

Reproductive Behaviour in Muzaffarnagar: A Comparative Study

Abstract

The present study is a comparative analysis of socio-economic profile and reproductive behaviour of women. This research paper is based on primary data. The study has been conducted in Muzaffarnagar city of Uttar Pradesh. For the study sample of 100 married women (50 Hindu and 50 Muslim) have been selected by purposive sampling. Findings of the study reveal that due to the low education, desires two or more than two sons, less gap between the births of two children, low use of contraceptives, do not takes decision of family planning, 5-6 children and large size family Muslim women have higher reproductive behaviour than Hindu women. Hence, the Muslim population is growing at a faster rate than the Hindu population.

Keywords: Hindu Women, Muslim Women, Reproductive Behaviour, Introduction

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Behavior related to the production of offspring; it includes such patterns as the establishment of mating systems, courtship, sexual behavior, parturition, and the care of young. Successful reproductive efforts require the establishment of a situation favorable for reproduction, often require behavior leading to the union of male and female gametes, and often require behavior that facilitates or ensures the survival and development of the young; the mere union of gametes is not generally sufficient for successful reproduction. For each species, there is a complex set of behavioral adaptations that coordinate the timing and patterning of reproductive activity. Typically, this entails integration of both overt behavioral and internal physiological events in both male and female, all of which are intricately enmeshed in manners adapted to the environment in which the animals live. The behavioral patterns related to reproduction tend to be relatively stereotyped within a species, but diverse among different species—especially distantly related species. The end products of cycles of reproductive activity are viable, fertile offspring which, in turn, will reproduce and thus perpetuate the species.

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Review of Literature

To understand the different aspect of reproductive behaviour, a brief review of literature of earlier studies in the specific area is very important and essential. Hence, there are few studies have been presented on various aspects of socio-economic status, values and fertility behavior of women.

Laxmi Thakur (2011: 296-311) conduct a study "Fertility Behaviour and Women's Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights". She found that the norms about fertility in rural societies are different from the urban population. Respondent were not aware regarding their reproductive health and planning for the family size.

Anu Nag and Praveen Singhal (2013: 225-230) investigated in "Impact of Education and Age at Marriage on Fertility among Uttar Pradesh Migrants of Ludhiana, Punjab, India". It was observed that the lower age at marriage is responsible for the higher fertility. The findings also reveal that educated women were more comfortable to discuss with their husbands and other family members about controlling the family size.

N. Krishnaji and K.S. James (2005: 455-458) studied on "Religion and Fertility: A Comment" in Tamil Nadu. They found that the Muslim population is growing at a faster rate than the Hindu population and the rate of modern contraceptive practice was lower among the Muslim women than the Hindu women.

Yagya B. Karki (1988: 169-178) discussed on the "Sex Preference and Value of Sons and Daughters in Nepal". He found that 90 percent of all

respondents preferred three children, with two sons and one daughter. The most important utility of sons is emotional support, old age security, and religious values whereas reasons for wanting daughters is that girls are more useful in the households and familial work and on the occasion of festivals for tikos.

Carolyn Cummings Perrucci (1968: 273-282) has discussed on "Mobility, Marriage and Child-Spacing among college Graduates". He found that the high social origins groups of engineers, doctors and scientists had a significantly longer time period between marriage and first birth instead of those who had attained a master's or bachelor's degree.

K.S. James and Vegard Skirbekk et al. (2012: 1-8) have assessed the "Education and the Global Fertility Transition – Foreword", in Europe. The present study shows that education is a key driver which affects fertility and the rise of education levels is widely seen as the key causes of fertility decline during the demographic transition.

Objective of the Study

1. To assess the socio-economic profile of the respondents.
2. To assess the reproductive behaviour of the respondents.

Material and Methods

In this research study descriptive research design has used for the fulfillment of the objectives. Area of the study is Muzaffarnagar city of Uttar Pradesh. By using purposive sampling 100 married women (50 Hindu and 50 Muslim) of the age group of 20-50 years have been selected as a sample of the study.

Results and Outcome

The socio-economic profile of the selected respondents are shown in the following tables-

Table: 1-Age of the Respondents

S.No.	Age Group	Hindu Women	Muslim Women
1	20-30	16 (32%)	14 (28%)
2	30-40	22 (44%)	23 (46%)
3	40-50	12 (24%)	13 (26%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the facts reveal that large no. (44%) of the Hindu women belongs to the age group of 30-40, whereas large no. (46%) of the Muslim women belongs to the age group of 30-40.

