

Female education and the intensification of Son Preference on Regional Fertility in India

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Abstrak

The study examines the impact of son preference on the pace of fertility among women of different educational levels in the 14 Indian states of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal with reference to the findings of the NFHS 2 survey (1998-99). In the northern western states there appears to be an increased preference for at least one son in 1992-99 as compared to the southern/eastern states. In contrast to their counterparts in the southern states, educated women in the northern/western states demonstrate a greater inclination toward continuing childbearing for a son on the basis of having any daughters. Son preference continues to affect fertility at lower parities and could slow down fertility decline especially in the populous northern/western states.