

Family Structure and its Effective Influence on Fertility

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ABSTRACT Generally speaking, in any given community or society it is expected that the fertility level of the women is greatly influenced by the structure of the family. Based on such a hypothesis which is widely accepted proved that the nuclear family and household structures promote lower fertility than extended or joint household structures. Majority of the demographic studies have excluded the influences of family structure on fertility analysis. Few studies have tried to analyze the effect of fertility due to differential family structure has proved high fertility rate among the joint family structure while low fertility rate among the nuclear family structure. But the present study which was conducted during 1990 in Chennai city among a hundred women samples in the reproductive age group has disproved this theory by showing that high fertility rates in the nuclear family type while joint family type has low fertility rate. Another study by Berbata (1976) has proved that the nuclear type had higher fertility in India has concentrated more on 'fertility control' than on the cultural, familial and interpersonal fertility rate. By having this as background an intensive study has been carried out and the data was collected by means of personal interviews, schedules and questionnaires. The aim of the study is to ascertain the effect of family structure on fertility level.