# 105

# WOMEN'S STATUS AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR

BY

MRS. RUKMINI R. POTDAR

# WOMEN'S STATUS AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR

A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF POONA

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

(IN ECONOMICS)

βγ MRS. RUKMINI R. POTDAR

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
PUNE-411 004

DECEMBER 1991

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I gratefully thank Prof. K. Balasubramanian for his guidance and active help in the completion of this dissertation. His patient and encouraging manner considerably increased my confidence in my ability to complete this extensive project even after a gap of several years.

I thank Dr. K. Srinivasan, Director of International Institute of Population Sciences, Bombay for giving me permission to stay on the campus and make use of the well-stocked library there. I am thankful to the library staff of I.I.P.S. who were most helpful in seeking out reference books for me.

Thanks are especially due to my respected father-inlaw, Shri K.T. Potdar, and my husband, who never gave up hope and faith in my ability to finish successfully what I had undertaken and spurred me on to the winning post. Thanks are also due to my mother whose love and all-round support are behind every page of this dissertation.

I gratefully acknowledge Ms. Anjali Radkar's assistance in compiling the data and use of the computer for the statistical formulations. I thank the Gokhale Institute Library Staff for their cooperation in this research endeavour. I specially thank Shri V.N. Inamdar who personally assumed responsibility for completing the typing and binding of the dissertation in time for the expiry period of my M.Phil. terms.

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune-411 004 December 1991 Mrs. Rukmini R. Potdar

#### CONTENTS

		A 30		Page
ACKNOWL	EDGEMENTS	•••	•••	(i)
LIST OF	TABLES	•••	•••	(vi)
LIST OF	FIGURES	•••	•••	(vii)
Chapter				
1	INTRODUC	TION	•••	1
2	WOMEN, D	EMOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT	• • •	6
	2.1	Introduction	•,••	6
	2.2	What Is Demography?	•••	9
	2.3	What Is Development?	•••	10
	2.4	The Status of Women	•••	12
	2.5	Development and the Status of Women	•••	16
	2.6	Women, Demography and Developme	ent.	22
3	DETERMIN	NANTS OF FERTILITY	• • •	25
	3.1	Introduction	• • •	25
	3.2	Factors Affecting Fertility: C ceptual Models	on-	26
	3.2.1	The Davis-Blake Fertility Mode	1	26
	3.2.2	The Freedman Model	•••	29
	3.2.3	The Bongaarts Model	• • •	31
	3.2.4	The Demand Theory of Fertility	• • • •	38
	3.3	Conclusion		48

## (iii)

Chapter			Page
4	THE STATE	US OF WOMEN: CONCEPTS, MEASUREMENT RETICAL FRAMEWORK	50
	4.1	Introduction	50
	4.2	The Status of Women: Conceptual and Methodological Issues	51
	4.2.1	Multidimensionality	53
	4.2.2	Multiple Locations	56
	4.2.3	The Confounding of Gender and Class	57
	4.2.4	Access to vs. Control of Resources.	58
	4.3	Measuring Female Status Empirically	59
	4.3.1	The Problem of Measuring a Poorly Defined Concept	62
	4.3.2	The Problem of Context Dependency	62
	4.3.3	The Problem of an Appropriate Comparison	63
	4.3.4	The Problem of Measures with Multiple Meanings	64
	4.3.5	Conclusion	64
	4.4	Theoretical Linkages between Female Autonomy and Fertility	66
	4.5	Analysis of Status Related Factors Affecting Women's Fertility	68
	4.5.1	Women's Status and Education	70
	4.5.2	Women's Status and Labour Force Participation	.89
	4.5.3	Women's Status and Age at Marriage.	94
	4.5.4	Health and the State of Women	96
	4.5.5	Social Equality and the Status of Women	98

Chapter				Page
	4.5.6	The Age Difference between Spousand the Status of Women	es •••	100
	4.5.7	Family Type, Fertility and the Status of Women	•••	102
	4.6	Conclusion	•••	104
5	RELEVANC	E OF WOMEN'S STATUS TO FERTILITY	• • •	106
	5.1	Introduction	• • •	106
	5.2	Effects of Women's Position on t Supply of Children	he •••	107
	5.2.1	Female Age at First Marriage	•••	107
	5.2.2	Marital Disruption and Remarriag	е	110
	5.2.3	Breast-feeding	• • •	111
	5.3	Effects of Women's Position on t Demand for Children	he	112
	5.3.1	Gender Preferences	•••	112
	5.3.2	The Value of Children	• • •	113
	5.3.3	Costs of Children	•••	114
,	5.4	Effects of Women's Position on Fertility Regulation and Decision making	on-	117
	5.5	Summary	•••	119
6	THE STAT	US OF WOMEN AND FERTILITY: GLOBA	L	122
	6.1	Introduction	• • •	122
	6.2	Indicators of the Status of Wome	en	123
	6.2.1	Health		124
	6.2.2	Marriage and Children	• • •	125
	6.2.3	Education	•••	127
	6.2.4	Employment	•••	129

