

**NATIONAL FERTILITY AND
MORTALITY SURVEY MAHARASHTRA 1980**

VOLUME I

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VAIJAYANTI BHATE**

**GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
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Preliminary

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NATIONAL FERTILITY AND MORTALITY SURVEY

MAHARASHTRA 1980

VOLUME I

(Chapters 1 To 5)

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PREFACE

The National Fertility and Mortality Survey (NFMS) was originally planned to be conducted as a series of comparable demographic surveys in all the States of India. In the first phase six States were to be covered. However, the survey has been conducted so far only in Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Moreover, in Bihar and Rajasthan the objective has been changed to conducting bench-mark surveys in selected districts for evaluating special population projects. Thus Maharashtra is the only State for which the National Fertility and Mortality Survey has been conducted as envisaged by the Population Research Advisory Council.

The major objectives of NFMS, Maharashtra were to estimate the fertility levels and differentials among the three rural regions and two urban zones of the State; to examine the linkages between fertility and its proximate variables such as age at marriage and contraception; to identify and assess the importance of socio-economic factors affecting fertility; to find the attitudes towards family planning and its prevalence by methods; and to estimate mortality levels and differentials by rural regions and urban zones giving special attention to infant and child mortality. The report is addressed towards these objectives and presents relevant findings.

The Population Research Centre of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics undertook to conduct the survey, analyse the data and prepare a report for the State of Maharashtra. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India provided a grant-in-aid for this survey. This grant was used for field work, data preparation and computer tabulations. The survey design, questionnaire construction, recruitment, training and supervision of the field staff,

preparation of code-books and the tabulation plan, analysis of data and the preparation of this report were done by the staff of the Population Research Centre in addition to their normal duties.

In the National Fertility and Mortality Survey, Maharashtra, data were collected from about 7,500 families spread over 100 villages and 44 urban blocks of the State. The field work was conducted during June to December 1980. The conduct and analysis of this large-scale survey required the cooperation and skills of many people to be completed successfully. The Director of the Gokhale Institute and the administration extended their support in all stages of the survey. Professor Kumudini Dandekar developed the questionnaires and shouldered the onerous responsibility of organizing and supervising the field work. My co-author, Smt. Vaijayanti Bhate was associated with all stages of the work from sample design to analysis. Smt. Sanjeevane Mulay assisted in developing the scrutiny and consistency checks. Smt's Surekha Nikam and Smita Bhawe contributed greatly to scrutiny, coding and analysis of the data. Shri Damodar Sardesai and his colleagues generated the computer tables needed for the analysis. Kumari Vidya Athale coordinated the computer output while Kumari Swati Saxena summarized the computer tables and also prepared mortality estimates by indirect methods. Our thanks are especially due to the rural and urban respondents who patiently and courteously gave the information that was sought.

There have been many local demographic surveys in Maharashtra. The Gokhale Institute was the first to initiate demographic surveys in India. It is, therefore, fitting that it should have again taken the lead in conducting a state-wide fertility and mortality survey. It is hoped that this report would encourage other States to undertake comparable demographic surveys that would reveal regional differences within their States.

Regional demography is important for many reasons. There

are socio-cultural variations within a State that lead to differentials in fertility levels, in contraceptive use, in age at marriage, in family size values and other associated factors. The health and social infrastructure might vary from one region of the State to another aiding or hindering the implementation of health and family planning programmes. Unless the relevant facts are established and analysed to reveal such regional differences, it may not be possible to achieve the aggregate goals of a population or health policy formulated for the State.

Social demography has a crucial role to play in evolving a population policy and in setting up long-term demographic goals since such goals depend not only on the programme infrastructure and performance but also on social values and institutions. For instance, it is social change that generates a demand for family planning and promotes the utilization of health and other social services. A socio-demographic survey, such as NFMS, is an essential instrument for the study of social demography.

It is not possible to cover all aspects of social and regional demography in one report. This report is intended to summarize the main findings from the survey. It is, no doubt, necessary to examine some of these findings in greater depth. It is also necessary to explore the implications of these findings for the population policy and programmes. These special studies are to be taken up by the Population Research Centre later.

Deccan Gymkhana
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31st December 1982

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NATIONAL FERTILITY AND MORTALITY SURVEY,
MAHARASHTRA, 1980

Main Report

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