

# Relation between marriage duration and fertility

Dr. Prakash Chand Srivastava

Post Graduate Department of Mathematics, DAVPG College Azamgarh-276001 (U.P.) India

## ABSTRACT

In this paper an attempt has been made to discuss the effect of demographic variable marriage duration on fertility among the women of reproductive age group of sample population.

Statistical Analysis Used-Chi-square test significant at level 0.01 etc.

## INTRODUCTION

It is only married women who are responsible for procreation. The reproductive power of females is dependent upon fecund cycle, length of fecund cycle and fertility. The full effect of fecundity could be realized if all females throughout their entire period of child bearing had sexual intercourse with procreative men and did nothing to prevent conception and produce abortion. About 80% of Indian women get their first menstruation between ages of 12-15 years and about 50% of them get married before they complete the 15<sup>th</sup> year [1]. The average age at Menarche and Menopause lies respectively between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> year, and 47<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> years [2] [3]. Since a woman is expected to have a capacity of bearing child in entire reproductive period, it is but natural a woman will bear more no. of children if she is married at her puberty age and leads a continuous married life till the age of last menstruation. One of the suggested measure to reduce the fertility is to shorten the marriage duration by raising the age of effective marriage of female. [4] [5]

## METHOD

In present study an attempt has been made to study the influence of marriage duration on birth rates. For the purpose of study the data has been collected from 287 married women in the sample population according to their marriage duration.

Table (1.1) shows the average no. of live birth per married women according to marriage duration. From Table (1.1) it is clear that in the study area, the women whose marriage duration is greater than 21 years had higher average live birth (3.74) followed by age group 18-21 years (3.39). In the age group less than 18 years the average is much lower (2.98).

Table (1.2) represents the percent distribution of married women according to marriage duration and no. of live birth. From Table (1.2) it is clear that the proportion of respondents who had 5 live births and above was much higher among the age group greater than 21 years (45.76%) followed by age group 18-21 years (36.04%) whereas in age group less than 18 years it is only (14.08%). From this table we also obtain that the proportion of respondent who had 1-2 live birth was much higher among those women whose marriage duration is less than 18 years (33.80%) whereas it is obtained 19.76% and 23.72% for marriage duration 18-21 years and greater than 21 years respectively. From these results it is clear that the fertility is directly proportional to marriage duration.

The test of chi-square indicates that the fertility depends upon the marriage duration. In this analysis chi-square is obtained 27.46 which is very significant at level 0.01.

Table: (1.1) Average no. of live birth per married women according to marriage duration

Duration (Years)	No. of live births	Women	Average
Less than 18	424	142	2.98
Between 18-21	292	86	3.39
Above 21	221	59	3.74
Total	937	287	3.26

**Table (1.2) Percentage distribution of married women according to marriage duration and no. of live births**

Duration (Years)	No. of live birth			Total
	1-2	3-4	5+	
<i>Less than 18</i>	48 (33.80)*	74 (52.11)	20 (14.08)	142
<i>Between 18-21</i>	17 (19.76)	38 (44.18)	31 (36.04)	86
<i>Above 21</i>	14 (23.72)	18 (30.50)	27 (45.76)	59
<b>Total</b>	79	130	78	287

\*Figures in small bracket represent percent  $X^2 = 27.46$  df:4 significant at level 0.01.

## RESULTS FROM OTHER STUDIES

The duration of married life of a couple is one of the significant demographic variable determining the level of fertility. In general females with longer duration of effective marriage were expected to have relatively higher fertility as compared to those with shorter marital union because the chance of conception seemed to be greater in the former group. This trend has been supported by many studies in India. Mahadevan [6], Murthy & Raju [7], Reddy [8].

## CONCLUSION

From above results we conclude that there are different fertility rate in different period of marriage duration. Thus we can say that fertility depends upon the duration of marriage. Generally the women, with shorter duration of effective marriage were expected to have relatively lower fertility as compared to those with longer marital union because the chance of coital intercourse seemed to be greater in those couple whose duration of marriage is higher.

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