Chapter				Page
	6.2.5	Social Equality	• • •	130
	6.3	Conclusion	•••	134
7	THE STATU	S OF WOMEN AND FERTILITY: INDIAN	•••	136
	7.1	Introduction	•••	136
	7.2	Socio-Cultural Factors Affecting Fertility in India	•••	137
	7.3	Status Related Indicators Affect Fertility in India	ing	140
	7.3.1	Age at Marriage	• • •	141
	7.3.2	Health and Infant Mortality	• • •	142
	7.3.3	Number of Children Desired and S Preference	Son	144
	7.3.4	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practic of Contraception	e	148
	7.3.5	Literacy and Education	• • •	149
	7.3.6	Labour Force Participation	•••	152
	7.3.7	Legal and Political Status	• • •	154
	7.4	Regional Variations in the State Women in India: State Level Ana		156
	7.4.1	Relationship between Cultural a Socio-Economic Status of Women Fertility	nd and	160
	7.4.2	Relationship between Developmen Indicators and the Status of Wor and Fertility	t men	164
	7.5	Conclusion	• • •	167
8	OVERVIEW	AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS	• • •	168
	8.1	Overview	• • •	168
*	8.2	Policy Implications	• • •	173
BIBLIOG	RAPHY	•••	• • •	178

### LIST OF TABLES

Table No.			Page
2.1	The Adverse Impact of Development Upon Wome	en	18
2.2	Decline in Labour Force Participation: Ind	ia	21
3.1	Rating of Intermediate Fertility Variables with respect to Sensitivity of Fertility Variability Among Populations .	••	35
3.2	Estimated Values of Indexes of Proximate Determinants of Fertility .	• •	38
4.1	Indicators of Female Status Commonly Used Mentioned in the Social Demographic Literature	or ••	61
5.1	Intermediate Fertility Determinants Potentially Influenced by Women's Social Positi		107
6.1	Correlation Coefficients between Status of Women and GDP .	••	133
7.1	Selected Cultural and Socio-Economic Indi- cators of Female Status in Major States of India, Circa 1981		158
7.2	Total Fertility Rate for 1976-81 and Coupl Protection Rate for 1981 for Major States India	e of	159
7.3	Selected Development Indicators for Major States of India Circa 1981	••	161
7.4	Regional Variation in Fertility and the Status of Women: Zero Order Correlation Coefficient	••	162
7.5	Zero-Order Correlations: Relationship betw Selected General Development Factors and Cultural and Socio-Economic Status of Wome and Fertility		165
7.6	Regional Variations in Fertility and Cultustatus of Women Controlling for the Socio-Economic Status of Women and General Develment Indicators: First Order Partial		
	Correlation	••	166

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.		Page
3.1	A Conceptual Model of Sociological Analysis of Fertility	32
3.2	A Simple Model of the Factors Affecting Fertility	33
3.3	Estimated Average Total Natural Marital Fertility Rates (TN), Total Marital Fertility Rates (TM), and Total Fertility Rates (TFR) of Countries in Different Phases of the Fertility Transition	37
3.4	One Possible Representation of the Inter- relationships Among the Basic Components of the Framework	44
4.1	A Causal Model of Women's Dependency on Kin-Related Men Implicit in the Writings of Cain (1982), Caldwell (1982), Dyson and Moore (1983) and Others	55
4.2	Social Structure and Cultural Factors, Female Autonomy, Acceptance of Family Planning and Fertility	67
4.3	The Causal Operators and Transmitting Processes Explaining the Effect of Female Education on Reproductive Behaviour	72
4.4	Forms of Relation between Education and Fertility	74
4.5	Parental Role Expectations and Behaviour and the Opportunity Costs of Child-Care	80
4.6	Causal Model Specifying Direct, Indirect, and Interaction Effects of Women's Education on Fertility	88
4.7	Family Decision-Making and Family Planning Knowledge and Use as Intervening Factors in the Relationship between Female Employment and Fertility	93

# (viii)

Figure No.		Page
5.1	Hypothesized Effects of Female Autonomy and Other Variables on Female Age at First	100
	Marriage	109
5.2	Hypothesized Effects of Female Autonomy and Other Variables on the Costs of Children	115
5.3	Hypothesized Effects of Female Autonomy and Other Variables on Contraceptive Use	118
5.4	Summary of Primary Paths Through Which Aspects of Women's Social Position May	
	Influence Fertility	120
6.1	Births Per Woman Compared to Status of Women	132