

Abstract

Fertility is the single most important determinant of population dynamics and growth. The socio-demographic scenario of Assam is broadened with horizon. As a demographic variable, fertility has got an important role in the state. In the present work we are concerned with religion wise (mainly Hindus and Muslims) variation of fertility in Assam. Fertility differentials and inter district population growth differentials between the two communities have been investigated. Based on 2011 Census data, the 27 districts of Assam has been classified in to the three categories. The districts have also been ranked on the basis of growth of population of two major communities. District wise fertility disparities have been calculated for Hindu and Muslim by Principal Component Analysis for fourteen selected demographic indicators. It is also observed that the literacy rate, gender imbalance, work participation rate, demographic and socio-economic factors seems to be significantly different for Muslim community than the Hindu. Hence, the report witnessed that in most of the districts, Muslim population has been rising whereas the Hindu population is declining. It is to be mentioned here that, the results have been worked out from secondary data using the SPSS and MATLAB software.

The Parity Progression Ratio and Complete Fertility Rate of two communities for each district of Assam have been estimated. The Complete Fertility Rate has also been calculated for rural and urban separately. It has been observed that the parity of Muslims is higher than the Hindu in most of the districts. Again, the fertility of rural is found to be higher than the urban. It is worthwhile to note that the district Dhuburi has the highest fertility rate for rural, whereas Jorhat district has the lowest.

Population of has been projected for two major communities i.e. Hindus and Muslims for the year 2021, 2031, 2041 and 2051. Out of 27 districts, the projection has been made for selected 15 districts for Hindus and Muslims separately. Growth of Muslim population has been found significantly higher than the Hindu in most of the districts of Assam.