

Fertility Performance of the Anal Women of Lambung Village, Chandel District, Manipur

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ABSTRACT The data for the present study comprise of 200 ever-married Anal women. The present study aims to find out the fertility performance of the Anal women of Lambung Village, Chandel District, Manipur. Moreover an attempt is also made to find out the factors that affect fertility such as age at marriage, education and economic status. The Child Women Ratio, Crude Birth Rate, General Fertility Rate and Total Fertility Rate of the Anal Naga are found to be 227.96, 11.4, 33.43 and 4.3 respectively. The present study reveals that age at marriage, education and economic status of women has an impact on fertility.

INTRODUCTION

The main components of population structure are fertility, mortality and migration. Of these, fertility plays a vital role in the study of population. It refers to the number of live births to a woman. Human fertility helps in the biological replacement as well as in the maintenance of the human society. It is a positive force through which the population expands counteracting the force of attrition caused by mortality (Bhende and Kanitkar 2004). Fertility is generally used to indicate the actual reproductive performance of a woman or groups of women (Thompson and Lewis 1965).

The Anal Naga Tribe is one of the 33 recognized Scheduled Tribes of Manipur. Majority of the Anal community settled at Chandel District, Manipur. Chandel District is one of the hill districts of Manipur and lies in the North East part of the State. Various Tribal communities like Anal, Moyon, Monsang, Maring, Lamkang, Tarao, Kukis and Chothe inhabit the District. According to the latest information, the population of Anal is about 17000 approximately (Ruwndar 2006). The Anals belong racially to the Tibeto- Burman or Indo-Mongoloid family of Mongoloid race (Kabui 1985). Agriculture is their main occupation. They are a patrilineal society and commonly practice

monogamy. The Anal society is divided into two moiety groups where marriage is permissible only between the moieties (Musum and Mulchal) but not within the moiety group.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted at Lambung Village, Chandel District, Manipur. The data for the present study comprise of 200 ever-married women. The data were collected from the month of May 2006 to November 2006. As for the data collection; interview schedule was formulated and applied. The interview scheduled consists of questions relating to their name, age, sex, religion, educational status, marital status, economic status, fertility status, etc. Door to door survey was conducted to collect the data. The ever-married women were taken as the unit of the present study. The collected data were analyzed through various statistical formulae, which helped in objective interpretation of the findings. Besides these, t-test was also applied to test the level of significance within the population group.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age at Menarche

Table 1 reveals the decadal age cohort wise distribution of age at menarche of the present population. The mean age at menarche of the Anal women is 14.94 ± 0.14 ranging from 12 years to 18 years. The mean age at menarche of the Anal women (14.9 ± 0.14) is found to be higher than the Mao women, Tarao women and Tangkhul women

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Table 1: Distribution of age at menarche of the Anal women.

Age at menarche (yrs)	No. of women	Percentage
12	5	2.5
13	12	6
14	52	26
15	69	34.5
16	46	23
17	15	7.5
18	1	0.5
Total	200	100
Mean±S.E.	14.94±0.14	S.D.2.0

with their respective mean values 14.59,13.46 and 13.93 years (Chakravarti 1986; Singh 1989; Maheo 2004). The present study indicates that the onset of menarche differs from one population to the other.

Age at Marriage

Table 2 reveals that 43.5% of the women married between 20-24 years of age, which is the highest. 29.0%, 19.5%, 6.5% of the women married between 15-19, 25-29 and 30-34 years of age respectively. Women of age at marriage ≥35 years indicate the lowest percentage frequency (1.5%). The Mean age at marriage of the Anal women of Lambung village (22.4yrs) is found to be slightly higher than the overall mean age at marriage of the tribal woman of Manipur 21.60 yrs (Mukherjee 1990) but slightly lower than that of the Mao women having a mean of 22.7yrs (Maheo 2004). Hence the present study shows that fertility declines due to increase in age at marriage.

Table2: Distribution of age at marriage of the Anal women

Age at marriage	No. of women	Percentage
15-19	58	29
20-24	87	43.5
25-29	39	19.5
30-34	13	6.5
≥35	3	1.5
Total	200	100
Mean	22.4	

Age at Menopause

Distribution of women according to their age at menopause are shown in table 3. The highest number of women (21.7%) reached their menopause at the age of 50 years. The mean age at menopause of the Anal women (50.1yrs.) is found to be higher than the Mao women, Tarao

Table 3: Distribution of age at menopause of the Anal women

Age at menopause (yrs.)	No. of women	Percentage
41	3	5
42	5	8.3
43	1	1.7
44	-	-
45	7	11.6
46	4	6.7
47	3	5
48	4	6.7
49	7	11.6
50	13	21.7
51	4	6.7
52	8	13.3
53	1	1.7
Total	60	100
Mean	50.1	

women and Tangkhul women having 48.69yrs, 46.44 yrs and 45.56 yrs respectively (Chakravarti 1986; Singh 1989; Maheo 2004).

