

Religious Based Reproductive Status: A Case of Some Selected Villages of Nabagram block in Murshidabad District, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

The affinity between major community group and generative behaviour, emerged on primary data by sample surveying has been analysed. The outcome reflect that community has a most important effect on generative behaviour of some randomly selected villages of Nabagram block, of the two chief religious group studied, Muslims were identified to have the maximum child's birth rate than the Hindus. For that fertility ratio was so high reproductive rate was maximum in Muslim community of people, it may be for the cause of religious practice, lack of modernization, unavailability of educational practice, economic backwardness etc. These all variables show that the study area faced fully under developed region or backward class. In the Hindu community of people this reproductive rate or fertility ratio was comparatively low than Muslim in such region. It may be for the modernization or consciousness about the panic of high fertility rate among Hindu community than Muslim. Wrought the study was fully dependent upon primary activities, minimum percentage of responders were engaged in tertiary or allied activities of work, that indicated economic backwardness. For this study area we used some statistical techniques like Pearson's Correlation, Percentage and Frequency etc.

Keywords: Dependency ratio, BMI, Primary activity, Reproductive Behaviour, Fertility rate.

INTRODUCTION

Based on demographical study, fertility is one of the most important and complicated features of population. It plays a significant role in population distribution, population composition and the population size also in other hand, religion has an effective topicality in the socio-economic development of demographical study. Religion defines the code of life, indicates to a system of attitudes, beliefs and contemplations that individual share in a group and by this tendency towards life and death, community is supposed to touch one's generative behaviour (birth or fertility rate). Fertility is one of the natural efficiency of women for giving birth. But in the study of demographical features fertility identifies the actual generative achievement of women or a group of women Fertility has its two important aspects- Biological and Social. Reproduction behaviour is the indicator of Biological component. In another way women are having pointed out the child number and that impact of the population growth on our society is social component. Generally fertility rate or fertility defines as- The fertility rate at a given age is the live children born to women of the age in question in the course of the year, as a proportion of the average population of women of the same age over the year in question. According to Thompson, (1953“Fertility is generally used to indicate the actual reproductive performance of a woman or group of women, ranging from small communities to the entire capable women population of a country.” Religion amalgamation is one of the most significant characteristics futures of the people in different countries that have inestimable significance of their political and socio-economic life. Religion is repeatedly cited like a important factor, which influence the fertility features of the people, So differentials of fertility is based upon people's religion affiliation. In Nabagram CD block estimates of fertility in different sources have found among two major religious groups-Hindu and Muslims. Muslim religion people stood fast than Hindu religion people in fertility rate.

Need For the Study:

Maximum studied areas in India based upon religious differentials were concentrated the fertility variety between Hindu and Muslim. West Bengal acquired a remarkable demographic transition well embodied all over the world. In the block Nabagram there remain fertility differentials among two major religious groups -Hindu and Muslim. Fertility rate is so high among Muslim community population as compared to the Hindus in this study region. This calls for an investigation of the cause for community based generative behaviour of several villages of Nabagram Block.

Objectives of the Study:

- To dig up the chief religious groups of this study areas.

- To study about the behaviour of the reproductive women.
- To recite the relevance between Reproductive behaviour and religious attitudes.
- To understand the socio-economic factor for the differentials of Reproductive Behaviour among the Major Religious Group.

Location of the Study Area:

Nabagram is a community development (CD) block, which forms an administrative division of Murshidabad district under Jangipur loksabha in the state of West Bengal, India. The block covers with 306.63 sq km area. Total population is in number 227586, among them males are 116134 and rest 111452 are females. Population density of this block is 740 persons per square kilometre and total literacy rate is 70.83% (140735 persons), among them male literacy is 76.44% (77534 persons) and female literacy rate is 64.98% (63210 persons).

Nabagram CD block is located at 23 degree 37 minute 12.0 second north and 86 degree 28 minute 19.2 second east. This block is bounded by Sagardighi CD block in North, Murshidabad, Jiaganj and Berhampore CD block in the East, Khargram CD block in the South and Rampurhat II CD block in Birbhum district is in the West. This research work has been done by some selected villages of Nabagram block -Nimgram, Chanok, Singar, Pachgram and Shibpur.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The study of this paper is fully based upon primary data, collected randomly by interview and door to door survey. This survey was conducted in the age group of 15-49 years married women purely only from Hindu and Muslim community of this study area. Stratify on the basis of given criterion-

- ❖ Religion: Hindu and Muslim.
- ❖ Marital Status: Married.
- ❖ Maternity Status: Mother at least one surviving child.
- ❖ Occupational Status: Maximum engaged in Primary economic activities.

