

Social Status of Childless Couples in Three Different Ecological Settings

Anamika Baru and Rajni Dhingra

KEY WORDS Childlessness. Social Status. Family, Neighbours. Work Place

ABSTRACT The present research is an attempt to study the social status of childless couples in three different ecological settings (Urban, Rural and Tribal). The sample of the study consisted of 50 childless couples each from three ecological settings, total 150 couples formed the core group for the study. Snow ball sampling technique was used for sample selection. The tools used for the study were. Interview guide and Informal observation. Results revealed that childless couples especially women from rural and tribal setting had to face the repercussions of childlessness in family and society. Insensitive behavior to their childlessness was targeted by family members, neighbors and relatives, they were considered inferior and incomplete. They were taunted about their childlessness and even physically abused by their family members in case of rural and tribal setting. Their participation was restricted in the rituals related to children or other religious or social activities because they were considered inauspicious. This was most frequently reported in case of rural setting. Some of the respondents, however, also had harmonious relationship with their family members as they were loving, caring and supporting.

Authors' Address: **Dr. Anamika**, P.G. Department of Home Science (Human Development), University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India
E-mail: anamikabarur@rediffmail.com. Fax: 0191-2457137
Rajni Dhingra, Associate Professor and Head, P.G. Department of Home Science (Human Development), University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India
E-mail: rajni_dhingra@rediffmail.com