



Level and Differentials of Fertility among Karbis of Kamrup Metropolis, Assam

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ABSTRACT North-eastern states of India are the homeland of large number of ethnic groups, which have recorded very high fertility rates as compared to the national average. A very limited study has been undertaken on the fertility of these small ethnic groups. Therefore, the paper is an attempt to study the fertility behaviour of Karbi tribe, living in Kamrup metropolitan. A cross-sectional survey had been conducted using both quantitative and qualitative approaches in Kamrup city among 354 Karbi women aged 15-49 years who had at least one living child aged less than ten years. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were illiterate and belongs to very poor household. It was observed that the Karbi women got married at an early age and conceived within the first year of marriage. The contraceptive prevalence rate was also very low among them. These findings lead to the assumption that the higher fertility among Karbi women is because of poor socio-economic condition, illiteracy and lower knowledge about contraceptive methods.