The main Statistics used in the form of simple percentage for the study and present some relevance cartography wherever needed.

Hypothesis Formulation:

The work has been done with these hypotheses. These are -

- Muslim has highest fertility than Hindu Religion.
- Marriage age is related to religious thought and it affect on Reproductive behaviour.
- Variant socio-economic factor are deeply involved with reproductive behaviour.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS:

In the study area Hindu and Muslim are two major religious groups; religiously they had followed different rules and regulation and showed different behaviour at different matters. This paper discuss about religious attitude on.

Reproductive behaviour with variable Socio-Economic factors. As stated in the abstract, the technique of the analysis is the use of simple percentage and the results are present in tabular form below-

1. Demographic Features of Several Selected Villages:

Identifying chart shows that Panchgram took first position with highest population taking both male and female maximum population. About 54% of average population who passed the age group of above 40 years, rest all age group of population was about 10% in every village. On the basis of religion Hindu and Muslim are the two major groups in this region. This area mainly maintained by Muslim community, Only Chanak had almost 50% Hindu inhabitant’s rest every village were dealt with Muslim religion maximum. It was 55.77% greater Muslim inhabitants region related to our nations. In the opposite direction Hindu inhabitants were very low having -49.80% Hindu communities.

Table No 1:

S.L No	Villages	Total Population	Male	Female	Age Group in %					Hindu in%	Muslim in %
					0 to 6	7 to 14	15 to 21	22 to 40	Above 40		
1	Nimgram	4058	2056	2002	13	11	12	11	53	23	77

2	Chanak	1721	881	840	11	14	10	13	52	48	52
3	Singar	5200	2675	2525	11	10	13	12	54	36	64
4	Panchgram	17137	8912	7199	12	9	11	11	57	18	82
5	Shibpur	869	446	423	10	12	12	10	56	25	75

