

An Analysis of Fertility Differentials Among Caste Groups in Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstrak

Though the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh is experiencing transition to replacement level, notable fertility differentials persist between the caste groups. Fertility has been much higher among scheduled caste and scheduled tribes compared to other caste groups. This paper examines the fertility differentials among caste groups in the context of characteristics and interaction hypotheses, using the second Indian National Family Health Survey data. The results of multiple classification analysis on cumulative fertility and proportional hazard analysis on birth intervals show that differentials between caste groups persist even after controlling for the other socioeconomic and demographic variables. Further, the analysis of interaction effects show that the caste effect is not constant across the levels of other socioeconomic factors. In rural areas and at the lower levels of education and standard of living, fertility is relatively high and scheduled castes and tribes have higher fertility than 'other' caste. But this situation is reversed completely in urban areas and at the higher levels of socioeconomic status, where the level of fertility is not only low but also scheduled castes and tribes have lower fertility than 'other' castes. This indicates with the improvement of socioeconomic status, not only will fertility decline, but also the difference in fertility between caste groups will disappear.