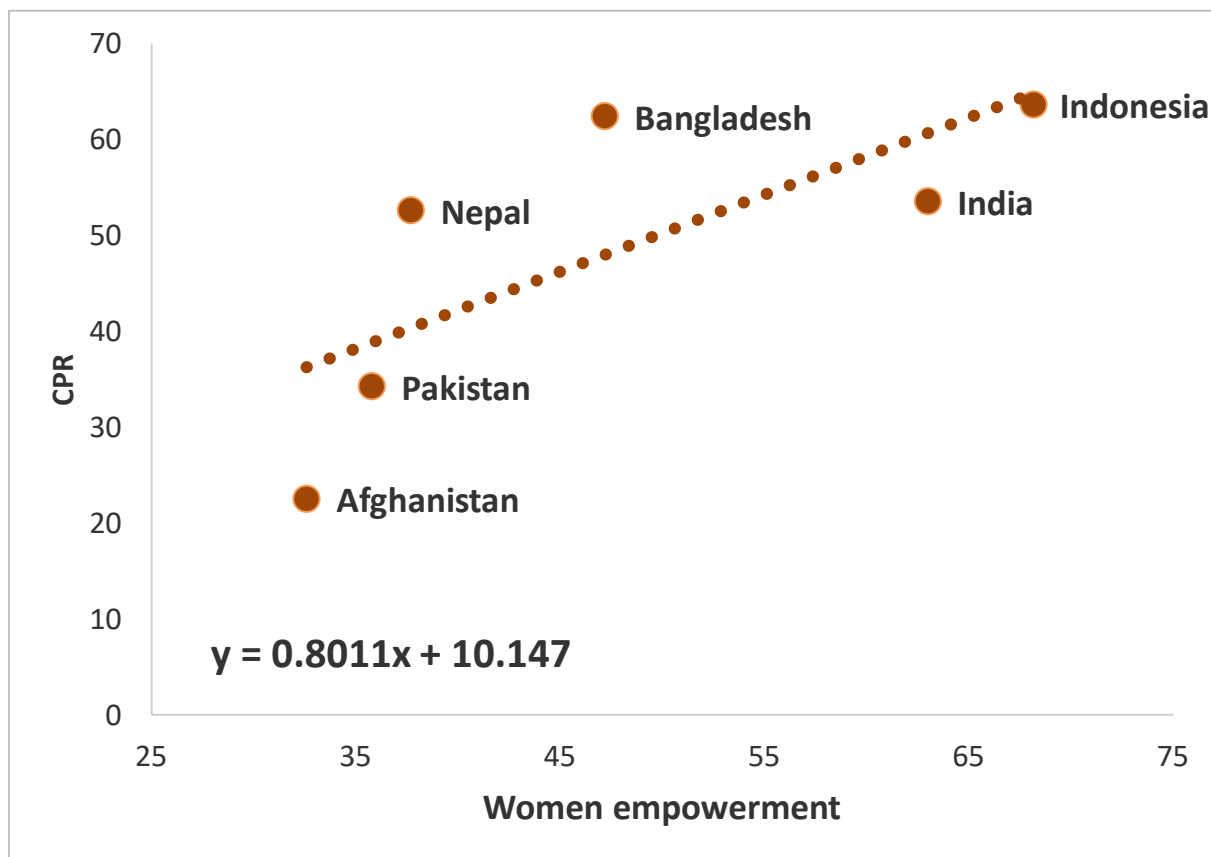
Women participating in the three decisions (own health care, major household purchases, and visiting family – % of women age 15-49)



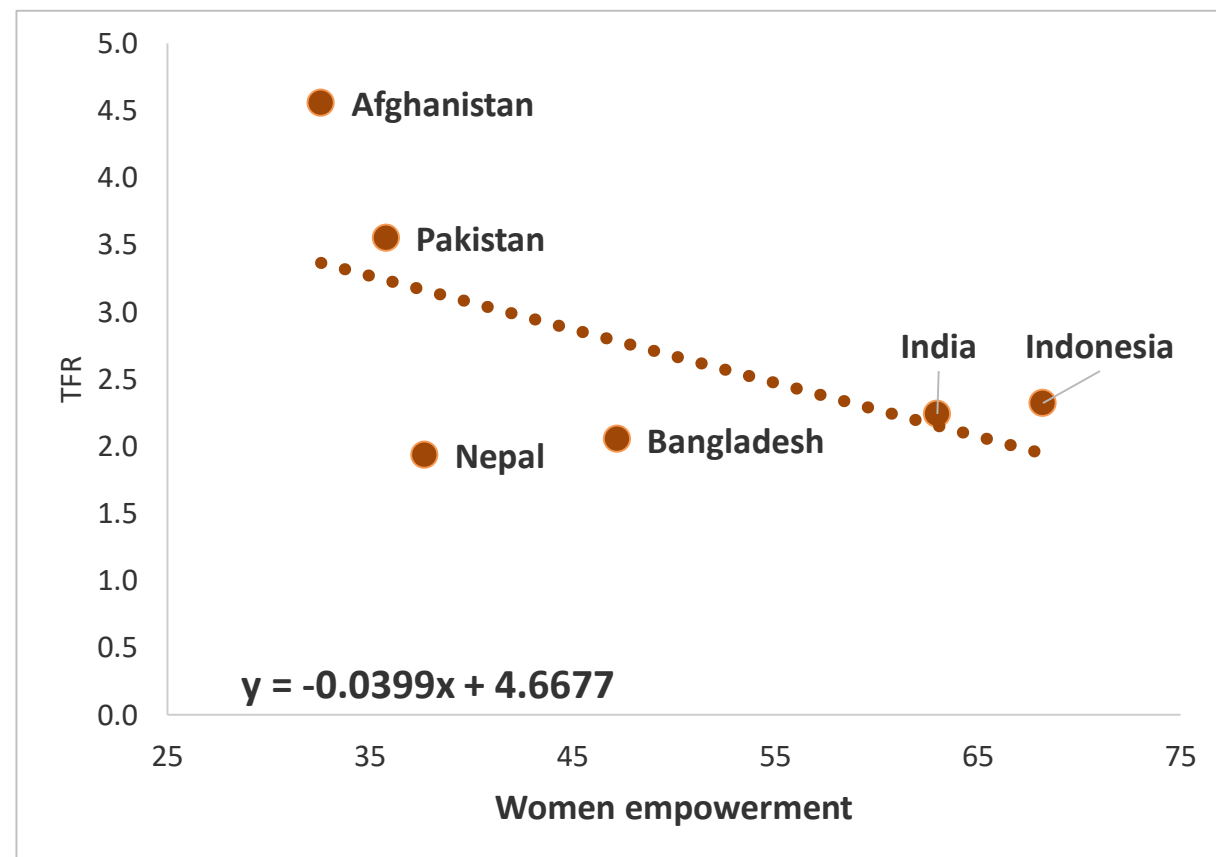
Source: World Bank 2020

Contraception and Fertility are Strongly Associated with Women's Empowerment : but are the Real Explanations in the Outliers?