Percentage of different age group of population in selected villages

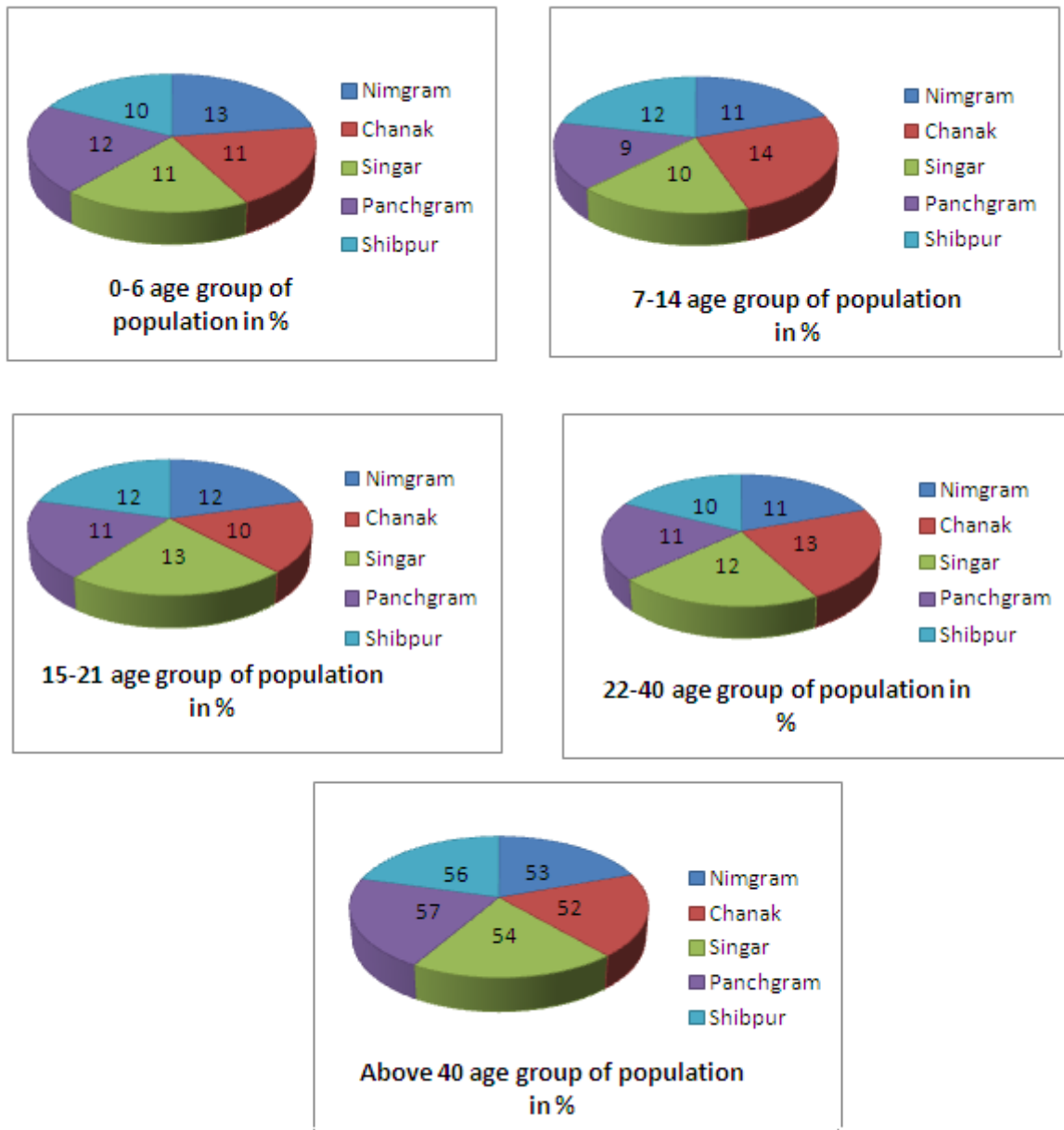


Figure 1

2. RELIGIOUS BASED EDUCATIONAL STATUS

The identified chart on the above reflected that maximum percentage of people who had no formal education in the village Nimgram and Shibpur which is very high percentage of illiteracy related to our nations, on the other hand Chanok, Shibpur and Panchgram village indicated that maximum percentage of people who got educated in primary section, have ability of read, write and speaks in their own mother tongue.

On the basis of religious based total literacy rate maximum percentage (31.2%)of Hindu literate people were lived in Chanok and minimum percentage (11.2%) of literate people were lived in Shibpur, On the opposite direction based on Muslim community literacy rate maximum (52.8%) in Panchgram and minimum (31.2%) in the village Shibpur. In both community of people the tendency of educated percentage of people were decreasing according to higher studies,

that may be indicated so many responsible factors like unemployment, lack of money, lengthy process, took family responsibility etc, which indirectly focused that regions had lack economic availability or tendency of higher education is very low.

Table No 2:

Villages						
Level of Education in %	Religion	Nimgram	Chanok	Singhar	Pachgram	Shibpur
No formal Education	Hindu	13.6	12	10.4	7.2	21.6
	Muslim	23.2	15.2	27.2	17.6	36
Primary	Hindu	12.8	22.4	17.6	15.2	8
	Muslim	20.8	29.6	30.4	35.2	26.4
Secondary	Hindu	6.4	6.4	2.4	4	1.6
	Muslim	11.2	8.8	7.2	13.6	4
Higher Secondary	Hindu	3.2	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.8
	Muslim	5.6	3.2	3.2	4	0.8
Above Higher secondary	Hindu	0.8	0	0	0	0.8
	Muslim	2.4	0.8	0	1.6	0

Source: Primary Survey, 2019

Minimum percentage of educated people who able to complete B.A or M.A degree. Among the selected villages highest (3.2%) higher education trends were followed in Nimgram but Singar is the only village in where there were no graduate persons. In the village Panchgram and Shibpur the tendency of higher education among Muslims community were nil. For that so many religious factors may be responsible indirectly.

The reflected chart identified that maximum numbers (17137) of people were lived in Panchgram and minimum (869) were in Shibpur. Nimgram stood first position in sex- ratio 982.49, which was 39.49 (982.49-933) greater than our national sex-ratio, that may be the result of higher education. In the opposite direction Panchgram village stood last position among selected villages with 807.72 sex-ratio which was 125.28 (933-807.72) lower than our national sex-ratio, that may be the result of lack of educational consciousness, abortion for the girl child because till now they though girl as burden.

