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Fertility Regimentation of the Rural Yoruba Women of South-west Nigeria: The Case of Ido and Isinbode

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ABSTRACT Nigerian population has been increasing at a very high rate (3%). This rate largely results from relatively stable fertility and declining mortality. The decline in mortality has been attributed to assessable health and medical facilities, and improvement in standard of living. This paper uses quantitative technique with a sample size of 1,500 women in their reproductive age to investigate the regimentation of fertility in two selected rural communities of south-west Nigeria. Adjusted Total Fertility Rate for the two communities was 7.2 and 5.6. Fertility differentials by the different socio-economic variables were also examined and it revealed that women's age and proportion dead among children ever born were the most important determinants of fertility in the study area. The study concluded by recommending massive and compulsory girl child education in Nigeria rural areas. This will push up the women's age at marriage and also increase the opportunity cost of raising large families.