Age Specific Marital Fertility Rate

Table 4 reveals the distribution of the Age Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR) of the Anal population of Lambung village. The age-specific marital fertility rate gradually increases from the women of age group 15-19 years (250.00) to women of 20-24 years (285.71). There is a sudden decrease in the age-specific fertility rate from the women of age-group 25-29 years (150.00) to women of age group 35-39 years (66.67). The reproductive period of the Anal women continues only upto 39 years of age. Hence the highest reproductive period of the present population is found to be in the age group 20-24 (285.71). The total Age Specific Marital Fertility Rate of the present population is found to be 75.34.

The distribution of the different rates and ratio of fertility is presented in table 5. Child women ratio of the present population is 227.96, Crude

Table 4: Distribution of the Age Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR)

Age groups (yrs)	No. of live births	No. of women	Age specific fertility
15-19	1	4	250
20-24	2	7	285.71
25-29	3	20	150
30-34	3	30	100
35-39	2	30	66.67
40-44	-	31	-
45-49	-	24	-
Total	11	146	75.34

Table 5: Distribution of the different Rates and Ratio of Fertility

Name of the population Group	Child Women Ratio	Crude Birth Rate	General Fertility Rate	Total Fertility Rate
Anal (2006)	227.96	11.4	33.43	4.3

birth rate is 11.4, General fertility rate is 33.43 and Total fertility rate is 4.3. The Crude Birth Rate of the present study is found to be lower than that of Chandel District (23.0) and Manipur (21.0) according to 2001 census. The Total Fertility Rate of the Anal women is higher than that of Chandel District (2.8) and Manipur (2.6) according to 2001 census. Thus the present study reveals a higher fertility rate.

Age at Marriage and Fertility

Table 6 reveals the average fertility vis-à-vis women's age at marriage. Women of age at marriage 15-19 years indicate the highest fertility (4.1). The average fertility decreases as the age at marriage increases. Women of age at marriage ≥ 35 years show the lowest average fertility (2). The present study shows that earlier age at marriage is one of the factors that leads to higher fertility of the population. Hence present study is in conformity with the earlier studies (Lapham 1970; Tien 1970; Pandey and Talwar 1987; Maheo 2004; Bhasin and Shampa 2007).

Table 6: Average fertility vis-à-vis women's age at marriage

Age at marriage	No. of women	No. of live births	Average fertility
15-19	58	241	4.1
20-24	87	320	3.8
25-29	39	140	3.6
30-34	13	31	2.2
≥ 35	3	6	2
Total	200	738	3.7

Women's Education and Fertility

The average fertility vis-à-vis educational status of the women is presented in table 7. Here it is found that the average fertility is higher among the illiterates (5.1) as compared to the literates (3.6). Hence the above table indicates that education has an impact on fertility, i.e. the more they are educated; the lesser is the number of live births. Various authors have reported on similar studies (Dadoo 1992; Maheo 2004; Bhasin and Shampa 2007).

Table 7: Average Fertility vis- a-vis Educational status of the women

Educational Level	Total No. of Women	No. of live births	Average fertility
Illiterate	18	91	5.1
Literate	182	647	3.6

Economic Status and Fertility

Table 8 reveals the average fertility vis-a vis economic status of the women under study. The average fertility is found to be the highest (4.5) among women having an annual per capita income of Rs.3001-6000. Women of the highest annual per capita income (having more than Rs.12000) show the lowest average fertility (3.22). Except in case of the women of per capita income < 3000 , the average fertility of the women decreases with the increase in the per capita income.

Table 8: Average Fertility vis-à-vis Economic Status of the Women Annual per capita income

Annual per capita income	No. of women	No. of live births	Average fertility
< 3000	27	94	3.5
3001-6000	32	144	4.5
6001-9000	56	226	4.04
9001-12000	48	155	3.23
> 12000	37	119	3.22

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it is found that early age at marriage, lower educational status and lower economic status are the main reasons of higher fertility amongst the Anal Naga Tribe. The Child Women Ratio, Crude Birth Rate, General Fertility Rate and Total Fertility Rate of the Anal Naga are found to be 227.96, 11.4, 33.43 and 4.3 respectively. Hence it reveals that fertility rate of the Anal Naga (4.3) is higher than the population of Chandel District (2.8) and Manipur (2.6). That is, the Anal Naga exhibits a higher fertility rate and needs to be checked.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Since educational status of the women has an impact on the age at marriage, there ought to be multi-pronged efforts by the state and district administration and other line departments to educate the women.
2. Since women of higher income group tend to

have lesser offspring, the Government vis-à-vis Non-Government Organizations should take adequate steps toward improvement of the economic status of the community.

3. The population planners and the family welfare programmers could make use of the present study in checking the fertility status of the Anal community.

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