

## Fertility Tables: F-3, F-7, and F-11

### Data on number of children ever born, children surviving and births during last year classified by age and educational level of women

#### I - INTRODUCTION

The presentation and tabulation of data based on fertility in Indian censuses from time to time has been made in the background note to Tables F-1 and F-2, which have been released earlier. Tables F-3, F-7 and F-11 are on the same format as Tables F-1, F-5 and F-9 (released earlier) with the difference that, instead of classification of women only by age (as in Tables F-1, F-5 and F-9), the Tables F-3, F-7 and F-11 present data about classification of women by their educational levels also.

Table F-3 consists of the parity wise distribution of the number of women, ever married women and number of children ever born, classified by their age and educational level. Table F-7 is in the same format as F-3 with the difference that, instead of ever born children (as in Table F-3), the Table F-7 presents data about the surviving children out of those ever born. Table F-11 presents data on number of women and currently married women by present age, educational level, number of births during last year by sex and birth order. As the data on children ever born and surviving helps in understanding the fertility and mortality pattern over a period of time at different levels of education of women, the data on births in the previous year helps to see the current fertility rates of women classified by their educational levels.

With a view to make the above mentioned Census 2001 data available to the data users soon after it is processed and produced in the form of specific table, the Office of the Registrar General, India has decided to release it electronically. A printed volume based on these tables will be brought out separately. The present release is restricted to the following tables:

Table No.	Title of the Table	Lowest level of presentation	
		Electronic Format	Printed Volume
F-3	Number of women and ever married women by present age, parity, educational level and total children ever born by sex	District	State
F-7	Number of women and ever married women by present age, educational level, number of surviving children and total surviving children by sex	District	State
F-11	Number of women and currently married women by present age, educational level, number of births last year by sex and birth order	District	State

## II - DATA HIGHLIGHTS

At the national level, Census 2001 recorded 273.4 million ever married women (EMW) with 828.9 million children ever born to these women. The corresponding figures in the Census 1991 (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) were 220.2 million and 676.9 million respectively. The rate of increase during 1991-2001 has been 24.1 percent in case of ever married women and 22.5 percent for children ever born. The data in respect of ever married women and children ever born with different levels of education and their rate of growth during 1991- 2001, are presented in Statement-1 below.

**Statement-1**  
**Number of ever married women and children ever born by**  
**level of education and their growth rate : India 1991-2001**

Educational level of EMW	2001		1991		Percent increase	
	EMW	CEB	EMW	CEB	EMW	CEB
1. All educational levels	273,405,276	828,891,566	220,234,192	676,896,886	24.1	22.5
2. Illiterate	158,352,881	552,485,561	157,960,336	519,005,310	0.2	6.5
3. Literate	115,052,395	276,406,005	62,273,856	157,891,576	84.8	75.1
4. Literate but below middle	53,964,188	151,468,162	31,522,557	92,716,584	71.2	63.4
5. Middle but below matric	18,687,319	41,521,650	14,194,568	34,030,696	31.7	22.0
6. Matriculate but below graduate	26,189,063	49,616,697	12,441,583	24,487,235	110.5	102.6
7. Graduate and above	9,366,068	14,855,302	4,115,148	6,657,061	127.6	123.2

Note : EMW means Ever Married Women and CEB means Children Ever Born

It may be observed that, the rate of increase in the number of illiterate ever married women during 1991-2001 is 0.2 percent with the corresponding rate of increase of the children ever born being 6.5 percent. However, when literate ever married women are compared, their number has increased by 84.8 percent with the corresponding rate of increase of children being 75.1 percent. Lower rate of increase in CEB vis-a-vis the rate of increase in the number of literate ever married women is indicative of the decline in fertility rate among the literate women. The decline in the fertility rate in the country during 1991-2001 is more visible among literate women. This is not so in the case of illiterate women. Similar trends are observed among literate ever married women having different levels of education. In all cases, the rate of increase in the number of ever born children is less than the rate of increase in the number of ever married women.

This becomes further clear from Statement-2 below, where the mean number of children per woman in age-group 45-49 years during 1991 and 2001 vis-à-vis educational levels have been compared. It may be observed that at the national level, the mean number of children ever born per woman (in age-group 45-49 years)- which implies the level of 'period fertility'- is 3.8 in 2001 against 4.3 in 1991, showing a decline of 10 percent during the decade 1991-2001. The mean number of children for illiterates and literates in 2001 have been 4.2 and 3.3 respectively against 4.4 and 3.8 respectively in 1991, showing a decline of 4.9 and 14.6 respectively for illiterates and literates during the decade 1991-2001.

