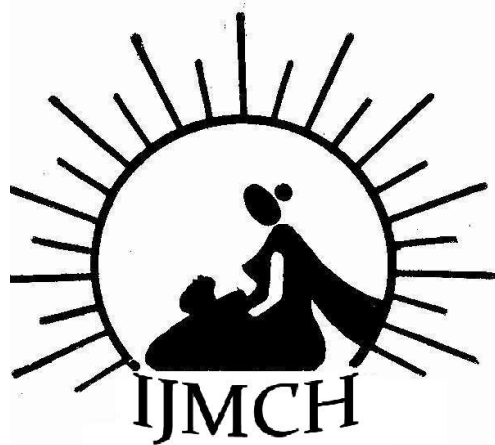


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Fertility Decline in Maharashtra**

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The present paper examined the level, trends and factor associated with total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and fertility decline in Maharashtra.

## Wanted and Unwanted Fertility in Context of Fertility Decline in Maharashtra

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### Abstract

The present paper examined the level, trends and factor associated with total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and fertility decline in Maharashtra. Analysis revealed that TWFR, TUFR and TFR is declined in Maharashtra and the decline is higher in rural as compared to urban area. The total wanted fertility rate and total unwanted fertility rate is declined by half child in Maharashtra and it is highest among illiterate, Muslim women and scheduled tribe women. Overall, total wanted fertility rate and total unwanted fertility rate decreases by education. The Muslim women are significantly more likely to have unwanted fertility. The TFR by religion is highest among women from Muslim religion. The SC/ST has exhibited higher fertility than other backward class and other castes. Overall, TWFR, TUFR and TFR decline by residence, education, religion and caste/tribe.

### Introduction

Fertility decline can occur as a result of decline in desired fertility and/or reduction in unwanted births. The relative contribution of these two sources of fertility decline has been the subject of some disputes over the decades, among other reasons because of the direct implications of population policy. In particular, if the contribution of declines in unwanted fertility has been relatively large contribution of investments in family planning services that led to reductions in unwanted pregnancies. Unwanted births falling in the last category are often of substantial magnitude and cause serious concerns in developing countries with high levels of fertility and population growth (Blanc, 1982; Bongaarts, 1990; Lightbourne, 1985; United Nations, 1987; Westoff, 1981). Such births are often caused by lack of motivation or ability to translate desired family size into reality by means of timely and effective use of contraception. Bongaarts (1990) examined levels of unwanted fertility using data from 48 countries from World Fertility Survey (WFS) and Demographic Health Survey (DHS) found that the proportion of unwanted births was low in countries with very low or very high levels of fertility and highest in countries with intermediate levels of fertility. In the four large states with high fertility, levels of wanted fertility are high, at three or more children per married woman and the proportion unwanted ranges from 20 to 28 percent of total marital fertility in the three states with moderate levels of fertility. In Kerala, wanted fertility is already at replacement level and there is little unwanted fertility (Kulkarni and Choe, 1998).

The concept of unintended pregnancy has been essential to demographers in seeking to understand fertility, to public health practitioners in preventing unwanted childbearing and to both group in promoting a women's ability to determine whether and when to have children. Demography incidence of unintended pregnancy has long been used as a primary indicator of the state of reproductive health. The socio-economic development and family planning program efforts are expected to contribute to fertility decline. However most of the Indian women are forced to give unwanted births; consequently unwanted fertility rate is very high in India. There is also a need to focus on the unwanted births because the level of unwanted births are stagnant over the period of time, as NFHS data reports shows that around one fourth births are unwanted in all the three round of survey (National Family

Health Survey (NFHS), 1992-1993; NFHS, 1998-99 and NFHS, 2005-06). Many studies suggest that the type of residence, age, number of living children, marital status and socioeconomic factors including highest educational attainment and employment status are some crucial factors affecting unwanted pregnancy/birth (Westoff, 1981).

