

Development, Status of Women and Demographic Outcomes in Madhya Pradesh: A Regional Analysis

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ABSTRACT Ever since the formulation of the demographic transition theory, several researchers have studied the linkages between development and demographic outcomes. Using data from Census of India 1991, NFHS-2 (1998-99) and CMIE (1993), this paper examines the regional variation in Madhya Pradesh in terms of socio-economic conditions, cultural traits, family welfare programme and demographic characteristics. A number of variables were considered to represent each dimension of socio-economic development, status of women and family welfare programme. An attempt has also been made to find out the relative role of socio-economic conditions, cultural traits and family welfare programmes in explaining fertility and child mortality. The result of regression analysis shows that the strength of family welfare programmes in reducing fertility is more than socio-economic development. Women residing in areas with a strong family welfare programme are likely to have lower fertility compared to those in areas with a weak programme. However, neither socio-economic development nor status of women exerts a similar influence on fertility decline. The interaction between status of women and programme strength is negative, which signifies that the effect of the programme strength tends to reduce in areas where status of women is better.