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FERTILITY AND MARRIAGE

POSHA PARVEEN

Research scholar, Department of sociology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P, India

Abstract

Talking about the fertility it accordingly encompasses biology and individual choice. The prior is adapted by the patterns of culture (supply of children) talking about the later it is strappingly inclined and influenced by social and economic factors (demand for children). So, the trio main components of fertility are demand supply. Natural fertility or Supply of children is well-defined as the sum of enduring and surviving offspring a couple would have if did not have gone through deliberate attempt at limitation (Easter Iin, 1978). Marriage the substance or the basis to the foundation of marriage as an institution is outlined and drafted posterior to the commencement of the initial stage of the human beings when they flinch to get their prevailing milieus and locales. Although with time the prevailing marriage as institutions change to a variety of shapes and changes with different conditions.

Key words ; Fertility, marriage, Natural fertility, demand Supply

introduction

Timing of marriage and fertility are totally interrelated. These two terms are closely inter-related. Age of a person, his fertility are the basic units which can define the timing of his/her marriage. After post-transitional times, in developed countries, the pattern of marriages gained vital importance in the population research, the decline of fertility in the marriage union resulted in the decline of parenthood was observed. In the places where the traditional demographic transition has ended with the reinstatement of replacement level fertility a notable change in household composition and the methods of reproduction has been experienced. In many of the North-European countries, it mostly started in 1960's, when the age for the first marriage rose, cohabitation process before and after marriage went up and the begetting process in such intimate unions immediately succeeded (Surkyn and Leastheghe, 2004). With the advent of modern technologies and industrial revolution in Europe, we have clearly experienced delayed marriages and also the rate of fertility has reduced to the great extent because people now prefer certain occupations and life styles where they first want to settle themselves and then want to enter in the marital unions. As a result, we experience delayed marriages and also there is a delay in the process of child bearing after marriage, as a result fertility rate has reduced to the great extent. This whole new phenomenon has led to the fall in the fertility rate and a new term "low fertility has been coined out. (Van de Kaa, 1987) says that a new term 'second demographic transition' has been coined out to point out to these

whole new changes which has taken place in the general societal set up and to differentiate between the old and new models of societal transition.

Second Demographic transition became enough noticeable when the most pre figured events of the earlier demographic transitions in the western states was unable to turn up and to anticipate a whole new durable demographic transition which was marked by fertility around replacement level, accompanied with earlier marriages, usually small families which were mainly composed of wife and a husband in a wed lock and their offspring's born as a result of this marital union and mainly established on unbalanced sex roles although on firm poignant connubiality or marital state, as pointed out by (Leastheghe and Surkyn, 1988). Alternatively, an abundance of various living arrangements aside from the earlier marriage systems surfaced as a justiciable preference which ranged from civil living, elongated before marriage consummation, parenthood during these pre-marriage consummations, specific sex household formation, post-marriage consummation and living apart stably and other such relations including the phenomenon like remarriage after divorce or widowhood. In this contemporary analytical reign, there occurred a drastic change in marriage systems which included the changes not only in the arrangements of marriage but changes also figured in bearing of children, rearing of children and other notions of marriage.

Developed countries of today which have excelled in their economy and are highly advanced. The populations in these states are faced with the questions like what is the good age for the one to get marries, when should one get married, when to tie the knot and whether it's necessary to get married or not. In such countries, there is a continuous decline in the age of marriage and the people are preferring the late marriages which has evoked a forceful argument among the social thinkers about the issue that if people are simply preferring late age marriages or ignoring to get married altogether as pointed out by (Goldstein, 2001). An appraisal about the aggregate marriage levels of different childbirth periods among the women of Asian-Chinese origin displays that barely anybody among these women gets married prior to the age of twenty. There are hardly any women of these origin who choose to marry before this age. Also the marriage trend observed among these women shows that there is a marked decline in the percentage of women who choose to get married before the age of twenty five (25) and thirty (30), as was observed by (Leete, 1994).

The trend of late age marriage is increasing and is gaining support among other nations of the world and has become a global phenomenon. Below replacement fertility is thus taking the place of early marriages and it's occurring all over the world. As this change is being observed globally it has also raised a huge concern among the social thinkers in the international community as observed by (Bongaarts, 2001, 2002; Caldwell et al., 2003; Hirschman, et al., 1990; Jones, 2007). This phenomenon of low fertility is specifically observed among populations living in developed countries, the developing countries are not lacking behind as they are progressing towards economic stability they too are following late age marriages and hence low fertility rates are observed there too. The count of low fertility rate countries during the 1970-75 time period was only 9. The count enhanced to 65 during 2000-05 and of these 65 countries, 19 were those of developing countries as was found by (Matusukara et al., 2007).

Social scientists all over the globe focused their study in order to understand this low fertility rate phenomenon among developed and developing countries, they came to the fact that family systems and marriage institutions among different societies are at the greater risk and the most vital fact for this risk is the independence of the female members of the system that has reformed their role and influence in every sphere of the social life. The low fertility rate among developed communities has always been highlighted while discussing the current transitional arrangement. Social scientists all along the world are focusing on the fertility rate of marital couples, the concept which has its roots in 'family planning'. However, after certain interval, a particular point called the 'saturation point' is reached where it will not be able to explain the reasons for further decline of fertility. For instance, the Indian state of Kerala has finished its fertility transition during nineties. The family planning methods largely define the intensity of this decline. As the fertility rates decline further, the attitudinal modifications in some individuals are evident. At this point of time, behaviour regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage will define the further trend in the changing fertility rates. This trend is observed in all economic developed countries and also some of the developing states of east and south-east Asia.

By mid-1980's, it was increasingly observed in the countries of east and south-east Asia that in such countries first demographic transition was already completed at an increased rate, these countries had entered the post-transitional phase too along with increasing age in marriage. One of the notable features was increase in age of marriage among women, which was at least 25 years at the time of their first marriage as observed by (Leete, 1994). The impact of changing societal pattern, new acquired types of life style, financial curbs, and different perceptions of personal freedom in views of new marital couples are some of the aspects which are bent on to disintegrate the traditional rectitude, perseverance and stability of marriage and family systems. In the Indian subcontinent the two elements viz family and marriage, are mainly taken culpable as the solid base for achieving any happiness and fulfilling ones desires and wishes. The two elements of marriage and family are considered as the vital fundamental elements not only for a single individual but for all members in a particular society to fulfil their happiness's and other social requirements. Nevertheless, it has been observed that in India the prevalence of divorce cases and the events of marriage breakups are comparatively very low, the profound modifications in all specifications of marriage system cannot be contradicted. Hence the changes in the marriage systems are very evident as the traditional marriage customs and rituals have been notably replaced by the new methods among different communities.

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