

Live Birth in Association with Socio-Cultural Attributes of Mother: A Study on the Bhatra Tribes of Bastar, Chhattisgarh

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INTRODUCTION

The Bhatra inhabited in north-east part of Jagdalpur tahsil. According to Russell and Hiralal (1975) the Bhatra tribes were migrated from Warangal. The word Bhatra is said to mean servant. Their economy is primarily based on agriculture and collection of forest products but most of the Bhatra tribes employed as farm servant.

Though they are influenced by urban culture but their socio-cultural life is still very simple. Urbanisation influence is seen in their costume utensil, and other household materials. Attitude toward education health and social life among the Bhatra tribes is seen as usual. Rice is their staple food. Boiled rice *pez* and vegetable are usually taken by them with salt. However, nonvegetable food is common in them. Both the sexes of the Bhatra tribes like tobacco and liquor brown from mahua flowers.

They clean their teeth every morning by saragi or neem stick. They clean their body with soap and oil is used for body massage by either sex. Hair is washed with toilet soap or soil and combing is done regularly by both male and female. Females are also seen to sprinkle talcum powder over face and some of them use facial cream also.

The house types among the Bhatras are uniform. The walls of the houses are made of mud and grass, while the roof is made of mud tiles or rectangular stones. The houses are spacious but with no ventilators and are generally damp and lack of rudimentary sanitary facilities. The houses are generally bounded by 3 to 4.5 feet high wall and places of defecation and animal shed are build inside the boundary wall.

Status of women is useful parameter in understanding the social situation of the society. The birth of daughter is equally welcomed in the Bhatra tribes as that of boy. Cross cousin marriage is generally preferred by them, while patrilocal residence is prevalent among them. Beside household work a woman contribute economically and socially to support her family

as mother. Reproductive behaviour is influenced by variables like education level, occupational level and by other variables connected with individuals. A study by Karkal (1975) reveals that an average live births is higher in extended families than nuclear families, while Lorimer and Davis (1954) have concluded in their studies that high fertility in traditional cultures was caused by extended family system.

In present paper an attempt has been made to examine the association between socio-cultural attributes of women and their live births. In this study an average number of live births among the Bhatra tribes is measured with socio-economic status of women; house size, means of lighting facilities in houses, fasting behaviour of women, means of recreation in the houses and the chewing and drinking habits of tobacco and liquor among them.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted among the Bhatras of Bastar. The households were selected without following any specific sampling technique. A door to door survey was conducted by using structured schedule during February-March, 2002. The information for the present study were collected from 152 households from various villages namely: Balikonta, Titirgaon, Ghatpadur, Kalipur, Aghanpur, and Kukaranar situated about 7 to 10 kms. around Jagdalpur. Informations on education level, occupational level, socio-cultural characteristics, age at marriage, age at first child birth, and food habits. Live births and other variables were collected by interviewing both the couples. For confirming age of women at their marriage and first child births various type of questions were asked from couples.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Household is the unit, which describe the group live as family. The distribution of population with family type among the Bhatra

tribes is presented in Table 1. Nuclear family is more prevalent than joint family among the Bhatra tribes. The frequency of nuclear family is observed 62.76% as compared to joint families (37.24%). The average size of household in nuclear families is found as 5.15 less than in joint families (6.62). However in all the average size of the household in the Bhatra tribes is observed as 5.62 percent.

Table 2 presents the distribution of population by age and sex. The sex ratio is found as 1103 females per thousand males at age group 50 and more than 50 years. However in fertile group (15-49) the sex ratio is measured 913 females per thousand males, and in total sex ratio is observed 986 females per thousand males among the Bhatra tribes.

Distribution of preferential marriage is presented in Table 3. Cross cousin marriage is preferred by 38.16% couples and an average size of household related to couples adopted other types of marriage is found 5.77 more than the couples adapted cross cousin marriage (5.38).