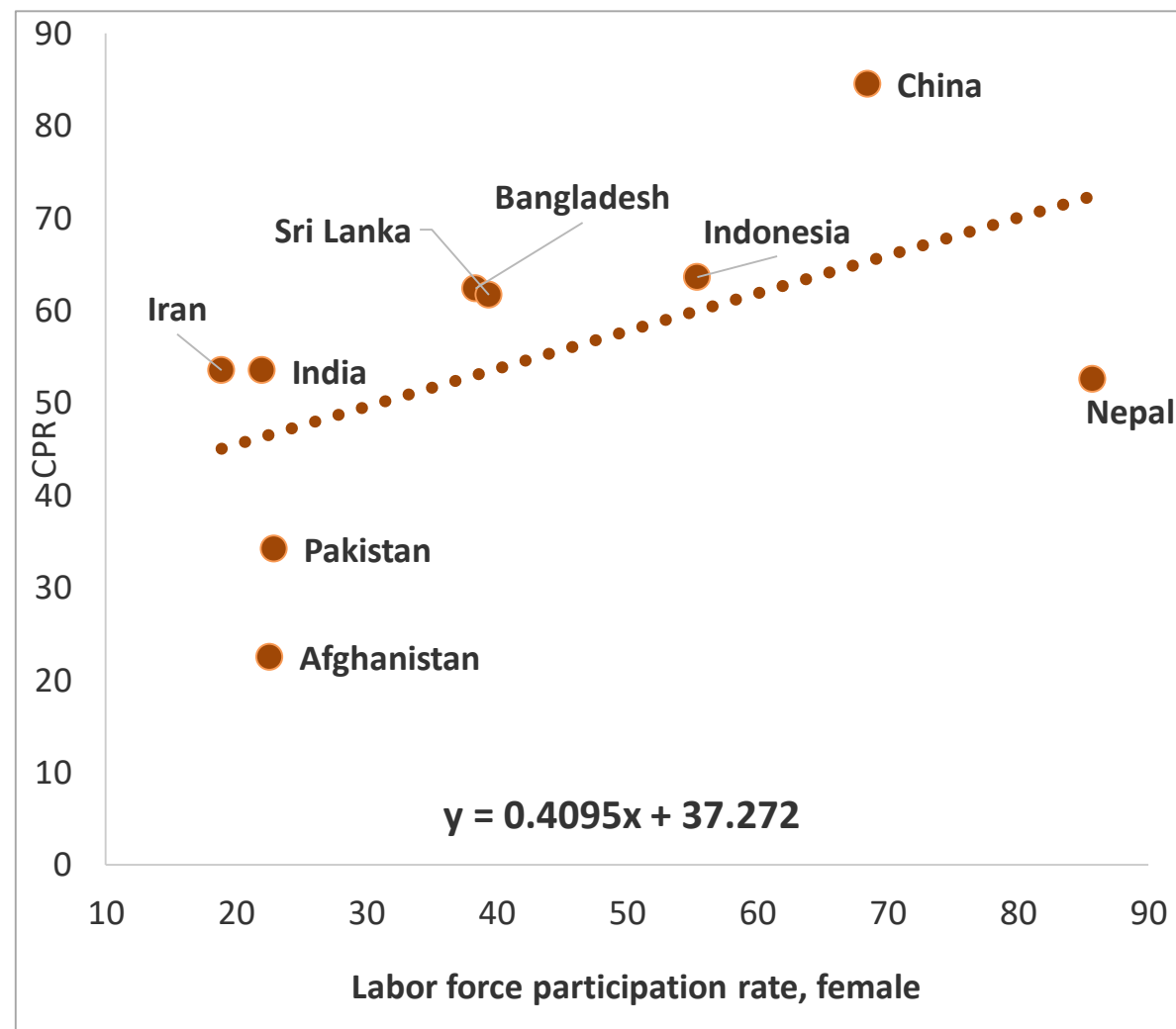
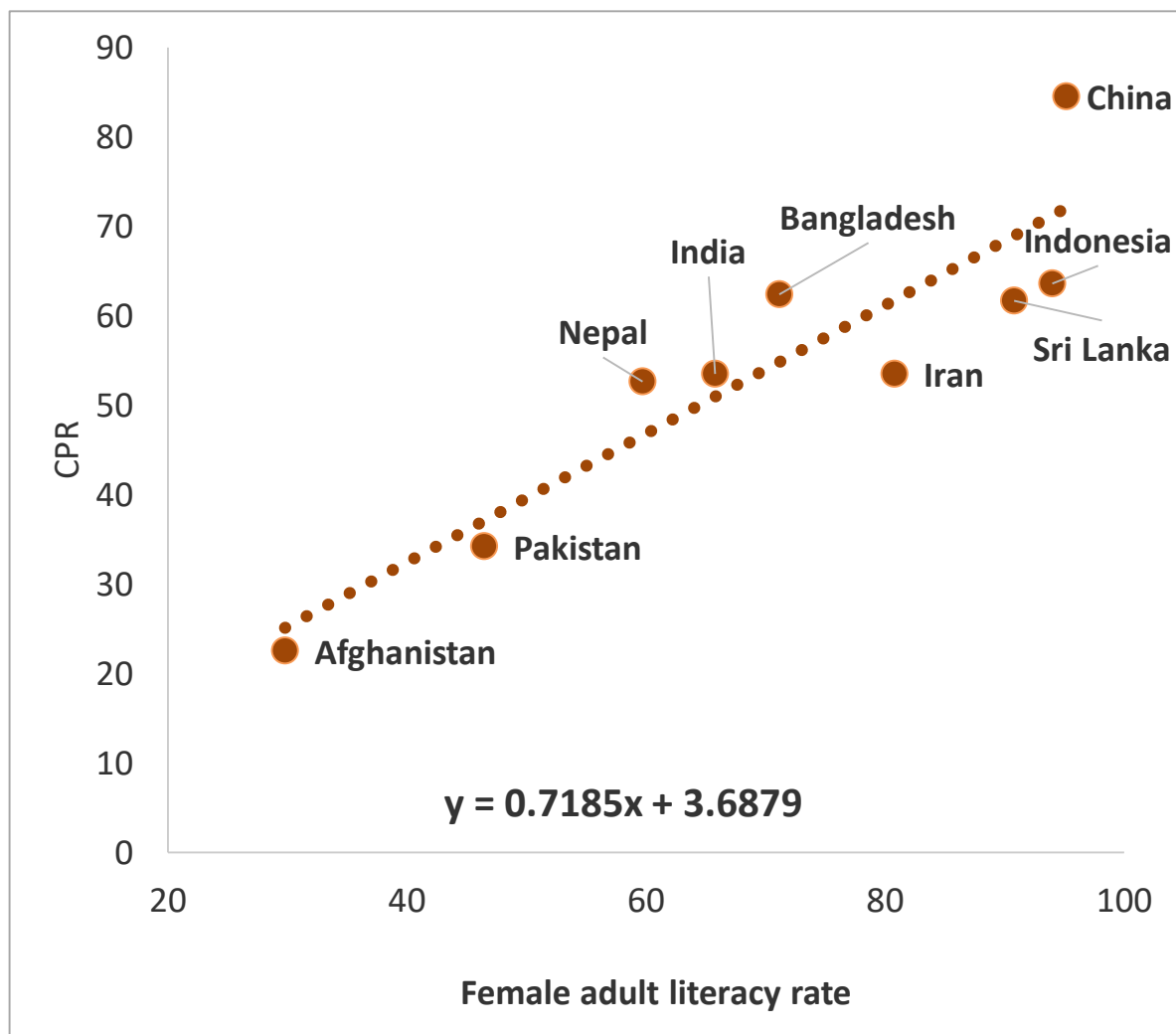
Contraception and women's empowerment