### Context

Unwanted fertility is likely to be near zero in the two extreme stages of transition, initially when fertility desires are almost unrestricted, and at the end of transition when couples have complete control on their fertility. The rural woman in Maharashtra is still having about half a child more than her urban counterparts. The unwanted fertility rate is also higher in rural area as compared to urban area. The fertility differentials exist by residence, education, religion, and caste/tribe in Maharashtra. Therefore, there is a scope to reduce unwanted fertility in Maharashtra so that it will help to further decline in fertility. It will also help to pin point the factors affecting unwanted fertility which are prolonging the time period to achieve the replacement level fertility in rural area. In view of the above, the present paper is undertaken to study the wanted fertility, unwanted fertility and fertility decline in Maharashtra. The data for the present paper has been compiled and analyzed from NFHS-1 conducted in 1992-93, NFHS-2 carried out in 1998-99 and NFHS-3 conducted in 1998-99 in the state of Maharashtra. The bi-variate analysis has been done by calculating rates to study the levels and trends in wanted fertility, unwanted fertility and fertility decline in Maharashtra. The total fertility rate and total wanted fertility rate is compiled from NFHS-1, NFHS-2 and NFHS-3 reports of Maharashtra. The total unwanted fertility rate is calculated by subtracting total wanted fertility rate from total fertility rate. The logistic regression analysis has been done to see the effect of different socio-economic variables/factors on wanted and unwanted fertility.

### Results and Discussion

For each child born in the three years preceding the survey and for each current pregnancy, NFHS asked women whether the pregnancy was wanted at that time (planned), wanted at later time (mistimed), or not wanted at all. The proportion unplanned is influenced not only by whether, and how effectively, couples use contraception, but also by couple's ideal family size. The total wanted fertility rate represents the level of fertility that theoretically would result if all unwanted births were prevented. The levels and trends of total wanted fertility rate by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra during 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06 are presented in **Table 1**. The TWFR is declined from 2.13 in 1992-93 to 1.66 in 2005-06 by half child (0.47 child). The TWFR is higher in rural area as compared to urban area. The TWFR is highest 1.97 children among illiterate women and lowest 1.53 children among literate less than middle school educated women in 2005-06. The total wanted fertility rate is declined by 0.6 child among illiterate women and in case of literate but less than middle school complete, it is declined by 0.7 child. The total wanted fertility rate is highest 2.11 children among women from Muslim religion and lowest 1.59 children among women from Hindu religion in 2005-06. The total wanted fertility rate is declined by 0.87 child among Muslim, 0.58 child among Buddhist, and 0.42 child among Hindus. The total wanted fertility rate by caste/tribe is highest 1.89 children among scheduled tribe (ST) women and lowest 1.62 children among scheduled caste (SC) and other caste women in 2005-06. It has been decreased by half child among other caste, SC and ST during 1992-93 to

2005-06. Overall, total wanted fertility rate has been declined by residence, education, religion and caste/tribe from 1992-93 to 2005-06.

**Table 1: Levels and trends of total wanted fertility rate for the three years preceding the survey by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra, 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-2006**

Background Characteristics	1992-93	1998-99	2005-06	Changes during 1992-93 to 2005-06
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	1.94	1.71	1.53	-0.41
Rural	2.29	2.00	1.79	-0.50
<b>Women Education</b>				
Illiterate	2.59	2.10	1.97	-0.62
Literate < middle school complete	2.22	2.17	1.53	-0.69
Middle school complete	1.76	1.86	1.85	0.09
High school and above	1.72	1.64	1.59	-0.13
<b>Religion</b>				
Hindu	2.01	1.84	1.59	-0.42
Muslim	2.98	2.20	2.11	-0.87
Buddhist	2.39	1.56	1.81	-0.58
<b>Caste/tribe</b>				
Scheduled Caste	2.08	1.71	1.62	-0.46
Scheduled Tribe	2.37	2.03	1.89	-0.48
Other backward class	na	1.69	1.65	-0.04*
Others	2.10	1.95	1.62	-0.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>-0.47</b>

\* Changes during 1998-99 to 2005-06

Source: National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06

**Table 2: Levels and trends of total unwanted fertility rate for the three years preceding the survey by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra, 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-2006**

Background Characteristics	1992-93	1998-99	2005-06	Changes during 1992-93 to 2005-06
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	0.60	0.53	0.38	-0.22
Rural	0.83	0.74	0.52	-0.31
<b>Women Education</b>				
Illiterate	0.88	1.02	0.92	+0.04
Literate < middle school complete	0.78	0.56	0.45	-0.33
Middle school complete	0.71	0.47	0.43	-0.28
High school and above	0.36	0.31	0.23	-0.13
<b>Religion</b>				
Hindu	0.68	0.61	0.41	-0.27
Muslim	1.13	1.10	0.74	-0.39
Buddhist	0.75	0.58	0.54	-0.21
<b>Caste/tribe</b>				
Scheduled caste	0.96	0.71	0.52	-0.44
Scheduled tribe	0.87	0.90	0.54	-0.33
Other backward class	na	0.50	0.33	-0.17*
Other caste	0.70	0.64	0.48	-0.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>-0.28</b>

