



## Demographic and Contraceptive Behaviour of Women in Rural Area of Chittoor District

Dr. B. Raveendra Naik, Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDF), UGC, Dept., of Population Studies and Social Work, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, AP, India.

### Abstract

The rural people education should be introduced in the existing functional literacy programmes in order to create awareness in the population that family size in controllable and population limitation can facilitate the development of higher quality of life. The population in the study area should be made to understand that family welfare programme is not meant for family limitation alone it also deals with maternal and child welfare, nutrition and immunization etc. Integrated rural development programme confining health, education, agriculture employment and other welfare activities is needed for the all-round development of the study area. The study area much importance shown to which will have pre-natal effect on fertility. Child labour should be discouraged through strict enforcement of child labour laws, creation of strong aspiration for the welfare of children etc. through prevalence of son preference should be minimized through providing of equal rights on the property to both son and daughter.

**Key Words:** Fertility, Mortality, Contraception, Demographic and Family Planning

### Introduction

India launched the National Family Welfare Programme in 1951 with the objective of reducing the birth rate to the extent necessary to stabilize the population at a level consistent with the requirement of the National economy. The Family Welfare Programme in India is recognized as a priority area, and is being implemented as a 100% centrally sponsored programme. Five states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa, which constituted 44% of the total population of India in 1996, will constitute 48% of the total in 2016, according to projections. These states will contribute 55% of the total increase in population of the country during the period 1996–2016. As per the projections by UN, India will become the most populous country by year 2045.

Assessing the potential demand for contraceptive services is an important component of family planning programme management. The need to control increasing population so as to mitigate the adverse impact of population growth on the economic development was recognized by the planners since the very beginning of planning in the country.

### Objective

To understand how the social, cultural, economic, occupational and educational factors influence the Contraceptive behaviour. To apply the theoretical knowledge in the field of fertility, mortality family planning, health conditions of the community and their implications.

### Methodology

Methodology is the guiding principle for any scientific study. It is the scientific presentation of whole work which deals with several aspects *i.e.*



objectives of the study and statement of the problems.

**Area of Study:** The study was conducted in five villages namely 1) Jandla , 2) Pacharamakula Palli, 3) Basireddy gari Palli, 4) Diguva Palli and 5) Avulayyagari Palli of Piler Mandal Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

**Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of this study is to enable the students to gain practical knowledge in population concepts through surveys. All the students are expected to use the general schedule with special focus on one of the aspects like fertility, community health family planning, labour force etc.

**Interview Process**

In this survey personal interview method is used. The respondents are interviewed only after establishing good rapport with them through local leaders. The respondents are enquired about their well-being, problems encountered in their occupation, welfare of their children and other members of the family etc.

**Statement of the problem**

A study of the influence of Demographic and socio-economic factors on Fertility and Contraceptive behaviour in rural area.

**Historical perspective of status of women**

The socio-economic factors influence the behaviour of the people living in community. In other words, quality of life depends upon the prevailing socio-economic conditions of the community. Based on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics the world has been divided into more developed and less developed countries. A man is a social beings, he cannot live in an isolated world without following certain conditions which the society imposes on them.

Development both qualitative and quantitative of any area depends on different factors which influence the community directly. Demographic literature also revealed that changes in socio-economic characteristics of country bring changes in the demographic process of the nation. Thus fertility, mortality, migration and other demographic factors are likely to be influenced by the socio-economic conditions of the people. Similarly the adoption of contraceptives also varies in relation to the socio-economic characteristics of the people. Socio-economic characteristics examined in study were housing conditions, education, occupation, electrification of the house etc., type of family number of rooms in the house etc.

Table: 1. Socio-economic characteristics of women Percentage distribution of respondents by type of house

Type of house	Number	(%)age
Pucca	18.00	09.00
Kutchha	31.00	15.05
Hut	15.00	75.05
Total	200.00	100.00

It is evident from the above table that over three fourths of the total respondents (75.05) are living in huts and 15.56 percent of the respondents are living in Kutchha houses, while 9 percent are only living in Pucca houses. Thus the table indicates that housing condition is very poor because of low economic conditions prevailing in the community.



Table-2: Distribution of houses in relation to Electrification

Type of House	Electrified	(%)age	Not Electrified	(%)age	Total	(%)age
Pucca	09	50.00	09	50.00	18	100.00
Kutchha	25	80.06	06	19.04	31	100.00
Hut	89	58.09	62	41.00	151	100.00
Total	123	61.05	77	38.05	200	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of houses and its electrification. Only 50.0 percent of Pucca houses are electrified and among Kutchha houses 80.06 percent are electrified. Among huts 52.09 percent of houses are electrified. In the study area most of the houses are of hut type.