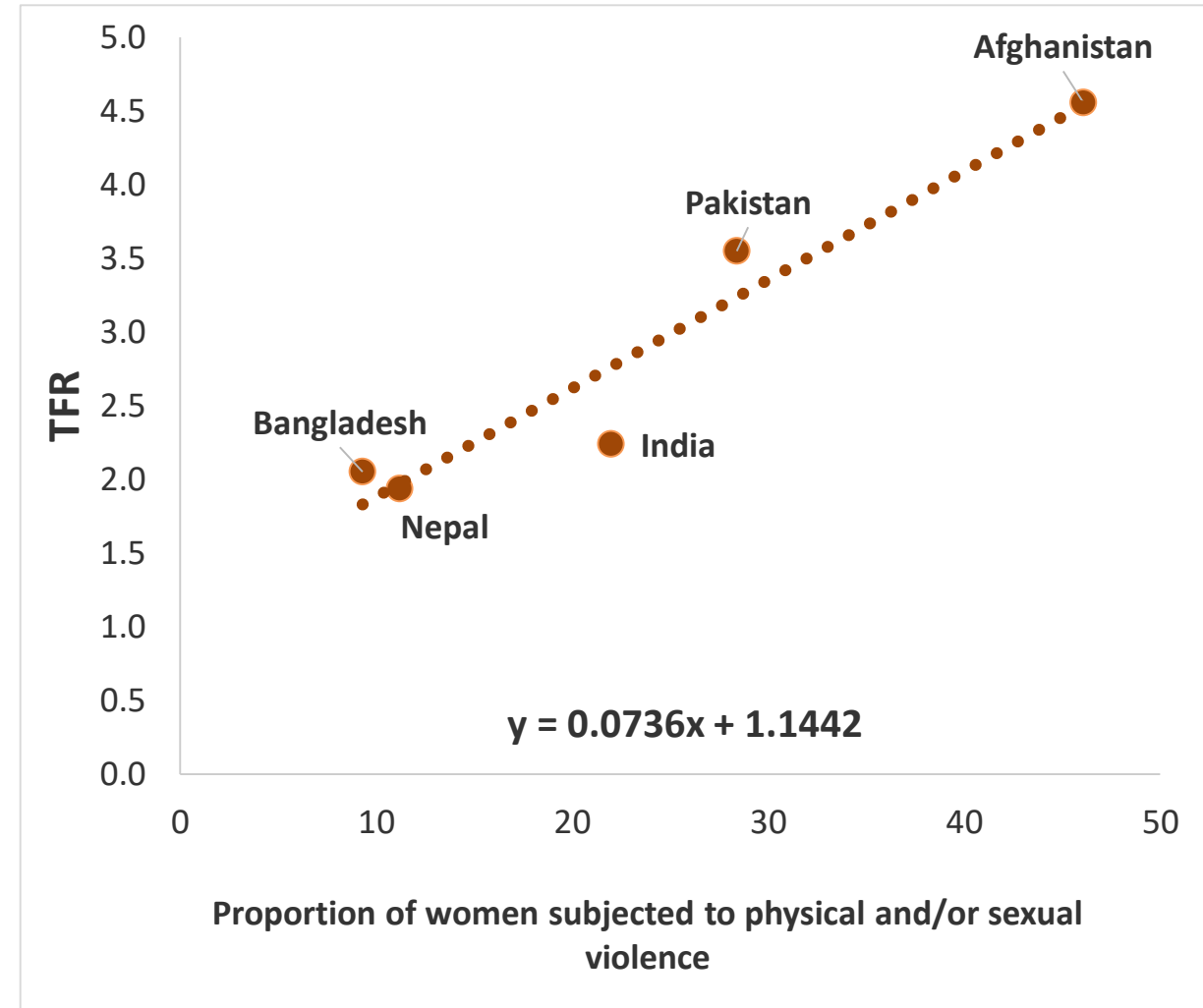
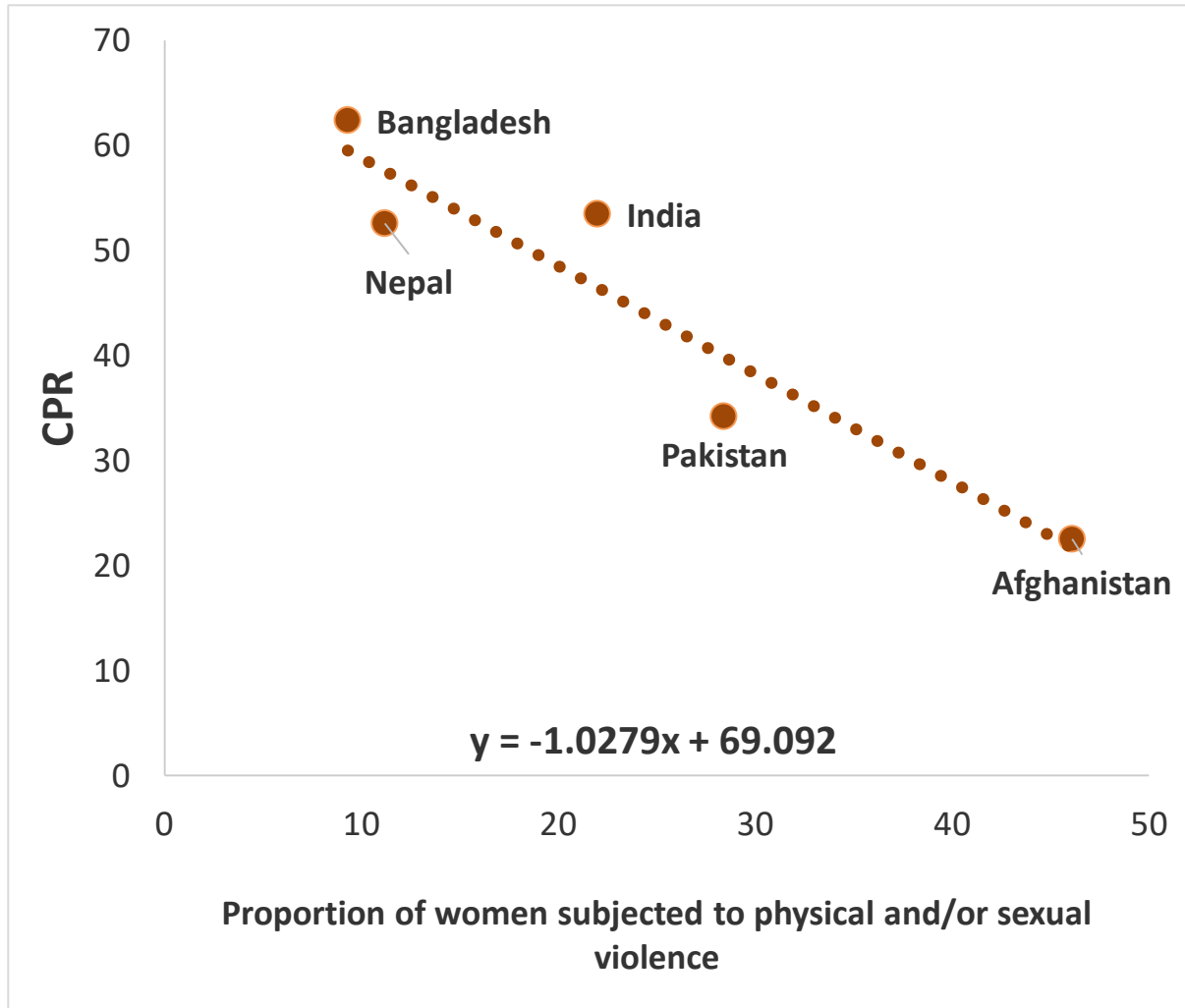
Fertility and women's empowerment



