

PREVALENCE AND DETERMINANTS OF FOETAL WASTAGE IN INDIA

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Abstract: *This paper examines foetal wastage in India using data from nationally representative surveys, i.e. National Family Health Survey NFHS-2 conducted during 1998-99 and NFHS-3 undertaken in 2005-2006. The analysis shows that there has been a decline in foetal wastage between the two surveys. It also shows that foetal wastage is higher in the age groups 30 years and above even when controlled for other background variables. The bivariate analysis shows that there is a decline in the prevalence of foetal loss among those with secondary and higher educational levels. The logistic regression also shows similar results. Foetal wastage is higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. However, the rural-urban differences have narrowed over the years. Among the different castes, Schedule Tribe show the lowest prevalence in both bivariate and multivariate analysis. With regard to religious groups, Christians, Sikhs and other religious groups show lower wastage than the Hindus when controlled for other background variables. It is seen that Central, East and North-East regions of India have higher foetal wastage than the Northern region when controlled for other background variables. In the Central and East regions, age and education are the key variables contributing to higher foetal wastage. In the North-East region, age of the woman is strongly related foetal wastage. In this region non-working women also show relatively high wastage.*

Keywords: Foetal wastage, abortion, maternal mortality, physical and mental abnormalities

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