

Cultural Determinants of Human Fertility: A Study of Tribal Population in Orissa

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ABSTRACT This is an endeavour to study the plausible causal relationship between cultural factors and human fertility in a more or less non-industrial rural population (schedule tribes) in Orissa, an Eastern Indian state. The bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses showed that lower level of child loss showed significant association with lower fertility. Other categorical variables such as higher age at woman's marriage, self-choice of mate by woman and nuclear family showed negative effect on fertility, both before and after adjustment for other independents and covariates. The observation of fertility by different villages and tribes/caste gives an impression that the population composition, distance from urban centres, community size, distribution and aborigine ness have some bearing on fertility.