Contraception is Strongly Associated with Female Adult Literacy, Not as Much with Female Work

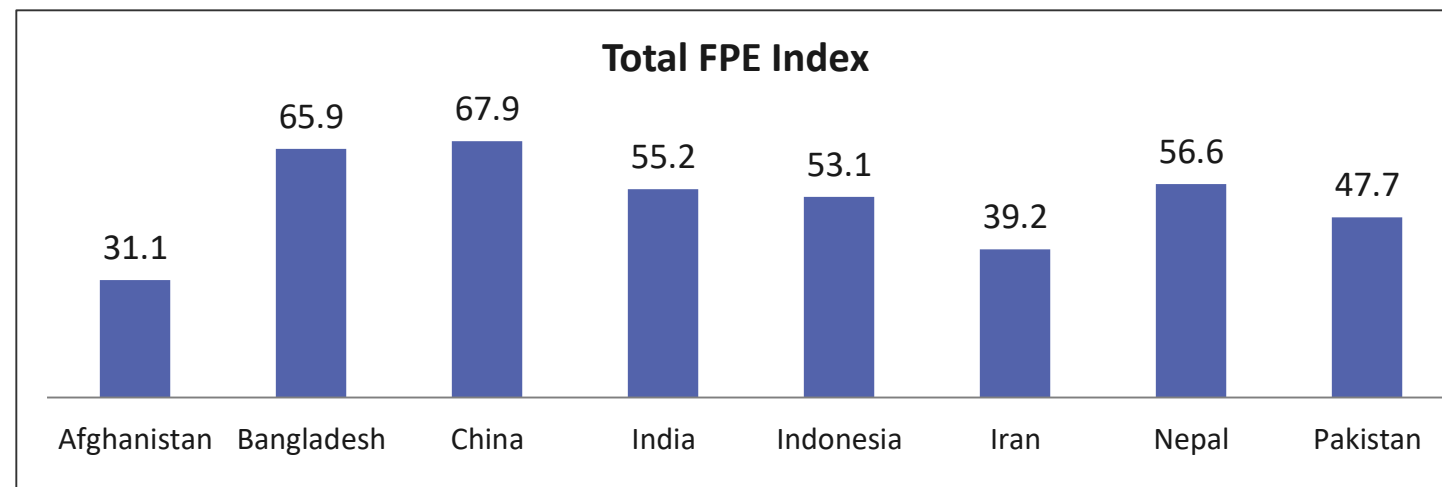
