

**DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING FERTILITY
DIFFERENTIALS AMONG MUSLIMS IN SRI LANKA**

D.N.Prasadi Fernando

Abstract: *In examining fertility decline during the last five-six decades in Sri Lanka, it was found that level of fertility among Muslims was higher and contraceptive prevalence was lower than the other ethnic groups. This paper attempts to discuss the fertility differentials among Muslims in Sri Lanka and influence of community integration and other socio economic, and cultural factors to produce such differentials. The analysis is based on the data from the Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey 2006/07. Ampara district Muslims were considered segregated since most of them living with their own relatives and native places and the rest of the Muslims population were identified as integrated Muslims. The dependent variable is children ever born (CEB). Independent variables are current age of women, age at first marriage, perceived ideal number of children, place of residence, wealth status, ever use of contraception, child death experience, level of education of women, women working status, religion and number of marital unions. The study found that wealth and ever use of contraceptives have been the most influential factors determining high fertility in both communities. There is also a significant difference of fertility between the integrated and segregated Muslims in Sri Lanka and segregated Muslims (Ampara District) achieved higher fertility level than the integrated Muslims (Outside the Ampara District).*

Key words: Sri Lanka, Ampara, Muslim, fertility, community integration & segregation