3. RELIGIOUS BASED MARRIAGE AGE

Table No 3:

Marriage age	Hindu	% of Hindu	Muslim	% of Muslim
Below 15	6	4.8	13	10.4
15 to 18	19	15.2	41	32.8
18 to 21	17	13.6	26	20.8
Above 21	2	1.6	1	0.8
Total	44	35.2	81	64.8

Source: Primary Survey, 2019

According to our constitution legal age of marriage for girls was 18 though now it is 21 years. About 37% of girls were married in legal age and rest maximum percentage (63%) girls got married at under-age. In Muslim community the child marriage trends was almost twice and above (43.2%) related to the Hindu community (20.0%), this significance may be for the religious consciousnesses among Muslim community of people.

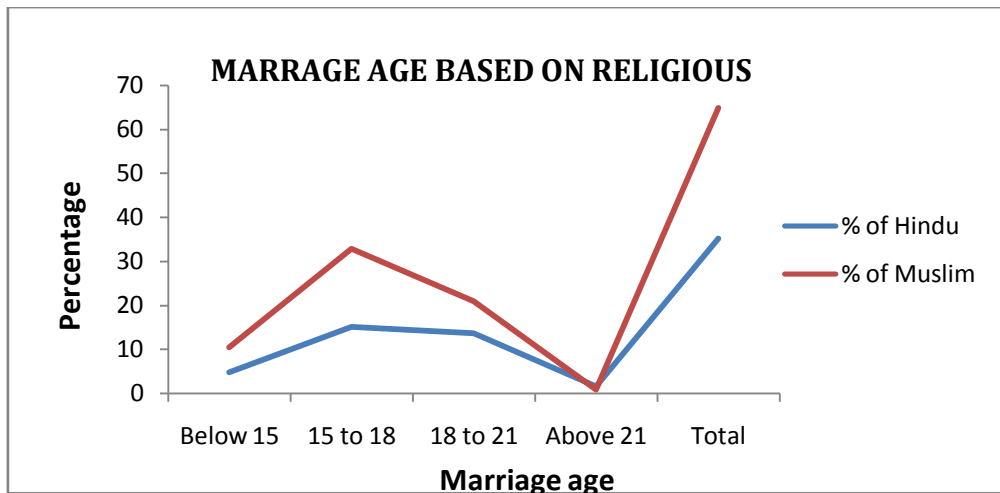


Figure 2

4. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF RESPONDERS

Maximum percentage of respondent involved in the primary activities, there were no numbers of secondary workers, average 2.08% workers were engaged in tertiary activity, there were no numbers of quaternary or quinary workers which clearly reflected lack of higher education or that may be caused for economic unavailability or unconsciousness about higher studies.

In the other hand this region fully based upon primary activities or selected areas had not dealt with any types of industrial or business opportunities. Under these circumstances we could say that maximum percentage of people engaged the work for ends to meet.

Table No 4:

Types of Occupation (%)	Nimgram	Chanok	Singhar	Pachgram	Shibpur	Average (%)
House-Maid	56	62.2	57	64.4	60	59.92
Beedi Worker	22	16	20	13	19	18
Sewing	12	8	12	9	15	11.2
Govt. Service	2	1.8	3	1.6	2	2.08
Others	8	12	8	12	4	8.8