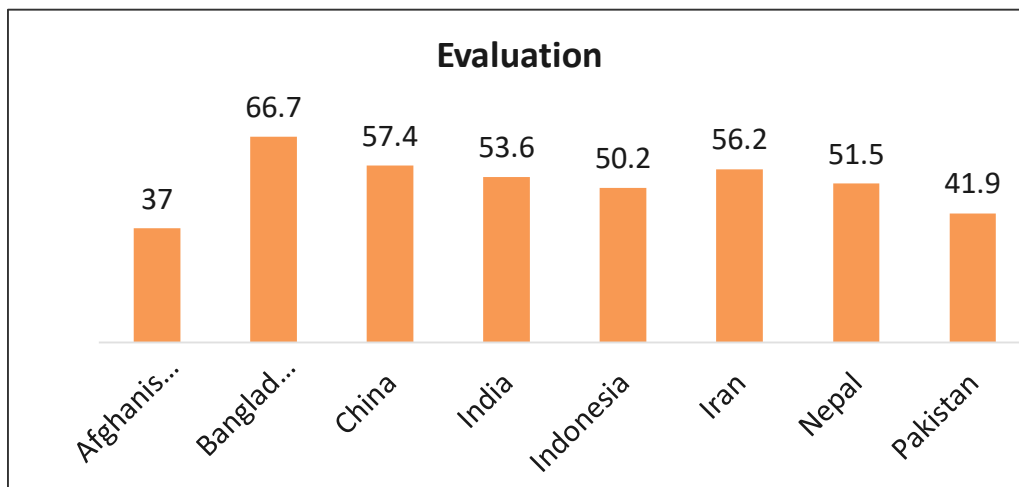
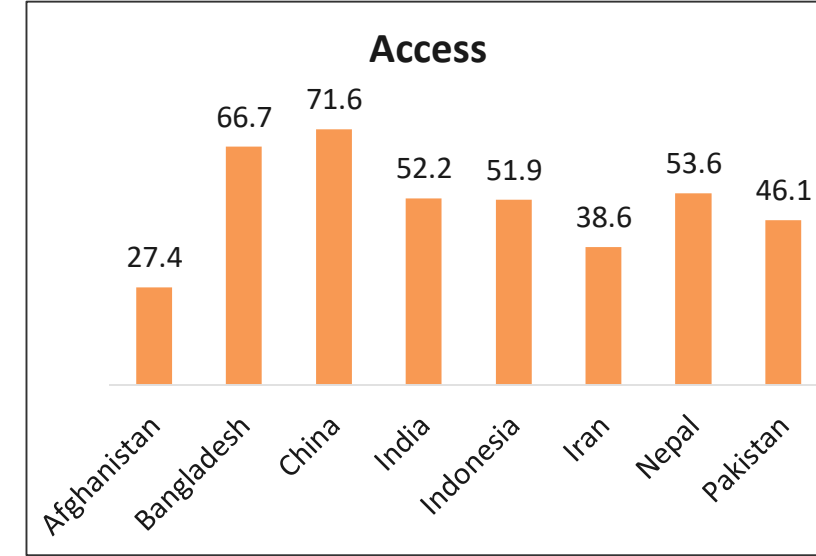
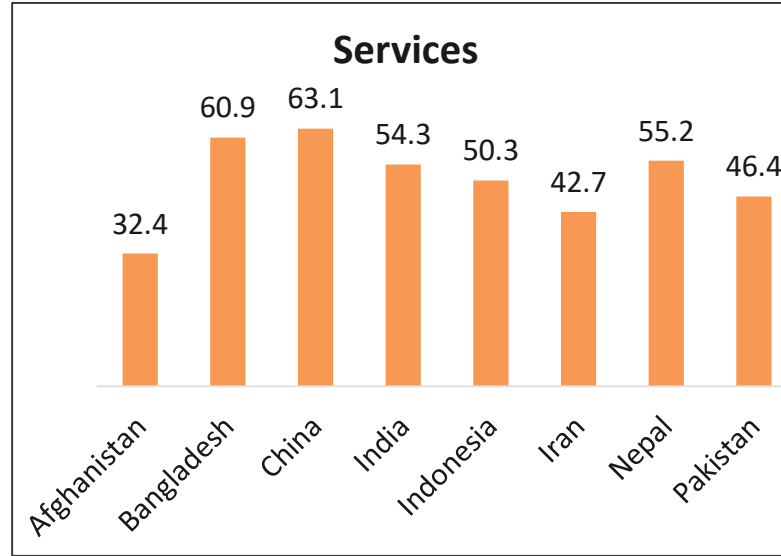
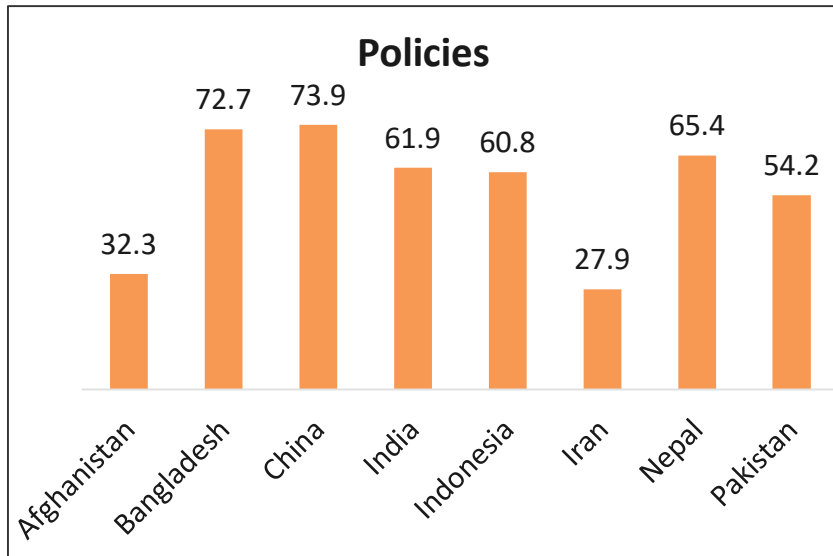


