

F8: Number of women and ever married women by present age, economic activity, number of surviving children and total surviving children – Census of India 2001

Questions on 'Fertility' have been canvassed in the Indian censuses from time to time. In the 1931 Census, fertility data was collected and a table on sex of the first-born child was prepared. In 1941 Census, two questions on fertility, mainly 'number of children born to a married woman and number surviving' and 'age of the mother at birth of the first child' were canvassed but due to war, the data could not be tabulated. In 1951 and 1961 Censuses, no question on fertility was canvassed. However, in 1951 Census, States were allowed to include one question in the census to collect data on fertility.

2. In 1971 Census, two questions, one on the age at marriage and the other on children born during the last year to currently married women were canvassed whereas in 1981 census, two more questions were added, one on children ever born and the other on children surviving. Though the same questions were retained in 1991 and 2001 Censuses, some additional information on the sex of the child born during the last year has been collected in 2001 Census.

3. In 1981 Census, canvassing fertility questions and tabulation of these data was on a sample basis in all the major State, whereas in small States and union territories, questions were canvassed and data was tabulated on 100 percent basis. In 1991 census, fertility questions were canvassed on 100 percent basis in all the States, but tabulation of data was done on sample basis for major States as done in 1981 Census. In 2001 Census, both collection and tabulation of data is done on 100 percent basis for all the States and Union territories.

4. Table F8 presents the distribution of ever married women by present age, work status and occupation for India. It also gives the number of surviving children and total number of children surviving by sex to ever married women by present age and occupation. The Table is useful in deriving the differentials by occupation in average number of surviving children of ever married women. The information is presented by residence.

5. The work status has been classified as main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. The main workers have been further classified as cultivators, agricultural workers and other main workers- 'manual' or 'non- manual'. Non-manual main workers cover occupational Divisions 1, 2,3 & 4 and Family 9111, 9112,9113,9132 and 9151 from Division 9. Manual main workers cover occupational Divisions 6, 7,8 & 10 and remaining Family codes of Division 5 & 9. The occupational classifications are based on the codes of NCO 1968 and the corresponding codes of NCO 2004 as per the concordance table.