Effect of Female Education on fertility

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ABSTRACT

In this present paper we discuss the effect of female education on fertility among women of reproductive age group in sample population.

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

INTRODUCTION

Several studies throughout India and world have pointed out that higher literacy and educational achievement especially of the female tend to reduce fertility level. Considering the relationship between female education and fertility, **Donald R. Holsinger and John D. Kasarda** pointed out that female education may influence fertility directly by altering the attitudes of individuals and indirectly by affecting the factor like age at marriage [1].

A generally inverse relationship between fertility and female educational level is obtained.

Method-
Since the educational background of present study area has not been satisfactory, it was necessary to find the difference of birth due to educational level. Considering the importance of education of female for reducing the fertility, we divide sample women (287) in four groups according to their education.

1. Illiterate

2. Primary level

3. Higher secondary level

4. Above

In this process total women (287) was distributed in four above groups according to their education.

Table (1.1) represents the average life birth per married women according to their education. From the findings of **Table (1.1)** it is evident that in the study area the higher average of live birth (4.03) was obtained in those women who were only educated up to primary level whereas this average declining in those women who were well educated (2.20). This fertility measure is obtained high in those women who were illiterate (3.49). followed by higher secondary level (2.96).

Table (1.2) represents the percent distribution of married women according to their education and number of live birth. From **Table (1.2)** it is evident that the proportion of respondent who had five live birth and above was 34.48% in primary level, 27.48% in higher secondary level, 27.35 % in illiterates as compared to highly educated were nil. From the above table it is seen that among the highly educated the percentage of respondent who had 1-2 live birth was 70% as compared to illiterates 9.4%. From these results it is clear that highly educated females give lower fertility rate as compared to low educated females. The test of Chi-Square confirms that the fertility depends upon the education of female. In this analysis Chi-Square is obtained 54.69 which is very significant at level 0.01.

Table (1.1) Average live birth per married women according to female Education

Female education	No. of live birth	Women	Average
Illiterate	409	117	3.49
Primary	117	29	4.03
Higher sec.	389	131	2.96
Above	22	10	2.20
Total	937	287	3.26

Table (1.2) Percentage distribution of married women according to Female Education and no. of live birth

Female Education	No. of live birth			Total
	1-2	3-4	5+	
Illiterate	11 (9.40)*	74 (63.24)	32 (27.35)	117
Primary	04 (13.79)	15 (51.72)	10 (34.48)	29
Higher secondary	57 (43.51)	38 (29.00)	36 (27.48)	131
Above	07 (70.0)	03 (30.0)	_	10
Total	79	130	78	287

*Figures in small bracket represent percent
$X^2 = 54.69$ df:6 significant at level 0.01.

RESULTS FROM OTHER STUDIES

An inverse relationship between fertility and educational level was found in almost the fertility studies in India and world. For e.g. **Data of UAR 1960** shows the inverse relationship between educational attainment of women and their fertility, the lower fertility of the well educated married women in part due to late age at marriage and greater utilization of contraceptive [2]. **The Mysore population study [3]** revealed that the average no. of children born to females who were illiterate or educated up to middle school was between 5.3 and 5.5 children and this average was found only 3.9 for females educated up to higher secondary level. **Rele & Kanitkar [4]** in the study of greater Bombay has found a negative relation between education and no. of children ever born. Historically many studies in India have shown a strong inverse relationship between educational status and fertility. **Driver [5], Saxena [6], Mahadevan [7].**

CONCLUSION

In conclusion educational attainment of female affects the fertility and inverse relationship exist between these two variables. The increased education affects directly to the fertility. It is generally observed that with increase of female educational level, age at marriage is increased and practice rate of contraception becomes high. Also the increased education of women in particular religion is a important contributory factor to the changing attitude among women to their traditional role as homemaker and bearer of children. It changes the attitude of women for participation in gainful employment and the improvement of social status and economic status and thus stresses and important motive in her for family limitations.

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