Contraception and Fertility Strongly Associated With Proportions of Women Subjected to Physical and/or Sexual Violence

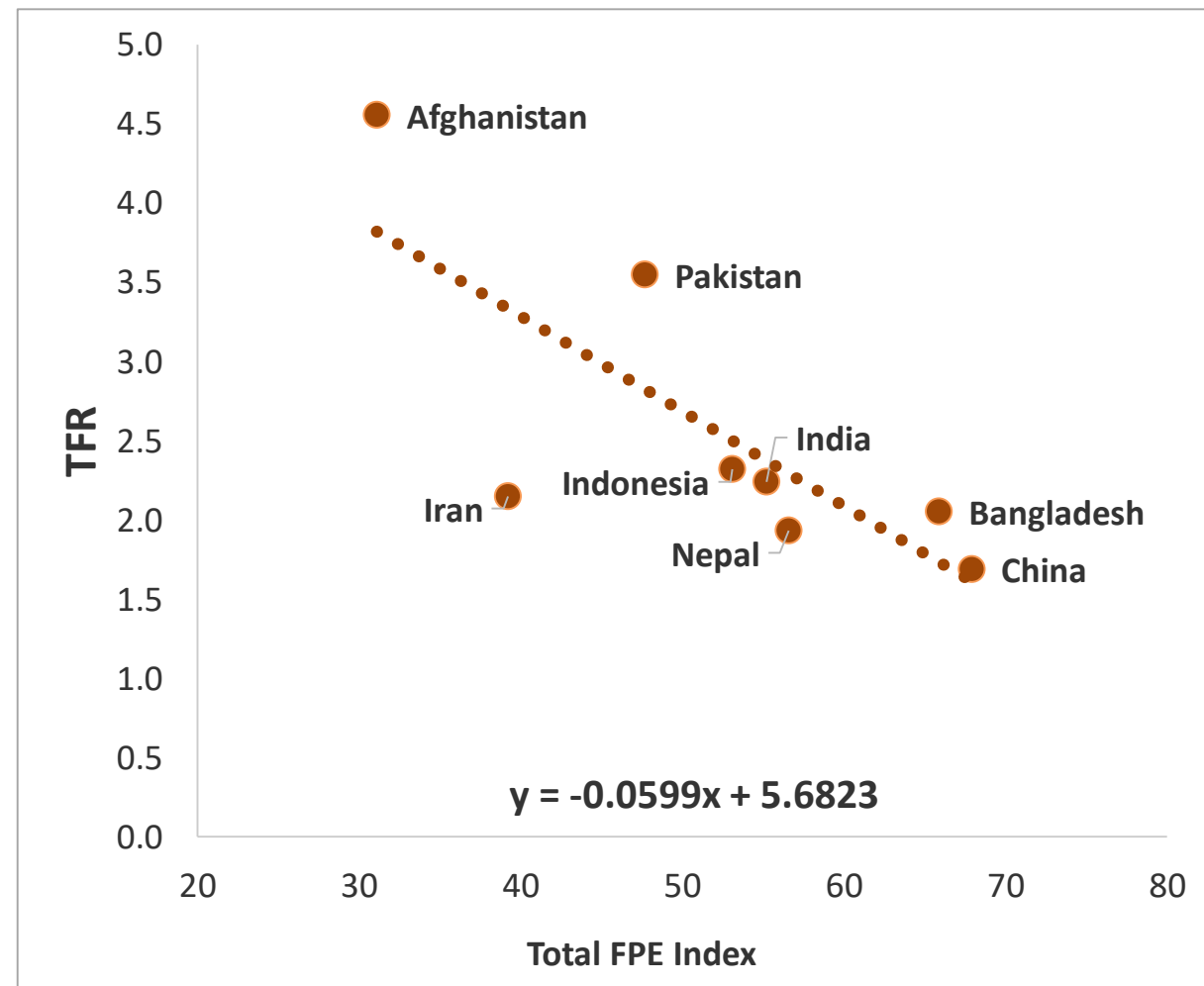
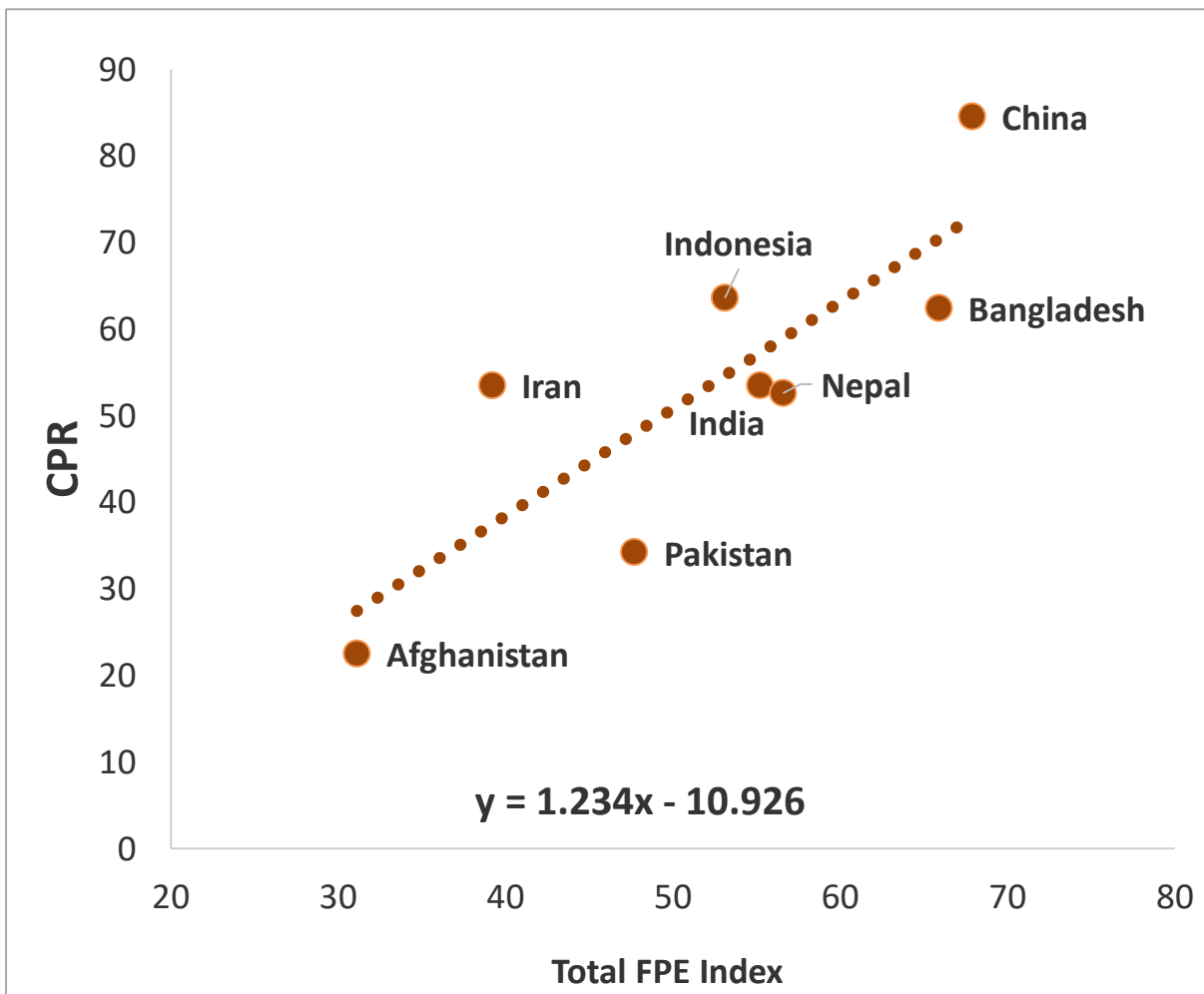


