

Determinants of Reproductive Duration among Women of Jharkhand State: A Study

M.S.R. Murthy

*Department of Population Studies and Master Social Work, Sri Venkateswara University
Tirupati 517 502, Andhra Pradesh, India*

KEYWORDS Age at Marriage. Age at Sterilization. Child Loss. Marriage Cohort. Fertility Preferences

ABSTRACT The reproductive span of women has been undergoing rapid change in recent decades. Reproductive span has been calculated as the time between age at marriage and age at sterilization. The state of Jharkhand, owing to its backwardness, has been chosen to study the changing trends of reproductive spans based on NFHS-III data. It has been found that older cohorts, that is, 1970-79 and 1980-89 have higher reproductive periods than later cohorts. However, religious differences in reproductive durations are minimal. Women who have more than 3 children have two times the duration of reproductive span compared to women with less than 3 children. The mean ages at sterilization, was around 28-30 years. Women with more than 3 children had higher ages at sterilization than women with below 3 children. Older cohorts such as 1970-79 and 1980-89 had higher ages at sterilization than later cohorts. Survival analysis showed the mean duration of reproduction as 10.48 years. It means that women are spending more time in reproduction than many other states in India. Hazard analysis has also been done to see the significant contribution of several social, economic and demographic variables.