Family Planning Behavior of Schedule Caste Women: A Study of Jandla Harijanawada Village of Piler Mandal, Chittoor District, India

B. Raveendra Naik

Dept. of Population Studies and Social Work, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

Abstract

India has a vast population of 116 crores in 2008. It has been crossed one billion population on 11th of May 2000 and it estimated to reach 1.53 billion by the year 2050 (Population reference bureau, 2007). India will most likely overtake China by that year to become the most population likely country on the earth with 17.2 percent population living here (United Nations, 1998). However, the population growth intern in directly associated with fertility and family planning behavior, which inter indirectly related with socio-economic and demographic characteristics of a population. However in these aspects micro level study provides grassroots information. Keeping in the view an attempt is made in this context to study the socio-economic and demographic aspects in relation to fertility and family and planning aspects. Which provides practical know ledge to the researcher.

Keywords: Socio-economic condition, fertility behavior, family planning.

Introduction

India has a vast population of 116 crores in 2008. It has been crossed one billion population on 11th of May 2000 and it estimated to reach 1.53 billion by the year 2050 (Population reference bureau, 2007). India will most likely overtake China by that year to become the most population likely country on the earth with 17.2 percent population living here (United Nations, 1998).

At present, India is the second most populations' country in the world, next only to China where as seventh in land area. India accounts for a meager 2.4 percent of the world surface area with 135.79million square Kms. Yet it supports and sustains a whopping 16.7 percent of the world population (census of India, 2001). It is remarked that, India adds 16 million populations each year, which equal to the total population of Australia.

The population of India, which at the turn of the twentieth century was only 238.4 million increased by more than four times in a period of hundred years to reach 1027 million at the dawn of the twenty first century. Interestingly, the population of India grew by one and half times in the first half of the twentieth century, while in the later half, it recorded almost a phenomenal three – told increase. Thus, unprecedented growth of population in India is one of the greatest obstacles for the socio-economic development.

Objective: To understand various socio-economic and demographic aspects of the study population general objectives. i. To study the socio-economic aspects of the respondents in the study area. ii. To develop knowledge and skill for designing survey, Data collection, Data analysis and report writing. iii. To study demographic, fertility and family planning aspects of the respondents in the study area.

Methodology

The present study examines the socio-economic and demographic aspects as well as and family planning behavior of the Schedule caste eligible couple. The main focus of the study is to assess the fertility and family behavior of the respondents.

Sample frame and size: Eligible scheduled caste couple within the age group of 15-49 years at least one living child. Were the respondents (females) for the present study. However, their husband were also interviewed to collect certain information like annual income for the household, type of occupation and decision making on family planning aspects. Total eligible couple as the sample size of the present study was 150 households and selected on the basis of simple rending samplings.

Area of the Study: The present study was conducted in Jandla Harijana Wada village of Piler Mandal in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

Instrument and interview schedule was used for data collection in this study. The questionnaires were prepared depending upon the specific information heeded for the study. Several types of questions were used in this interview schedule. The schedule was broadly divided in five parts viz general information socio-economic and demographic information and fertility and family planning behavior.

*Research Journal of Language, Literature and Humanities*_____ISSN 2348-6252

Vol. **1**(2), 4-7, March **(2014)** *Res. J. Lang. Lit. Humanities*

Interview Process: Interview with a schedule is the technique adopted for data collection. The validity of the information is high as the research herself interviewed all the respondents the information on the fertility and family planning aspects were recorded after collection of important information from the respondents. The respondents were co-operative with the researcher and participated in the interview patiently.

Data Analysis: The collected data from the survey was analyzed using computer statistical packages such as SPSS and MS Excel. Simple frequency table and two way tables were presented in order from as socio-economic demographic, fertility and family planning behavior.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Community: In the Bucharest conference (1974) the participants unanimously resolved that "Development is the best contraceptive". Hence, there is a great need to identify and understand the socio-economic factors which are likely to affect fertility, Mortality and Migration of a given population. The socio-economic factors differ from place to place and from time to time and from community to community. The socio-economic characteristics studied in this chapter are: Educational status of respondent, Educational status of spouse, spouse relations ship before marriage, DWACRA membership, and social status in DWACRA group, land holdings and family income.

Education: Educational status of an individual enhances his ability to think, analyze and act to better his future living. Through education, an individual gains knowledge and wisdom and think in every act. It indicator in broad and in a more positive way. Education makes people balance and counter balance his emotion and act according to the social needs. Education makes people aware of their roles in the society and in the family.

Distribution of respondents (Females) by their Educational status

Educational Status	Number	Percentage (%)
Illiterates	91	60.7
Primary	39	26.0
Secondary	20	13.3
Total	**150**	**100.0**

It is evident that 60.7 percentage of female respondents are illiterate followed by 26.0 percent with primary education and 13.3 percent of respondents have secondary education. Therefore, majority of the respondents are illiterates and even educators, they studied up to primary and secondary level only.