Wide differences in Family planning Efforts across Region

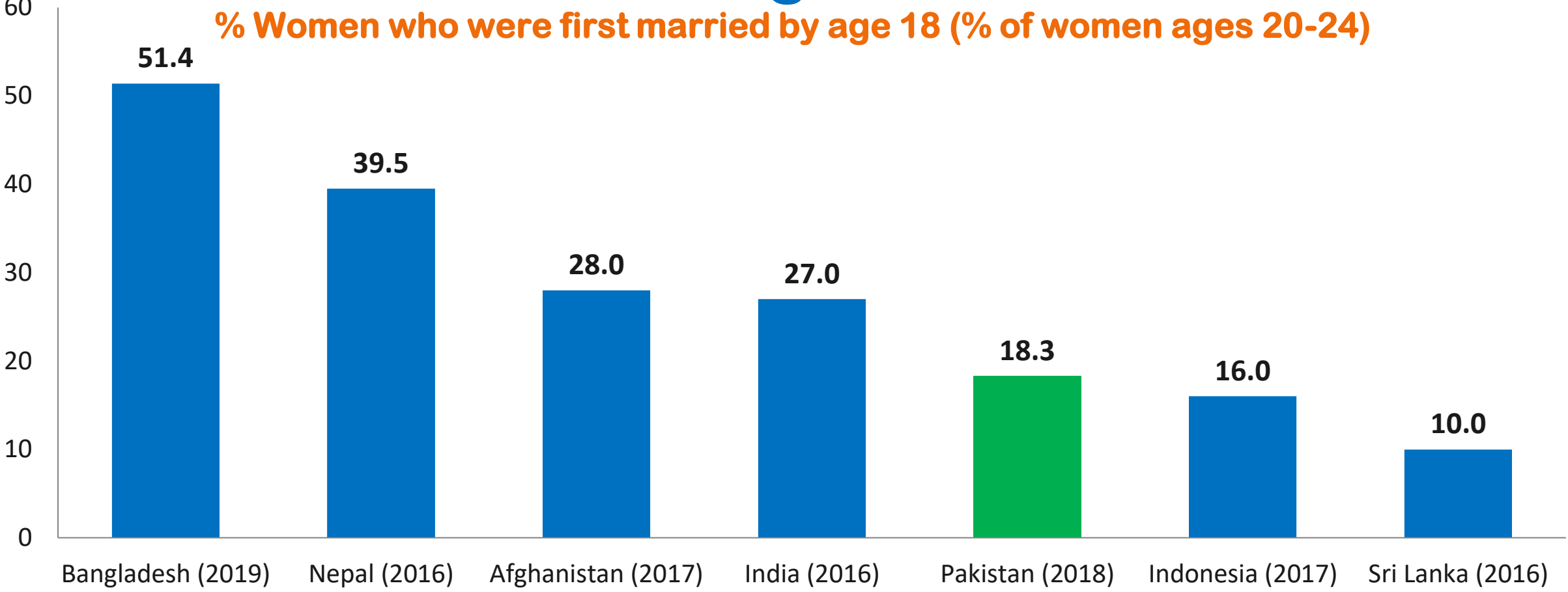
Family Planning Effort Index (FPE) - (2014)



Fertility and Especially Contraceptive Use is Strongly Related to the Family Planning Effort Index