Source: Primary Survey, 2019

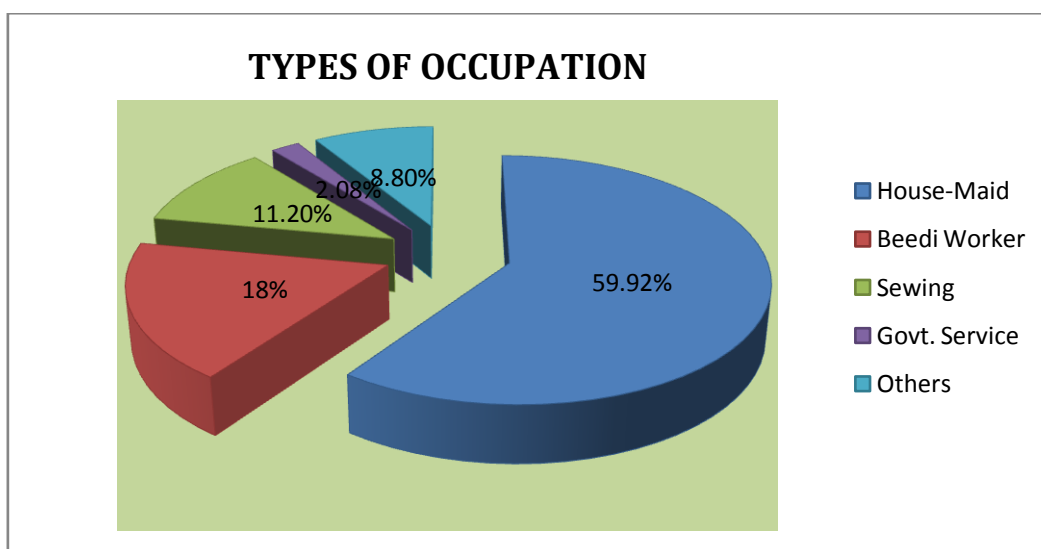


Figure 3

5. DEPENDENCY RATIO

Table No 5:

Villages	Total Number of Workers (X)	Dependency Ratio (Y)	X ²	Y ²	XY
Nimgram	22.9	15.4	525.3	237.2	353.0
Chanak	16.6	25.0	274.2	623.5	413.5
Singar	22.3	16.1	496.8	259.2	358.9
Panchgram	15.3	28.1	233.5	790.2	429.5
Shibpur	22.9	15.4	525.3	237.2	353.0
Total	100.0	100.0	2055.2	2147.2	1907.8

Dependency ratio refers the numbers of children (0-14 years old) and retired persons (65 years and above) to the working age population (15-64 years old).

$$\text{Dependency Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total dependent people}}{\text{Total workers}} \times 100$$

Nimgram stood first position in dependency ratio having 33% that may be so many responsible factors related for the high fertility ratio like, -high fertility, educational backwardness, religious tendency, lack of modernised techniques etc. Panchgram stood last having lowest fertility ratio. In opposite direction the average fertility ratio was 25.198%, which was almost half related to our nations fertility ratio (India-55.21%, Selected Villages-25.198%), that indicated these selected regions were developed related to our nation but they were not able to accept the modernization which was a significant feature for any developed regions.

Under these circumstances we could say that those several selected regions play an important role as developing areas.

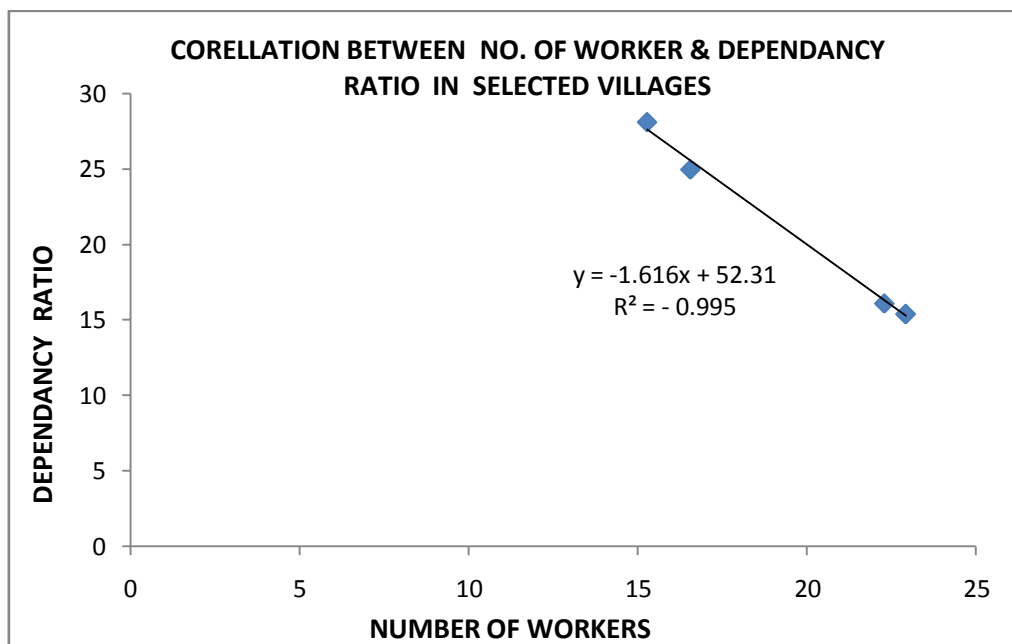


Figure 4

Based on the above table the product moment correlation co-efficient has been calculated as follows:

$$r = \frac{N \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{\{N \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2\} \{N \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2\}}}$$

Where,

r = Pearsonian Correlation Coefficient.