Spouse Relationship: In India marriage is universal. It is social aspect, entirely determined by the socio-cultural factures that prevailed in the society. In India context, it is common that marriage takes place in the blood relationship. Introduction on spouse relationship before marriage is collected and presented in the following table and distribution of respondents spouse relationship before marriage.

Table-2
Spaise Relationship

Relationship	Number	Percentage (%)
Blood relation	60	40.0%
Relative	51	34.0%
Non-relative	39	26.0%
Total	**150**	**100.0%**

It is clear from table-2 that 40.0 percent of the respondents married within blood relation. 34.0 percent of respondents married relatives and 26.0 percent have no relationship before marriage. Thus, in the study area, marriage is mostly taking place within relationship.

Family Income: Income is one of indicators of socio-economic status. The level of income determine the standard of living of the people which intern influence. The respondents of the present study have been divided into three broad income groups vize low income group less than or equal to Rs.11, 000/-) middle income group) Rs.11,001-16,000/-) and high income group (Rs. 16,0001+). The data relating to family income is presented in the following table.

Table-3
Distribution of respondents by family Income

Annual family income (in rupees)	Number	Percentage (%)
≤ 11,000 (Low)	28	18.7%
11,001-16,000 (Middle)	102	68.0%
and 16,001 (High)	20	13.3%
Total	**150**	**100.0%**

It is clear that 68.0 percent of respondents are getting an income of Rs.11, 001-16,000/- per annum. Another 18.7 percent of respondents are getting an annual income of Rs less than or equal to Rs.11, 000/- and 13.3 percent are getting Rs.16001 and above per year. In the study population majority of the respondents are in middle income group.

Age at Marriage: In India marriage is universal phenomenon. Everyone in India, sooner or later usually get married. An unmarried person is not merely a necessary social institution but a quasi-religious duty. However, the age at marriage depends on socio-economic and cultural factors. A notable point in this connection is in India that child marriages declined a result of legislating and through social change. The post pone pavement of age at marriage of females has proved to be important instrument in restrictions the growth of population in industrialized countries.

Table-4
Data relating age at Marriage of the respondents is presented

Age at marriage (in years)	Number	Percentage (%)
≤ 15	59	39.3%
16-17	51	34.0%
18 and above	40	26.7%
Total	**150**	**100.0%**

The above table-4 shows that nearly two –fifty (39.3percent) respondents married at less than or equal to 15 years of age. About one-third (34.0 percent) married at the ages of 16-17 years and 26.7 percent married at 18 and above years. Therefore, in the study areas more than one-fourth (26.7 percent) married above legal age of marriage. However, in the study are majority of the respondents married below the legal age at marriage. Hence, efforts are to be made to rise the age at marriage of females in the community.

Number of Children: The number of children born per women depends on the socio-economic and demographic aspects. When females are socio-economically better, their prefer lower children. In the present study data on number of children born per women is collected and present in the following table.

Table-5
Distribution respondents number of Children born.

Number of children	Number	Percentage (%)
One child	64	42.7%
Two children	70	46.6%
Three children	15	10.0%
Four children	1	0.7%
Total	**150**	**100.0%**

The above table-5 shows that majority (46.6 percent) of the respondents have two children followed by 42.7 percent on child, 10.0 percent with their children and only 0.7 percent have four children. Thus, study areas in the majority (89.4 percent) of respondents have one to two children.

Age at First Birth: If it is one of important variable while studying the fertility behavior. In certain society, child marriages are prevalent. In this situation, the age at first birth of mothers starts after maturity of females. Age at first birth depends on the socio-economic cultural aspects of the society. In the present study age of mother at first birth is collected and presented in the below table.

Table-6
Distribution of respondents by Age at first birth

Age at first birth (in years)	Number	Percentage (%)
≤ 16	37	24.6%
17-18	50	33.4%
19 and above	63	42.0%
Total	**150**	**100.0%**

The above table-6 shows that majority of respondents has their first birth at the age of 19 and above years. One third of (33.4 percent) respondents had at ages 17-18 years and one fourth (24.6 percent) has at the age of less than or equal to 16 years of age. In study area, majority of the respondents has their first birth at earlier ages.

Knowledge on Family Planning: Many surveys in India revealed that most of the couples are having knowledge on permanent methods of family planning's, especially tubectomy. However, knowledge on temporary method less, because of low rate of inter personal and mass media communication in this aspects. Knowledge about family planning methods is the first step in the adoption of family planning. Data related to knowledge on family planning is presented in the following table.