Because this study belongs to scheduled caste community who are under the lower stage of socio-economic level. There is no association between type of house and its electrification because in the study area most of the respondents have illegal connections of electrification

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to type of family

Type of Family	Number	(%)age
Nuclear	125	52.05
Joint	75	47.05
Total	200	100.00

In the study village the families are categorized into joint and nuclear families. The above table shows the distribution of family type. It is found that there are more number of nuclear

families (52.05 percent) compared to joint families (47.05 percent). In Indian situation as time passes on joint families are becoming nuclear families.

Table-4. Distribution of respondents and their spouses by level of Education

Education level	Male		Female	
	Number	(%)age	Number	(%)age
Illiteracy	98	49.00	143	71.05
Secondary	20	10.00	12	06.00
Intermediate	17	08.05	05	02.05
Degree and above	14	07.00	03	01.05
Total	200.00	100.00	200.00	100.00



The above table shows educational levels of the respondents and their spouses. The illiteracy population of males is 49.00 percent and that of females is 71.05 percent indicating more illiteracy among females compared to males. The literacy population for males and females is 51.00 percent and 28.05 percent respectively. The education at all levels males out number females in the study area. Among male 10 percent, 25 percent, 8.05

percent and 7 percent and among females 6 percent, 18.05 percent, 2.5 percent 1.5 percent are educated in the primary, secondary inter and degree and above level respectively. In the area comparatively literacy in males is higher than the females in all the levels of education and it is particularly higher in degree level.

Table-5. Percentage distribution of respondents and their spouse by Occupation

Occupation level	Males		Females	
	Number	(%)age	Number	(%)age
Cultivators	26	13.00	10.00	05.00
Agricultural labourers	128	64.00	89.00	44.05
Non - Agricultural labourers	16	08.00	11.00	05.05
Engaged in household industry	04	02.00	01.00	00.05
Other workers	20	10.00	02.00	01.00
House wife	01	00.05	87.00	43.05
Unemployed persons	05.00	02.05	-	-
Total	200.00	100.00	200.00	100.00

In the sample population of 200 households, 13 percent of the male cultivators, agricultural labourers belong to 64 percent, non-agricultural labourers are of 8 percent and other workers 20 percent. In the study area only 8 percent were engaged in household industry, while house workers constitute 0.05 percent. About 2.5 percent are unemployed persons. Among females 5 percent are cultivators and others are agricultural laborers (05.05 percent) other workers (1.0 percent) and engaged in household industry. About 43.05 percent of the respondents are house wives in the study area. House wives are

considered of non-workers in the census of India.

**Demographic Characteristics**

Demography is the scientific study of the size, composition and distribution of human population. The study of the size composition and distribution of human population. The study of population is complex and dynamic in nature and is affected by various factors. During the last three decades research on demographic studies have increased in its number as well as indepth. Research leading to a high degree of specialization among the branches of demography has increased. Knowledge on present size of the



population, its composition, fertility, mortality is necessary for the formulation of economic and social programmes. The composition of the population plays an important role in determining the socio-

economic development of the country. This chapter deals with some demographic features viz., age and sex composition, dependency ration, age at menarche and age at marriage etc.

Table 6. Percentage distribution of women by age at Menarche

Age	Number of Respondents	(%)age
12 years	108	54.00
13 years	69	34.00
14 years	14	07.00
15 years	09	04.05
Total	200	100.00

By age 13 about 88 percent of women's had menarche. All the women's had reached menarche by the age of 15. Thus

most of the women attained puberty between 12 and 13 years of age.

Table-7. Percentage distribution of respondents according to age at marriage of husbands

Husbands age at marriage (in years)	Number of Respondents	(%)age
19	44	22.00
20 - 21	49	24.05
22 - 23	47	23.05
24 - 25	32	16.00
26+	28	14.00
Total	200	100.00

From the above table, it can be observed that 14.0 percent of the males married above 26 years of age and 22.0 percent of the males married at or below 19 years of age. While the remaining 24.5 percent of the males married between n 20-21 years of age, 23.5 percent in the age group of 22- 23 years and 16.0 percent in the age

group of 24-25 years. In the study area mean age at marriage for males is 22.1 years. The age ate marriage is in Andhra Pradesh state is 23.1 years for males. This rate in 1961 is 22.3 in Andhra Pradesh. The sample area, the age at marriage is lower than the state average.



Table-8. Distribution of respondents according to age at marriage of Wives

Husbands age at Marriage (in years)	Number of Respondents	(%)age
14	91	45.05
15 – 16	43	21.05
17 – 18	42	21.00
19+	24	12.00
Total	200	100.00

From the above table it is observed that 12.00 percent of the females married at the age of 19 years and above and of the females married at the 14 years and below. While 21.05 percent of the females married between 15 to 16 years of age and 21.00 percent of the females married between 17 to 18 years of age. In the study, the age at marriage for females is 15.02 years. The age at marriage in Andhra Pradesh state is 17.03 years for females. This rate in 1961 is 15.03 years respectively in Andhra Pradesh. In the study area mean at age is very low. They in the study area most of the females have married immediately after menarche.

