

Socioeconomic development and fertility in India

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Abstrak

This study investigates the relationship between the level of socioeconomic development and fertility in India. The perspective of this study is based on the "Theory of Demographic Transition" which states that as socioeconomic development in a country increases, high fertility and mortality rates are replaced by low fertility and mortality rates, leading to population stability. This study tests the following major hypothesis: The higher the level of socioeconomic development, the lower the fertility rates among the states of India. The study applies correlation and multiple regression analysis on the 1992-1993 Indian National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data using four major categories (education, modernization, health, and family planning) of socioeconomic development to predict two measures (crude birth rate and the total fertility rate) of fertility. The findings support the theory of demographic transition in large measure revealing that the overall level of socioeconomic development is inversely related to fertility among the states of India. Finally, the study suggests that higher levels of female literacy and acceptance of contraceptives lead to fertility decline.