\* Changes during 1998-99 to 2005-06

Source: National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06

A birth is considered unwanted if the number of living children at the time of conception was greater than or equal to the ideal number of children reported by the respondent at the time of survey. Women who did not give a numeric response to the question on ideal number of children are assumed to have wanted all the births they had. The levels and trends of total unwanted fertility rate (TUF<sub>R</sub>) by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra are given in **Table 2**. The TUF<sub>R</sub> in Maharashtra has been declined from 0.73 child in 1992-93 to 0.45 child in 2005.06 i.e. decline by 0.28 child. The total unwanted fertility rate in rural area is higher (0.52 child) than the urban area (0.38 child) i.e. by 0.14 child in 2005-06. The TUF<sub>R</sub> is highest 0.45 child in case of literate less than middle school complete educated women and lowest 0.23 child in case of high school and above educated women in 2005-06. In case of educational group there is decline in unwanted child and this decline is found to be highest 0.33 child among literate less than middle school complete. The analysis of TUF<sub>R</sub> by religion shows that it is highest 0.74 child among Muslim followed by 0.54 child among Buddhist and 0.41 child among Hindus in 2005-06. The highest decline during 1992-93 to 2005-06 is found among Muslim religion (0.39 child) and lowest among Buddhist religion by 0.21 child. In case of caste/tribe, the highest TUF<sub>R</sub> of 0.54 child is found among ST and lowest among other caste (0.48 child) and more decline noticed among SC by

0.44 child during 1992-93 to 2005-06. Overall, the total unwanted fertility rate declined from 1992-93 to 2005-06 except in case of illiterate.

**Table 3: Percentage of unwanted last child by residence and background characteristics, Maharashtra, 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-2006**

Background Characteristics	Rural			Urban		
	1992-93	1998-99	2005-06	1992-93	1998-99	2005-06
<b>Age group</b>						
15-29	6.10	5.60	3.09	3.90	5.49	1.30
30-39	2.10	1.90	1.00	3.20	1.66	1.99
40 and Above	0.50	0.00	0.15	0.60	0.00	0.17
<b>Religion</b>						
Hindu	7.40	6.49	3.08	3.90	3.66	1.82
Muslim	0.90	0.63	0.38	2.40	2.33	1.30
Buddhist	0.00	0.63	0.77	0.00	1.00	0.00
<b>Caste/tribe</b>						
Scheduled caste	0.70	1.16	0.92	0.50	1.50	0.52
Scheduled tribe	1.60	0.85	1.00	0.50	0.67	0.00
Other backward class	na	1.38	0.77	na	0.50	0.43
Other caste	6.40	4.02	1.47	6.80	4.66	2.43
<b>Women Education</b>						
Illiterate and primary	6.80	5.93	2.08	4.90	3.33	1.47
Middle and above	1.80	1.80	2.23	2.60	3.99	1.99
<b>Women working status</b>						
Not working	3.30	1.69	0.77	5.70	5.82	0.77
Working	5.30	6.14	3.47	2.10	1.50	3.47
<b>Wealth Index</b>						
Poor	5.70	4.97	8.24	1.00	0.50	0.00
Middle	1.50	2.12	1.00	1.60	2.16	0.61
Rich	1.60	0.63	1.00	5.20	4.66	2.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.71</b>	<b>7.72</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>7.79</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>3.46</b>
<b>Total Unwanted last child</b>	84	73	56	48	44	40

Source: National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06

**Table 3** shows the percentage of unwanted last child by residence and background characteristics of women in Maharashtra from 1992-93 to 2005-06. It can be seen from table that the percentage of unwanted last child has been declined in rural area from 8.71 percent in 1992-93 to 4.32 percent whereas for urban Maharashtra, it is declined from 7.79 percent in 1992-93 to 3.46 percent in 2005-06. The percentage of unwanted last child is highest among younger age groups and lowest among older age groups both in rural and urban areas. By religion, it is highest 3 percent among Hindu women and lowest 0.38 percent among Muslim women both in rural and urban area during 1992-93 to 2005-06. The percentage of unwanted last child by caste/tribe shows that it is highest in case of Other castes both in rural and urban areas but it is declining from 1992-93 to 2005-06 but in case of SC, it is increasing from 0.7 percent to 0.92 percent in rural area and 0.5 percent to 0.52 percent in urban area during 1992-93 and 2005-06. The percentage of unwanted last child is highest among illiterate and primary educated women and lowest among middle and above educated women. Overall, the percentage of last unwanted child is declining by education except in case of middle and above educated women in rural area. In case of working

women, there is higher percentage of unwanted last child in both rural and urban area as compared to not working women. In urban area, it is increasing from 2.1 percent to 3.47 percent for working women and declining from 5.7 percent to 0.77 percent for not working women from 1992-93 to 2005-06. The percentage of unwanted last child declines according to family wealth index in rural area but it increases in urban area but there is decline in percentage of unwanted last child from 1992-93 to 2005-06. Poor women from rural residence showing increasing trend in last unwanted child whereas urban residence showing decline from 1 percent to 0 percent.

