

Reproductive Morbidity, Treatment Seeking Behaviour and Fertility: A Study of Scheduled Caste and Tribe Women

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ABSTRACT This paper attempts to study the prevalence of reproductive morbidity, treatment seeking behaviour and their plausible causal relationship with human fertility. The primary data for this study has been collected through a survey conducted on scheduled caste and tribe population in Orissa. The bivariate and multivariate analyses showed that certain health problems impose negative effect on fertility, although few did not show common association possibly due to reverse causation. Menstrual irregularity consistently emerged out to be a significant attribute of lower fertility and some others such as smallpox, sickling, malaria and gynecological problems showed negative effect on fertility. These phenomena for some were not very consistent when adjusted for other confounders.