

## **Navigating Religious Boundaries: A Comprehensive Study of Reproductive Decision-Making Among First-Generation Immigrant Women in Saskatoon**

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**Abstract :** This study explores the complex interplay between religious beliefs, cultural norms, and reproductive decision-making among first-generation Bangladeshi immigrant women in Saskatoon. Drawing on an ethnographic framework, the research examines the nuanced negotiations of Islam's influence on contraception use, abortion, childbirth, and adoption. Through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, the study involves 15 participants, 13 Muslims and 2 Hindus. The findings reveal the multifaceted nature of reproductive choices, challenging simplistic associations between religious affiliation and cultural influences. The study also highlights the impact of gender roles, societal expectations, and the role of religious institutions, particularly mosques, in shaping the reproductive experiences of these immigrant women. The complex intersections between religious traditions and gender dynamics underscore the need for a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing reproductive decisions in the context of migration and cultural adaptation.

**Keywords :** reproductive health, religion, Islam, reproductive decision making, Bangladesh, saskatoon, Canada

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