Table-7
Distribution of respondents by Knowledge on family planning Methodss

Family planning method	Known number	Percentage	Un known number	percentage	Total
Tubectomy	150	100.0	-	-	100.0 (150)
Vasectomy	150	100.0	-	-	100.0 (150)
Nirodh	96	64.0	54	36.0	100.0 (150)
I.U.D	4	2.7	146	97.3	100.0 (150)
Coper T	15	10.0	135	90.0	100.0 (150)
Pills	35	23.3	115	76.7	100.0 (150)

It is clear from the above table-7, that all the respondents have knowledge on Tubectomy and Vasectomy. Among temporary methods of knowledge on family planning Nirodh occupies first place (64.0 percent) followed by pills (23.3 percent) copper T (10.0 percent) and I.U.D (27.7 percent). Hence, these are a great need for propagating knowledge on temporary methods.

Practice of Family Planning: The practice of family planning depends on the socio-economic, demographic and cultural aspects. Further, knowledge and attitudes also play a significant role in the practice of family planning. Moreover, at present sum preference is playing a dominant role in determining family planning practice. Data on practice of family planning is presented in the bellow table.

Table-8
Distribution of respondents by Adoption of family planning

Family planning acceptance status	Number	Percentage (%)
Adopted	114	76.00%
Non-adopted	36	24.00%
Total	**150**	**100.00%**

The above table-8 shows that about three fourths of respondents (76.0 percent) adopted family planning methods and rest (24.0 percent) have not adopted any method of family planning. Hence, there is need for education the people to wards adoption of family planning.

Method of Family Planning Adopted: In India, permanent methods of family planning are more famous than the temporary method. Further, among the permanent methods, tubectomy is more practicing method, because of socio-economic and cultural factors that are planning an important role in India. Data on method of family planning is presented in table-9 distributions of respondents by method of family planning adoption.

Table-9
Methods of Family Planning

Family planning method adopted	Number	Percentage (%)
Tubectomy	96	84.2%
Vasectomy	-	-
Nnirodh	10	8.8%
I.U.D	-	-
Coper-T	-	-
Pills	8	7.0%
Total	**114**	**100.0%**

The above table-9 shows that among the family planning adopters, majority adopted temporary method followed by 8.8 percent Nirodh and rest (7.0 percent) adopted pills. Hence, educations of the people towards adoption of temporary methods are needed.

Age at Practice of Family Planning: Age at practice of family planning is determined by the socio-economic and cultural fabric of the society. In India, generally most of the women are practicing permanent family methods after they are getting number of required children. Data on age at practice of family planning is presented in the bellow table.

Table-10
Distribution of respondents by Age at practice of family planning

Age at practice of family planning (in years)	Number	Percentage (%)
≤ 23	24	21.1%
24-26	80	70.2%
27 and above	10	8.7%
Total	**114**	**100.0 %**

The above table-10 shows that majority of (70.2percent) of family planning adopters, practiced family planning at the ages of 24-26 years another one fifth of (21.1 percent) adopters practiced at the age of 23 years and above years and rest (8.7 percent) adopted at ages of 27 and above years. It is observed in the study that area, majority of adopted family planning at 24 and above years.

Conclusion

Nationally and internationally, it is perceived that population growth centers around women. It is also found that women in general or neglected over several millennia. Then it also found well informed women and less educated females. Women are able to protect themselves from the burden of conceiving and rearing more children. The major finding are discussed hereunder majority (60.7percent) of respondents are illiterate. Further, more than half (57.3 percent) of respondent's spouses (Husbands) are illiterate. Therefore, formal education programmes are needed in the study population. Nearly three fourth (74.0 percent) of respondents married within relationship. Therefore, people are educated on consequences of marriage among the relationship. Majority (46.6 percent) of respondents have two children. One – third (33.4 percent) of respondents had their first birth at the ages of 17-18 years. Hence, socio-economic development is needed for control population growth. Awareness on permanent methods of family planning for better than temporary methods. This can be reduced by explaining our female successors in India society. These are some of the suggestion that can be implementing. However, some more family welfare programme can also be implemented as per the needy of the society.

References

1. Naidu N.Y., Knowledge and approval of family planning as correlated to some characteristics of respondent, *The journal of Family Welfare,* **18(1) (1981)**

2. Basu Salil and Kshatriya G.K., Fertility and Mortality trends in Tribal Population of Bastar District, M.P., *Biological and Society,* **6,** 110-112 **(1989)**

3. Abma J., Chandra A., Mosher W., Peterson L. and Piccinino L., Fertility, family Planning and women's health: New data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat, **23(19), (1997)**

4. Madhavan S., Female relationships and demographic outcomes, *Sociological Forum,* **16(3),** 503-528 **(2001)**

5. International Institute of population Sciences and Macro International, 2007, *National Family Health Survey (NFHS),* **1,** 57-65 **(2005-06)**

6. Walker R. and Alexander, A study of Relationship of Body image with health knowledge and with behavior, 1980, Disst. *Abst. Int. Hum. and Soc. Sciences,* **41,** 6 **(1981)**