

Socio-economic Factors and Fertility of Rural Women: A Study in Upper Assam

H.K. Chaturvedi, R.K. Phukan and J. Mahanta

Regional Medical Research Centre, N.E. Region (ICMR), Dibrugarh, 786 001, Assam, India

KEYWORDS Demographic Variables. Hindus. Regression. Himalayas

ABSTRACT To study the effect of some socio-economic factors on the number of living children, a random sample from rural areas of upper Assam were collected from eight villages of two Primary Health Centres. One hundred and fifty (150) mothers between ages 20 to 50 years were interviewed to collect socio-economic and demographic information. Total seven variables were included for analysis to determine its effect on number of living children of mother's. Correlation among variables shows that number of children was significantly correlated with mother's age (0.418), mother's education (-0.478), father's education (-0.376), father's occupation (-0.340) and mother's occupation (-0.231). Step wise regression analyses of data indicates that mother's age, her education and father's and mother's occupation are significantly affecting the number of living children. It is interesting to note that mother's education makes the largest contribution to the fertility followed by her age where as father's education plays lesser role than his occupation.