Logistic regression analysis has been used to know the influence of background characteristics on unwanted fertility and results are presented in **Table 4**. The women from Muslim and Buddhist religions are more likely to have unwanted fertility as compared to Hindu religion. The likelihood of unwanted fertility decreases among ST, other caste and OBC. In case of education, the likelihood of the unwanted fertility decreases as education increases as compared to illiterate women. The possibility of unwanted fertility 2 times increases in case of working women whereas it is decreases for wanted fertility as compared to not working women. The likelihood of unwanted fertility is increases among poorer, middle and richer family wealth index than poorest family wealth index.

The levels and trends of total fertility rate (TFR) by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra are depicted in **Table 5**. The TFR in Maharashtra declined from 2.86 in 1992-93 to 2.11 in 2005-06 by 0.75 child. The TFR in urban area (1.91) is lower than the TFR in rural area (2.31) by 0.4 child. The TFR in urban area is declined by 0.63 child and 0.81 child in rural area from 1992-93 to 2005-06. In case of religion, the highest TFR (2.85) is found among Muslim. The TFR among Muslim women is nearly one child (0.85 child) higher than Hindu women and by half child higher than Buddhist women. The highest decline in fertility is noticed among Muslim women (1.26 child), followed by Buddhist women (0.79 child) and Hindu women (0.69 child) from 1992-93 to 2005-06. The highest TFR (2.43) is found among ST women as compared to lowest TFR (1.98) among OBC women.

**Table 4: Results of logistic regression (Odds Ratio) for unwanted last child by selected background characteristics of women in Maharashtra, 2005-2006**

<b>Background Characteristics</b>	<b>Unwanted Last Child Exp(B)</b>
<b>Residence</b>	
Urban <sup>®</sup>	
Rural	0.991
<b>Religion</b>	
Hindu <sup>®</sup>	
Muslim	2.356***
Christian	2.86**
Buddhist	1.629
Others	4.54*
<b>Caste/ Tribe</b>	
Scheduled caste <sup>®</sup>	
Scheduled tribe	0.954
Other backward class	0.595
Others	0.94
<b>Women education</b>	
Illiterate <sup>®</sup>	
Primary	0.843
Secondary	0.572*
Higher	0.643
<b>Women working status</b>	
Not working <sup>®</sup>	
Working	2.151
<b>Wealth Index</b>	
Poorest <sup>®</sup>	
Poorer	1.068
Middle	1.303
Richer	1.334**
Richest	0.972

Level of Significance: \*p<0.1 \*\*p<0.05 \*\*\*p<0.001



**Table 5: Levels and trends of total fertility rate for the three years preceding the survey by background characteristics, Maharashtra, 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-2006**

Background Characteristics	1992-93	1998-99	2005-06	Changes during 1992-93 to 2005-06
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	2.54	2.24	1.91	-0.63
Rural	3.12	2.74	2.31	-0.81
<b>Education</b>				
Illiterate	3.47	3.12	2.89	-0.58
Literate < middle school complete	3.00	2.73	1.98	-1.02
Middle school complete	2.47	2.33	2.28	-0.19
High school and above	2.08	1.95	1.82	-0.26
<b>Religion</b>				
Hindu	2.69	2.45	2.00	-0.69
Muslim	4.11	3.30	2.85	-1.26
Buddhist	3.14	2.14	2.35	-0.79
<b>Caste/tribe</b>				
Scheduled Caste	3.04	2.42	2.14	-0.9
Scheduled Tribe	3.24	2.93	2.43	-0.81
Other backward class	-	2.19	1.98	-0.21
Other caste	2.80	2.59	2.10	-0.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>2.52</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>-0.75</b>

Source: National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06

**Table 6: Percentage decline in total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and total fertility rate by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra, 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-2006**