**Contraceptive Behaviour**

“Population Explosion” is a burning problem of the world and

especially for the developing countries which are associated with high rates of fertility. India is the first country in the world to adopt family planning as a National Policy as early as in 1952. In order to maintain the small family size norm, the fertility can be reduced by various methods of contraception. Contraception is technique of prevailing unwanted pregnancy. Using this method births can be prevented or postponed without endangering the sexual harmony of the couple. The contraceptive methods are divided into permanent and temporary methods. Permanent methods are used not to have any more children. Permanent methods are surgical methods *i.e.*, vasectomy for males and tubectomy for females.

Table-9. Distribution of respondents who has heard/saw source of message on family planning

Source of message	Number of Respondents	(%)age
Radio	50	68.05
Television	19	26.00
Newspaper	03	04.01
Inter-personal communication	30	41.01
Others	25	34.02
Total	127	100.00

The above table indicates that 68.05 percent of the respondents heard/saw the message of family planning in the Radio. About 26.00 percent of the

respondents saw the message in the Television and 4.1 percent read in the Newspapers. About 41.01 percent of the respondents are heard the message of family planning through the



Interpersonal communication. In the study area majority of the respondents have heard the message of family planning in the Radio. Thus radio is the main source of information on family planning.

Table-10. Percentage distribution of respondents by family planning practice

Population	Acceptance of family planning in percentage (%)	
Adopters	44.00	88
Non adopters	56.00	112
Total	100.00	200

The above table illustrate that 44.00 percent of the respondents are adopting family planning methods and 56.00 percent were non-adopters. While National Family Health survey of Andhra Pradesh revealed that three fifth (60.07 percent) of currently married women are practicing family planning, which is higher than the present results.

Table-. Number of children ever born and surviving children by occupation of the husband

Occupational status	Number of Respondents	Mean No. of ever born children	Mean No. of surviving children
Cultivation	26	2.19	2.00
Agricultural laborer	128	2.03	1.92
Non-agricultural labourers	16	1.44	1.44
Others	30	2.20	2.07
Total	200	2.04	1.92

Note: (Others belong to engaged in household industry other workers, unemployed etc)

In the study area, mean number of ever born children and mean number of surviving children are 2.04 and 1.92 for all occupations respectively. Mean number of children ever born among the cultivators is 2.19 and among agriculture ever born among the cultivators is 2.19 and among agricultural labour, non – agricultural labourers and others occupational groups are 2.03, 1.44 and 2.20 respectively.

Table-11. Number of children ever born and mean number of surviving children by age of mother

Current age	Number of	Mean No.	Mean No. of
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	respondents	of children ever born	surviving children
20	25	0.76	0.76
20 – 24	55	1.38	1.35
25 – 29	55	2.29	2.18
30 – 34	34	2.79	2.56
35+	31	2.94	2.68
Total	200	2.04	1.92

A near negative relationship between present age of wife and fertility was noticed in the study area. The above table shows that it is observed that the highest mean number of ever born children and surviving children is observed among the women who are in fertility is less who are in the age group of less than 20 years.

**Summary and implications**

Under socio-economic characteristics the variables discussed are housing conditions, electrification educational level, occupation and modern articles. Three -fourths of the total respondents (75.50 percent) are living in huts and 15 percent of the respondents are living in Kutcha houses, while only 9 percent are living in pucca houses. In the villages, housing condition is very poor because of low economic conditions prevailing in the community. Only about 50 percent of pucca houses are electrified. Among huts 58.09 percent of houses are electrified. In the study area most of the houses are of hut type. There are more number of nuclear families (52.05 percent) compared to joint families (47.05 percent). In Indian situation as time passes on joint families are becoming nuclear families. The characteristics of these three types of houses reveal that the hut houses have less number of rooms compared to Kutcha and Pucca houses.

the current age group of 35 and above (2.94 and 2.68 respectively). The mean number of ever born and living children is very low in the age group less than 20 years. One can say from the above table that the fertility is high who are in the age group of 35 and above

Population education should be introduced in the existing functional literacy programmes in order to create awareness in the population that family size in controllable and population limitation can facilitate the development of higher quality of life. The population in the study area should be made to understand that family welfare programme is not meant for family limitation alone it also deals with maternal and child welfare, nutrition and immunization etc. Integrated rural development programme confining health, education, agriculture employment and other welfare activities is needed for the all-round development of the study area. The study area much importance shown to which will have pre-natal effect on fertility. Child labour should be discouraged through strict enforcement of child labour laws, creation of strong aspiration for the welfare of children etc. through prevalence of son preference should be minimized through providing of equal rights on the property to both son and daughter.



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