

Women die earlier in South Asia

By A Staff Reporter

The World Development Report, 1980, issued by the World Bank says that three most populous countries of South Asia all share the nexus of low female literacy and high child mortality and fertility with Pakistan and Bangladesh as the worst affected.

The report calls for a strong family planning programme for Bangladesh, for, without it a large and early decline in fertility is unlikely.

A study with 18 selected countries of the world shows that excess of female over male expectancy to be negative only in three countries—Bangladesh, India and Iran. The figures for these three countries respectively are: -2.0, -2.5 and -0.5.

The study shows that in developed countries women live longer than men — on average by more than six years. — It shows that in most of South Asia, women on average die two to three years sooner than men.