Background Characteristics	Wanted Fertility Rate	Unwanted Fertility Rate	Total Fertility Rate
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	-21.13	-36.70	-24.8
Rural	-21.83	-37.30	-26.0
<b>Women education</b>			
Illiterate	-23.94	+4.5	-16.7
Literate < middle school complete	-31.08	-42.30	-34.0
Middle school complete	+5.11	-39.4	-7.7
High school and above	-7.56	-36.1	-12.5
<b>Religion</b>			
Hindu	-20.90	-39.7	-25.7
Muslim	-29.19	-34.5	-30.7
Buddhist	-24.27	-28.0	-25.2
<b>Caste/tribe</b>			
Scheduled Caste	-22.12	-45.8	-29.6
Scheduled Tribe	-20.25	-37.9	-25.00
Other backward class*	-2.37	-34.00	-9.59
Other caste	-22.86	-31.43	-25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>-22.07</b>	<b>-38.36</b>	<b>-26.22</b>

\*Percentage decline during 1998-99 and 2005-2006

Source: National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06

**Table 7: Percentage decline in total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and total fertility rate by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra, 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-2006**

Background Characteristics	Wanted Fertility Rate	2005-06	Unwanted Fertility Rate	2005-06	Total Fertility Rate	2005-06
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	-21.13	1.53	-36.70	0.38	-24.8	1.91
Rural	-21.83	1.79	-37.30	0.52	-26.0	2.31
<b>Women education</b>						
Illiterate	-23.94	1.97	+4.5	0.92	-16.7	2.89
Literate < middle school complete	-31.08	1.53	-42.30	0.45	-34.0	1.98
Middle school complete	+5.11	1.85	-39.4	0.43	-7.7	2.28
High school and above	-7.56	1.59	-36.1	0.23	-12.5	1.82
<b>Religion</b>						
Hindu	-20.90	1.59	-39.7	0.41	-25.7	2.00
Muslim	-29.19	2.11	-34.5	0.74	-30.7	2.85
Buddhist	-24.27	1.81	-28.0	0.54	-25.2	2.35
<b>Caste/tribe</b>						
Scheduled Caste	-22.12	1.62	-45.8	0.52	-29.6	2.14
Scheduled Tribe	-20.25	1.89	-37.9	0.54	-25.00	2.43
Other backward class*	-2.37	1.65	-34.00	0.33	-9.59	1.98
Other caste	-22.86	1.62	-31.43	0.48	-25.00	2.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>-22.07</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>-38.36</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>-26.22</b>	<b>2.11</b>

The impact of unwanted fertility can be measured by comparing the total wanted fertility rate with the total fertility rate (TFR). The percentage decline in total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and total fertility rate by background characteristics of women in Maharashtra is shown in **Table 6**. The TWFR, TUFR and TFR in Maharashtra is declined by 22 percent, 38 percent and 26 percent respectively during 1992-93 to 2005-06. There is a slightly more decline in rural area as compared to urban area in TWFR, TUFR and TFR. The TWFR is declined by 31 percent among literate less than middle school completed women whereas TWFR has been increased by 5 percent in case of middle school completed women. The TUFR is declined by 42 percent among literate less than middle school completed women whereas there is increased by 5 percent in case of illiterate women. The TFR is highly declined by 34 percent among literate less than middle school completed women. The highest 29 percent decline is found in TWFR among Muslim women, which is higher than 8 percent as compared to Hindu women and 5 percent higher than Buddhist women. The total unwanted fertility rate among women of Hindu religion is declined by 40 percent, which is higher than 12 percent among women of Buddhist religion and 5 percent higher than women from Muslim religion. The higher decline in fertility is noticed among Muslim women by 31 percent, followed by women from Hindu religion (26 percent) and 25 percent among women from Buddhist religion during 1992-93 to 2005-06. The TWFR is declined by

highest 23 percent among other caste women. The highest TUFRR rate is declined by 46 percent among SC women. The fertility is decreased by 30 percent in case of SC women whereas it is declined by 25 percent among other caste and ST women during 1992-93 to 2005-06.

### Summary and Conclusions

This paper has examined the total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and fertility decline in the context of background characteristics. The analysis revealed that total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and fertility is declined in Maharashtra and it is higher in rural area as compared to urban area. The total wanted fertility rate and total unwanted fertility rate is declined by half child in Maharashtra and it is highest among illiterate, Muslim women and ST women. Overall, total wanted fertility rate and total unwanted fertility rate decreases by education. The Muslim women are significantly more likely to unwanted fertility and less likely to have wanted fertility. The TFR by religion is highest among women from Muslim religion. The scheduled castes/scheduled tribes have exhibited higher fertility than other backward class and other castes and fertility differentials exist in Maharashtra. Overall, total wanted fertility rate, total unwanted fertility rate and total fertility rate is declined by residence, education, religion and caste/tribe during the study period.

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