Table: 2-Education of the Respondents

S.No.	Educational Level	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	Illiterate	04 (08%)	14 (28%)
2	Up to 8 th	13 (26%)	25 (50%)
3	Up to 12 th	25 (50%)	09 (18%)
4	Graduate & above	08 (16%)	02 (04%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the facts reveal that half (50%) of the Hindu women educated up to 12th level whereas half (50%) of the Muslim women are educated up to 8th level.

Table: 3- Occupation of the Respondents

S.No.	Occupation	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	House-wife	26 (52%)	44 (88%)
2	Self Business	13 (26%)	04 (08%)
3	Service (Govt. or Pvt.)	11 (22%)	02 (04%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the above facts reveal that majority (52%) of the Hindu women are House-wife whereas majority (88%) of the Muslim women are House-wife.

Table: 4-Family Income of the Respondents

S.No.	Family Income (monthly)	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	up to 10000	08 (16%)	18 (36%)
2	10001-20000	26 (52%)	28 (56%)
3	21001-30000 & above	16 (32%)	04 (08%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus, the largest number (52%) of the Hindu women belong to family income group of 10,001-20,000 (monthly) whereas majority (56%) of the Muslim women belong to the family income group of 10,001- 20,000 (monthly).

Table: 5-Type of the Family of the Respondents

S.No.	Type of the Family	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	Joint Family	17 (34%)	19 (38%)
2	Nuclear Family	33 (66%)	31 (62%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus, the above facts reveal that the majority (66%) of the Hindu women belongs to nuclear family whereas majority (62%) of the Muslim women belongs to nuclear family.

Table: 6- Residence Condition of Respondents

S.No.	Type of the House	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	Old pattern House	17 (34%)	22 (44%)
2	New pattern House	33 (66%)	28 (56%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus, the above facts reveal that majority (66%) of the Hindu women lives in new pattern house whereas majority (56%) of the Muslim women lives in new pattern house.

The reproductive behaviour of the selected respondents are shown in the following tables:

Table: 7-No. of Children of the Respondents

S.No.	No. of Children	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	1-2	19 (38%)	00 (00%)
2	3-4	29 (58%)	22 (44%)
3	5-6	02 (04%)	23 (46%)
4	7 and above	00 (00%)	05 (10%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the facts reveal that large no. (58%) of the Hindu women have the 3-4 children whereas the large no. (46%) of the Muslim women have the 5-6 children.

Table: 8-Size of the Family of the Respondents

S.No.	Size of the Family	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	Small (2-4 members)	20 (40%)	00 (00%)
2	Medium (5-7 members)	28 (56%)	21 (42%)
3	Large (8 & above members)	02 (04%)	29 (58%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus, the above facts reveal that majority (56%) of the Hindu women belongs to the medium size family whereas the large no. (58%) of the Muslim women belongs to large size family.

Table: 9-Son Preference of the Respondents

S.No.	Son Preference	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	Desire only one son	34 (68%)	07 (14%)
2	Desire two or more son	16 (32%)	43 (86%)
3	No Desire for son	00 (00%)	00 (00%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the facts reveal that the majority (68%) of the Hindu women desire only one son whereas majority (86%) of the Muslim women desire two or more than two son.

Table: 10- Gap between the Births of Children of the Respondents

S.No.	Gap between the Birth of Children	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	1-2 year	04 (08%)	29 (58%)
2	2-3 years	27 (54%)	17 (34%)
3	Above 3 years	19 (38%)	04 (08%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the above facts reveal that majority (54%) of the Hindu women take the 2-3 years gap between the birth of children whereas majority (58%) of the Muslim women take the 1-2 years gap between the birth of children.

Table: 11-Use of Contraceptives for Birth Control by the Respondents

S.No.	Use of Contraceptives	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	High	31 (62%)	07 (14%)
2	Medium	17 (34%)	16 (32%)
3	Low	02 (04%)	27 (54%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the above facts reveal that majority (62%) of the Hindu women takes high use of contraceptives whereas majority (54%) of the Muslim women takes low use of contraceptives.

Table: 12-Taking Decision of Family Planning by the Respondents

S.No.	Taking Decision of Family Planning	Hindu women	Muslim women
1	Yes	44 (88%)	22 (44%)
2	No	06 (12%)	28 (56%)
	Total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Thus the above facts reveal that majority (88%) of the Hindu women takes decision of family planning whereas majority (54%) of the Muslim women do not takes decision of family planning.

Conclusion

The study shows that in comparison of Hindu women majority of the Muslim women have low education, have the 5-6 children, belong to large size family, desires two or more than two sons, takes less gap between the birth of two children, have the low use of contraceptives and do not takes decision of family planning. Therefore it can be stated that the Muslim women have higher reproductive behaviour than Hindu women.

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