

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT PREVALENCE IN HIGH AND LOW FERTILITY STATES IN INDIA

T. Masthanaiah¹

¹Research scholar, Department of Geography, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to understand the prevalence and disparities in low birth weights by background characteristics in selected high and low fertility states of India and to recognize which factors are associated with low birth weight for high and low fertility states of India. The data used for the present study from the 3 series of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-I, II, III). In order to meet the first objective we made use of NFHS-I, II and III. To meet the second and third objectives NFHS III has been used. The prevalence of low birth weight has been computed by taking the births which have happened in the two years preceding the survey. The major states having the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of less than or equal to 2.1, according to NFHS III is considered as low fertility states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, the major states with the TFR of greater than 3.0 is known as high fertility states, these states are Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

KEY WORDS: Low birth weights prevalence, high and low fertility states, India