

Demography and Ethnography of Fertility Behaviour: A Study of Non-Industrial Population in India

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ABSTRACT This is an endeavour to study the causal relationship between the women's behavioural factors and fertility in a more or less non-industrial rural population in an Eastern Indian state. It analyses the women's behavioural factors with regard to impact on fertility. The behavioural factors of women higher desired family size and longer perceived ideal birth interval has been consistently associated with lower fertility. For Scheduled caste population, the association of woman's correct knowledge about probable days of conception within menstrual cycle, with lower fertility gives impression that this knowledge may provide chance to the woman or couple to go for some kind of fertility control mechanism. The verbatim and incidents studied give impression that at one hand the child survival is at demand and in other hand there seem to have a need for access to controlled and intended fertility.