

Ethno-Demographic Determinants of High Fertility Among Tribes

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ABSTRACT Tribes differ in various ways and degree from the other castes and also differ considerably in socio-cultural, demographic and economic life among themselves. The main characteristics of tribes are simple, illiterate, traditional, primitive, rural, economic stringency, isolation, low dependency ratio, higher fertility and higher infant mortality, less spacing between two births, higher sex ratio and higher work participation rate of females. The tribes gave almost equal preference to birth male and female children. The birth of baby among them is a biological incidence and gift of god. The economic expenditure on birth of the child and its development is almost very meagre. The polygamy is an emblem of esteem in the society. The tribes considered girl as commodity, hence discordant marriage and bride price is part of their cultural ethos. The poor economy creates illicit sex relations and suffering from malnutrition. The tribal women are always considered as currently married (Amar Suhagan) because of frequent remarriage (Nata) system is part of their culture. All these factors determine higher fertility among the tribes.

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