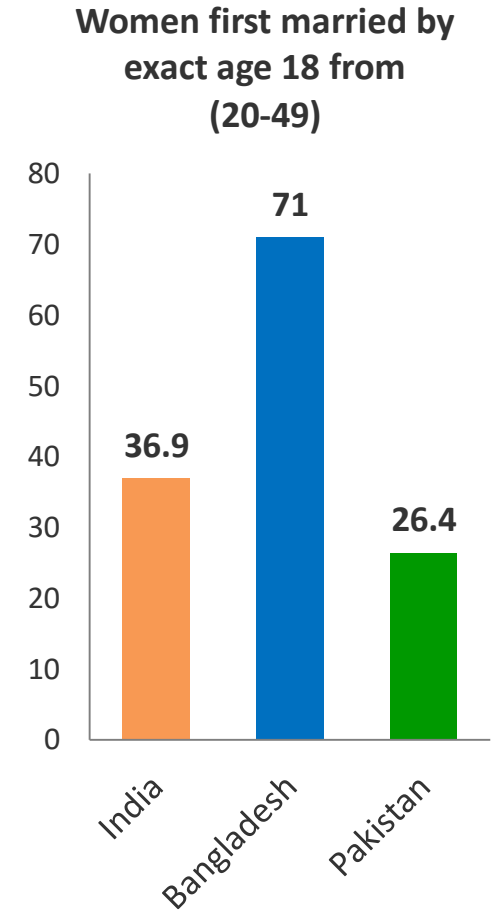
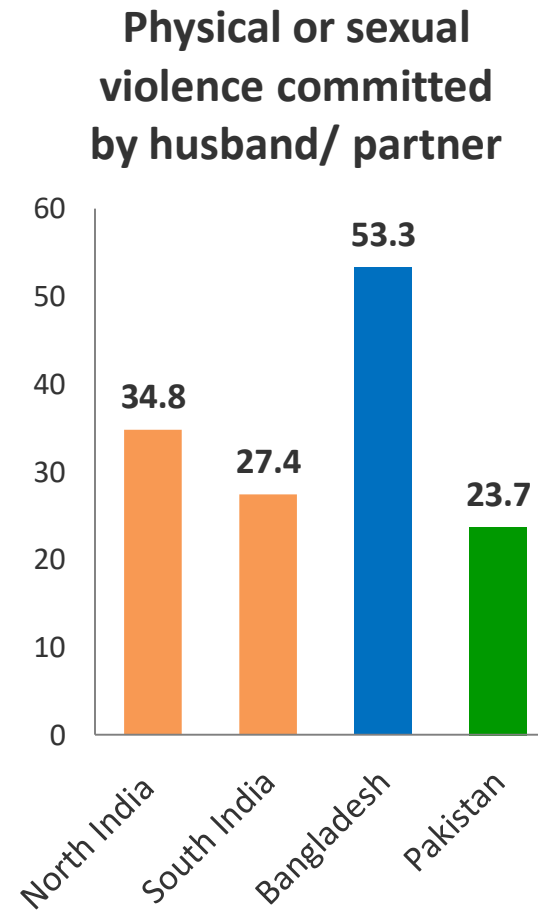
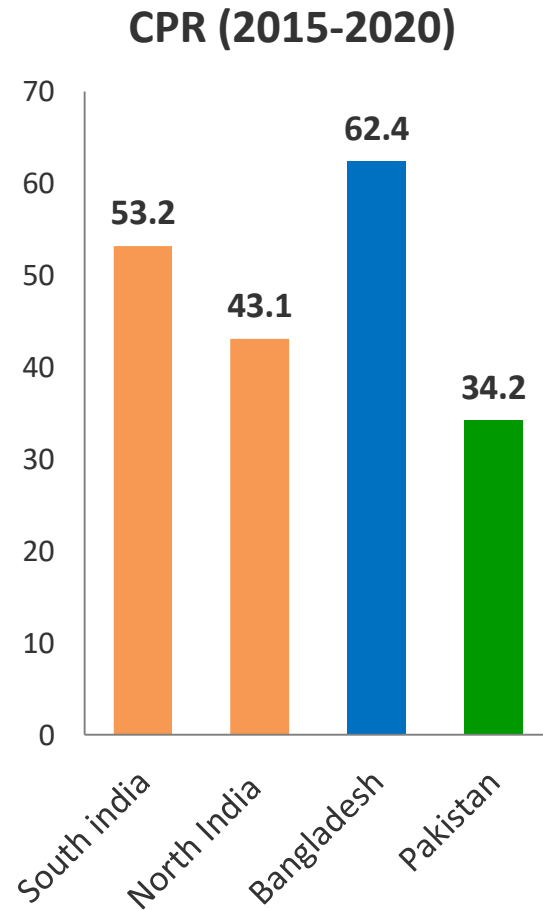
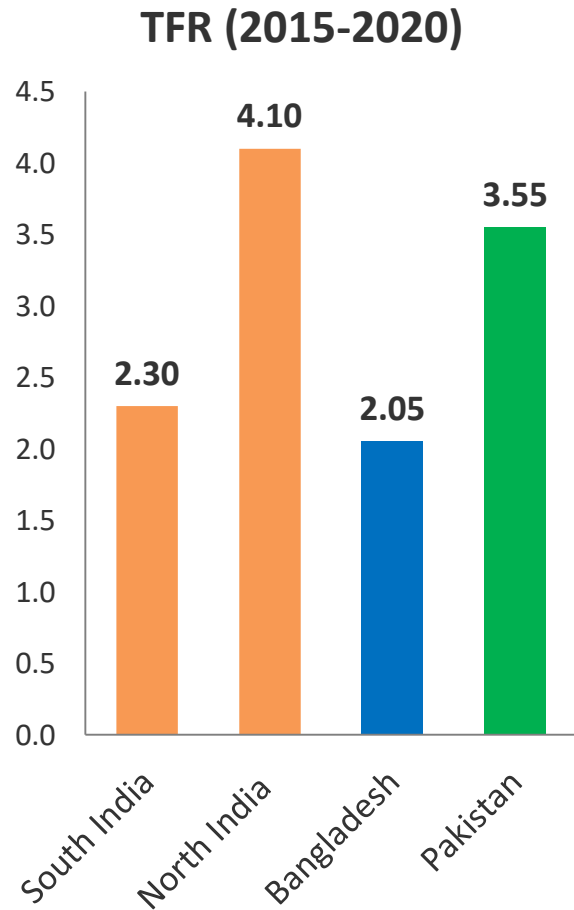


Marriage Patterns Present Anomalous Findings Across the Region



Source: World Bank 2020

Significant and Unexplained Differences in Women's Empowerment, Fertility and Contraception Across Countries and within Countries



Conclusions

- ❖ Can theoretical frameworks be revisited to evolve a paradigm (and therefore research) where we build in both changes in fertility, contraception and women and girls' autonomy?
- ❖ Can we consider an ideal state of balance or equilibrium when standard goals of women and girls' welfare and empowerment are achieved not necessarily replacement fertility?
- ❖ Can Family planning programs be expanded to tackle gender based violence, alter power relations between providers and women and girls and offer them full reproductive choice?
- ❖ Can we can agree on minimum measures of agency to *achieve and resist family and societal pressure against* individual outcomes for oneself and others e.g. ability to say NO to unwanted sex, pregnancy, verbal and physical violence and forced marriage?

Thank You!

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