Table 1: Family structure of Bhatra tribe

Family type	No. of household	Population	%	Average size of household
Nuclear Family	104	536	62.76	5.15
Joint Family	48	318	37.24	6.62
Total	152	854	100.00	5.62

Table 2: Percentile distribution of population by age and sex of Bhatra tribe

Age – Group	Males	Females	Total	Sex ratio
0 – 14	170	181	351	1065
15 – 49	231	211	442	913
50+	29	32	61	1103
Total	430	424	854	986

Table 3: Distribution of preferential marriage among Bhatra tribe

Marriage – type	No. of mothers	%	Population	Average size of household
Cross – Cousin Marriage	58	38.16	312	5.38
Other types of Marriage	94	61.84	542	5.77
Total	152	100.00	854	5.62

Socio-cultural characteristics of women as mother are presented in Table 4. It is evident from the table that illiterate mothers are much more frequent (87.50%) than literate mothers. The frequency of married women as mother up to primary level is observed 7.24% followed by middle educated (3.29%) and next higher secondary educated females (1.97%).

The occupational status of married women shows that 36.84% women are supported their families as housewife and 41.45% mothers contribute their families as labourer. However only 1.97% mothers are found in other services.

Table 4 reveals that 53.95% mothers have the habits of chewing tobacco and 59.87% mothers have liked to drink liquor brown of mahua flowers. However both tobacco and liquor are taken by 40.79% mothers.

Majority of mothers in the Bhatra tribes clean their teeth by saragi and neem stick (96.05%) every morning. They wash their hands by ash, soil or soap after defecation (Table 5). It is evident from the table that the majority of the mothers contacted doctor first (68.42%), when their children were falling ill. They believed that falling of sickness is due to change in weather. However 23.68% mothers contacted Gunia first and they believed that sickness is caused in most cases by evil spirit (40.79%), while 19.08%

Table 4: Socio-cultural characteristics of mother of Bhatra tribe.

Characters	No. of mothers	Percentage
1. Educational Status		
a. Illiterate	133	87.50
b. Primary	11	7.24
c. Middle	05	3.29
d. Higher secondary	03	1.97
2. Occupational Status		
a. Housewife	56	36.84
b. Labourer	63	41.45
c. Cultivator	30	19.74
d. Other services	03	1.97
3. Fasting		
Yes	61	40.13
No.	91	59.87
4. Use of Tobacco and Liquor		
a. Tobacco	82	53.95
b. Liquor	91	59.87
c. Tobacco and Liquor both	62	40.79
5. Type of Cosmetic		
a. Oil	152	100.00
b. Powder	64	42.11
c. Face Cream	28	18.42

Table 5: Health seeking behaviour of Bhatra tribe

Characters	No. of mothers	Percentage
1. Teeth are Cleaned		
a. Datoon (Saragi & Neem)	146	96.04
b. Paste	06	3.95
2. Washing of Hands after Defecation with Water		
a. Ash	29	19.8
b. Soil	39	25.66
c. Soap	57	37.50
d. Ash and Soil	19	12.50
e. Ash and Soap	17	11.18
f. Soil and Soap	10	6.58
3. When their Children Fall Ill They Approaches		
a. Doctor	104	68.42
b. Gunia	36	23.68
c. Gunia and Doctor	29	19.08
4. Reason of Falling Ill		
a. Wheather change	71	46.71
b. Intake of impure water and food	19	12.50
c. Attack of sorcery	62	40.79
5. Places of Delivery		
a. Home	134	88.15
b. Hospital	18	11.84

Table 6: Some socio-demographic traits of Bhatra tribe.

Characters	Frequency
Average Number of Live Births	
a. Nuclear Family	3.04
b. Joint Family	2.28
c. Total	3.02
Young Dependency Ratio	70.39
Old Dependency Ratio	1.70
Total Dependency Ratio	75.25
General Fertility Rate	185.24
Crude Fertility Rate	47.12

mothers contacted both Gunia and Doctors. 88.15% mothers of sample under study were delivered their offspring in home, where as only 11.84% mothers have been adapted hospital facilities for delivering their children.

Socio-demographic variables among mothers in the Bhatra tribes is presented in Table 6. The average number of live birth is estimated as 3.04 in nuclear families higher than joint families (2.98). General fertility rate is found to be 185.24 and crude birth rate is 47.12. Young dependency ratio is observed as 70.39 and old dependency ratio is 1.70, whereas total dependency ratio is found to be 75.25 among the Bhatra tribes.

