

## **Comparison of Fertility Behaviour of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan: A Decomposition Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

There are various factors which influence fertility behaviour and each factor operates with different strength. Previous literatures has identified female education, place of residence, wealth index predominantly influence the fertility rate of any region. So in this study the analysis is carried out to see if the education, wealth and place of residence of the two states (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan ) There are state specific factors which are influencing more on fertility reduction then the aforesaid factors.

**Keywords:** Fertility, Decomposition, Wealth, Education, Cultural

### **Introduction**

Fertility, mortality, and migration are the three major demographic events which affect the population size of an area through births, deaths, and migration. In these three events, fertility plays a very important role, and fertility depends on numerous socioeconomic, cultural and other factors. The term fertility embraces many different aspects of this capacity depending on the context. Fertility sometimes refers to the likelihood of being able to conceive (fecundity). It is often used as a measure of the numbers of babies being born in total or per capita in a given time (period measure). In the words of Lewis and Thompson (Dasgupta, 2012, p. 65), "Fertility is generally used to indicate the actual reproductive performance of a woman or a group of women". According to Sujatha and Reddy (2009) education will affect fertility by bringing changes in the duration of breastfeeding, increasing age at marriage, increase in the practice of contraceptive, reduction in the preference for son and large numbers of children. On the basis of the study by Arokiasamy (2009), decline of fertility among illiterate women in India takes place because of the improved health and development conditions. In this study the increase in contraceptive prevalence rate among uneducated women has been larger and faster among educated women. Education plays a major role in women's self esteem and favourable attitude towards girl's education and use of contraceptives across both cultures. The two different societies which are prevailing in India are having the rural culture and urban culture. We can see, in rural areas the lifestyle is oriented more towards the community than family, while in urban areas the lifestyle is more individualistic and family oriented.

### **Purpose of the Study**

In this study, an attempt has been made to examine the magnitude of influence of the various socioeconomic and demographic determinants of fertility behaviour. It is hypothesised that

fertility behaviour is an outcome of the complex interplay of social, economic, demographic and geographical situations. In this study, two different societies have been chosen for an empirical analysis, which is different in their level of fertility behaviour as well as in terms of socioeconomic, cultural and geographical settings.

## **Objective**

The study is designed to see the fertility in the two states Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. However, the main objective of this paper is to identify the factors responsible for the differences in fertility in the states.

## **Data and Methodology**

This study will utilise secondary data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS- III 2005-06). In the methodological part, decomposition analysis has been utilized in order to achieve the prime objective of this study. The major reason to use decomposition method for this study is to identify the dominance of most influencing factor which is acting behind the phenomena of fertility differential among the states. Decomposition helps to know differences due to composition factors (like education, wealth, and Place of residence) and other socio-cultural factors which prevail in the states of the study area..

## **Results**

The available literature suggest that the principle cause of declining fertility changes in the demand for children as well as diffusion of new attitudes about birth control and greater accessibility of contraception provided by family planning programmes. In turn, these depend on socioeconomic factors. However, the critical question is how much fertility change in a particular state can be attributed to each of these broad explanatory factors. It is possible to quantify the role of a key independent factor with the help of a decomposition analysis. The decomposition procedure permits us to delineate factors that may have contributed to observe a decline in fertility as it gives the answer to the question that “how much the prevalence of fertility differentials are attributable to differences in state’s socioeconomic conditions?”

## **Decomposition of Total Fertility Rate**

The highest difference due to educational factor is 34.4% and lowest of 18.6%, in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively. The contribution of other state factors to the difference in fertility is highest in Madhya Pradesh (81.3%) and the lowest 65.5% in Rajasthan.

The lowest difference due to the wealth index factor is 13.5% in Rajasthan. The contribution of other state factors to the difference in fertility is highest in Rajasthan 86.4% and the lowest 73% in Madhya Pradesh.

The highest difference due to the place of residence factor is 20.1% in Rajasthan and lowest of 4.2% in Madhya Pradesh. The contribution of other state factors to the difference in fertility is highest in Madhya Pradesh 95.8% and the lowest 79.8% in Rajasthan.

## **Conclusion**

Fertility behaviour in India, as anywhere else, is governed by the prevailing social and economic conditions as well as cultural and religious traditions as there are a number of groups belonging to different economic strata, different social groups with different religious view towards fertility and finally vast regional differences are exist. With a significant variation in the determinants of fertility behaviour there exists a considerable range of variation in the fertility levels from one region to another. Moreover this variation can be understand by NorthSouth divide, which reflect the dominance of patriarchal value system, low level of economic development, predominance of Brahminical influence and exclusion of women from education and societies like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This study concludes as the difference in fertility due to education, wealth, and place of residence is observed to be relatively low and other state factors are found dominating in these states. The education, wealth, and place of residence are not factors which influencing the predominantly fertility of these states.

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