**Statement-2**  
**Mean number of children per women in age-group 45-49 years**  
**and percentage change during 1991-2001 : India**

Educational level of women	Mean No. of CEB (45-49)		Change during 1991-2001(%)	TFR 2001
	2001	1991		
1	2	3	4	5
1. All educational levels	3.8	4.3	-10.1	2.52
2. Illiterate	4.2	4.4	-4.9	3.09
3. Literate	3.3	3.8	-14.6	2.02
4. Literate but below middle	3.7	4.3	-13.7	2.37
5. Middle but below matric	3.3	3.8	-14.0	2.09
6. Matriculate but below graduate	2.7	3.0	-8.5	1.67
7. Graduate and above	2.1	2.3	-7.0	1.35

Note : CEB means Children Ever Born and TFR means Total Fertility Rate.

At all levels of education, the mean number of children has shown a reduction during the decade 1991-2001. Maximum reduction has been observed in the category 'literate but below middle'. The mean number of children ever born has come down from 4.3 in 1991 to 3.7 in 2001 (decrease of 0.6). Thus the impact at this level of education, which happens to be the first level of education in the levels of literacy, seems to be significant in the reduction of the mean number of children. Though the reduction in the mean number of children is observed at further higher levels of education, the rate of decline in the mean number of children is lower. This may be because once the mean number of children reaches a certain minimum level, law of diminishing return will operate and will not go down faster further, in tandem with the increase in level of education.

As stated, the mean number of children ever born per woman implies the period fertility or the level of fertility of a woman in her life time as on the date of census but not the latest level of fertility. To understand the current fertility rates, the figures of total fertility rates (TFR) for 2001 are also worked out for different levels of education based on the number of births in the previous year and the same are presented in the Column 5 of the Statement-2.

It may be seen that the TFR for all women in 2001 is 2.52, whereas it is 3.09 for illiterates and 2.02 for literates. Further, within the category of literates, the TFR is going down with the increase in the level of education starting from a high of 2.37 among 'literate but below middle' and reaching a low of 1.35 among 'graduates and above'.

### III- CONCLUSIONS

Tables F-3, F-7 and F-11 under release are on the same format as Tables F-1, F-5 and F-9 respectively, which have been released earlier with the difference that instead of classification of women only by age (as in Tables F-1, F-5 and F-9), the Tables F-3, F-7 and F-11 present data about classification of women by their educational levels also. Table F-3 consists of the parity wise distribution of the number of women, ever married women and number of children ever born, classified by their age and educational level.

Table F-7 is in the same format as F-3 with the difference that, instead of ever born children (as in Table F-3), the Table F-7 presents data about the surviving children out of those ever born. Table F-11 presents data on number of women and currently married women by present age, educational level, number of births during last year by sex and birth order. As the data on children ever born and surviving help in understanding the fertility and mortality pattern over a period of time at different levels of education of women, the data on births last year helps to see the current fertility rates of women classified by their educational levels.

A brief analysis of these data at national level makes the following conclusions.

1. At the national level, the mean number of children ever born per woman (in age-group 45-49 years)- which implies the level of 'period fertility'- is 3.8 in 2001 against 4.3 in 1991, showing a decline of 10 percent during the decade 1991-2001. The mean number of children for illiterates and literates in 2001 being 4.2 and 3.3 respectively against 4.4 and 3.8 respectively in 1991 shows a decline of 4.9 and 14.6 respectively for illiterates and literates during the decade 1991-2001.
2. It is observed that the level of education and the fertility rates are inversely related. The negative correlation between these two is stronger when the fertility is high and as the fertility comes down and reaches a certain minimum level, the intensity of correlation becomes weaker. The data reveals that at the lowest level of education (below middle level), the decline in the mean number of children is 13.7 percent (4.3 to 3.7), whereas among graduates and above, it is 7.0 percent (2.3 to 2.1).
3. The TFR, which represents the current fertility rate, is 2.52 for all women in 2001, whereas it is 3.09 for illiterates and 2.02 for literates. TFR is going down with the increase in the level of education starting from a high of 2.37 among 'literates but below middle' and reaching a low of 1.35 among 'graduates and above'.
4. The data suggests that the education is undoubtedly one of the most potent instruments to bring down the total fertility rates, especially, in areas where the fertility rates are higher and the female literacy rates are lower. The data suggest that if the females acquire education upto matric or secondary level, the desired level of fertility rate (replacement level) of 2.1 or even less than that may not be difficult to achieve.

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