Distribution of live births of mothers according to their educational status is presented in Table 7. The average live births among

Table 7: Distribution of live births of mother according to educational status of Bhatra tribe.

Mothers	No. of mothers	No. of live births	Average no. of live births
Illiterate	133	400	3.01
Primary	11	42	3.82
Middle	05	15	3.00
Higher Secondary	03	02	0.67
Total	152	459	3.02

primary educated mothers is found 3.82, whereas 3.01 among illiterate mothers.

Distribution of live birth of mothers according to their occupational status is presented in Table 8. The average number of live births among the Bhatra mothers are found higher in employees (5.67) followed by cultivators mothers (3.00). However the average number of live births is found lowest in labourer mothers (2.60).

It is evident from table 9 that the average number of live births of mothers liked tobacco (2.84) is less than an average number of live births of mothers never used tobacco (3.23) and an average number of live births of mothers liked liquor (2.92) is also less than an average number

Table 8: Distribution of mothers and live births according to occupational status of Bhatra tribe.

Occupational Status	No of mothers	No. of live births	Average no. of live births
House Wife	56	189	3.38
Labourer	63	163	2.60
Cultivator	30	90	3.00
Govt. Employees	03	17	5.67
Total	152	459	3.02

Table 9: Distribution of mothers and live births with respect to mothers having habits of tobacco and liquor of Bhatra tribe.

Habits	Used			Never used		
	No. of mothers	No. of live births	Avr. no. of live births	No. of mothers	No. of live births	Avr. no. of live births
Tobacco	82	233	2.84	70	226	3.23
Liquor	91	266	2.92	61	193	3.16
Tobacco and Liquor	62	182	2.93	40	135	3.38

Table 10 : Distribution of mothers and live births with respect to the size of the houses of Bhatra tribe.

No. of room in the houses	No. of mothers	No. of live births	Average no. of live births
1	03	04	1.33
2	18	36	2.00
3	43	127	2.95
4	37	114	3.08
5	27	88	3.26
6	14	57	4.07
7+	10	33	3.30
Total	152	459	3.02

of live births of mothers never used liquor (3.16). However an average number of live births is observed 2.93 among mothers liked both of them together.

Distribution of live births of mothers according to the size of houses is presented in Table 10. The average number of live births increases gradually as increases number of rooms in the houses.

An average number of live births of mothers among the Bhatra tribes is also measured in association of the lighting facilities in the houses (Table 11). It is evident from the table that mothers show higher number of an average live births living in electrified houses (3.09) as compare to mothers living in the houses, where kerosene lamps are used for lighting (2.84). An average number of live births among fasting mothers have been observed 3.05 as compared to mothers, who never fasted. An average number of live births is also measured in relation to means of recreation available at home. Mothers having no facilities of television and radio show higher number of an average live births (3.05) as compared to mothers having television and radio (2.33).

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Table 11: Distribution of mothers and live births with respect to other socio-cultural traits of Bhatra tribe.

Characters	No. of mothers	No. of live births	Average no. of live births
<i>Lighting facilities in the Houses</i>			
a. Kerosene lamp	44	125	2.84
b. Electrified houses	108	334	3.09
Mothers Fasted	65	198	3.05
Mothers never fasted	87	261	3.00
<i>Means of Recreation</i>			
a. Housing having Radio	21	60	2.86
b. Houses having Television	21	68	3.24
c. Houses having Television and Radio both	06	14	2.33

KEYWORDS Socio-cultural. Education. Live Birth. Occupation.

ABSTRACT In the present paper an attempt has been made to examine an association between an average number of live births and socio-cultural attributes of mothers in the Bhatra tribes of Bastar. The average size of household is observed higher in joint families as compare to nuclear families. Illiterate mothers are more frequent having lower number of an average live births as compare to primary educated mothers. 35.96% of total Bhatra mothers have supported economically their families as labourer having the lowest number of an average live births. Most of the mothers in the Bhatra tribes like tobacco and liquor are found with comparatively lower number of an average live births. However the average number of live births is observed gradually in increasing order as room increases in the houses. Means of recreation, lighting facilities in the houses and fasting behaviour of mothers are also observed associated with an average number of live births of mothers in the Bhatra tribes of Bastar.

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