X ≡ Percentage of NSA as independent variable,

Y = Percentage of Population Density Dependent variable, and
 N = Number of Units.

$$\begin{aligned}
 r &= \frac{5 \times 1907 .83 - (99 .97 \times 99 .98)}{\sqrt{\{5 \times 2055 .21 - (99 .97)^2 \} \{5 \times 2147 .203 - (99 .98)^2 \}}} \\
 &= \frac{9535 - 9995}{\sqrt{\{10276 .05 - 9994 \} \{10736 .01 - 9996 \}}} \\
 &= \frac{- 460}{\sqrt{282 .05 \times 740 .01}} \\
 &= \frac{- 460}{\sqrt{208719 .821}} \\
 &= - 0.995 \quad (r)
 \end{aligned}$$

The ‘r’ value shows that the relationship between number of workers and dependency ratio is negative and low, which identified that this region was dealt with maximum percentage of dependent members, sign of less developed or under developed region which was literally backward class.

6. BODY MASS INDEX (BMI) OF SAMPLE RESPONDANTS

Table No 6:

Status	BMI	frequency
Underweight	<=18	19
Normal	<=25	80
Overweight	<=29	24
Obesity	>=29	2

Source: Primary Survey, 2019

Body mass index is a value derived from the mass and height of a person. The BMI is defined as the body mass divided by the square of the body height, and is universally expressed in units of kg/m², resulting from mass in kilograms and height in metres.

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{Person's Weight}}{(\text{Person's Height})^2}$$

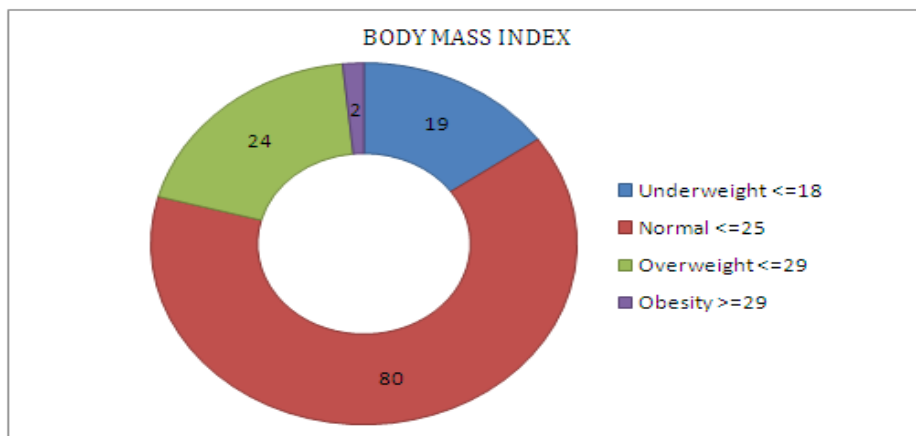


Figure 5

On the basis of WHO report among 125 respondents 64% were normal, who were conscious about their health or it may be for the regulation of their physical work daily. About 16% respondents were under wait for their illness or irregularity of their daily routine and it shown that maximum in the age group of above 40 years. 24 respondents faced over wait and it was mostly found in the age group of 21-40 years. Rest 2 respondents were obesity and this feature may be identified in any age group of population randomly.

7. CHILD REPRODUCTIVE TRENDS OF SAMPLE RESPONDENTS:

The chart reflected that reproductive behaviour of women in Muslim community was very high, it was for the cause of religious affiliation, low literacy or educational backwardness, primitive thinking etc, which identified that this region was economically or educationally under developed. In other hand in Hindu community of people reproductive power of women was low or almost half compared to Muslim community. It may be identified that in this region Hindu community of people was more conscious than Muslims, that may be for had faith in modern culture and use protection.

Table No 7:

Villages	Hindu %	Muslim %
Nimgram	37.5	62.5
Chanak	36.0	64.0
Singar	33.3	66.7
Panchgram	28.6	71.4
Shibpur	36.4	63.6

Source: Primary Survey, 2019

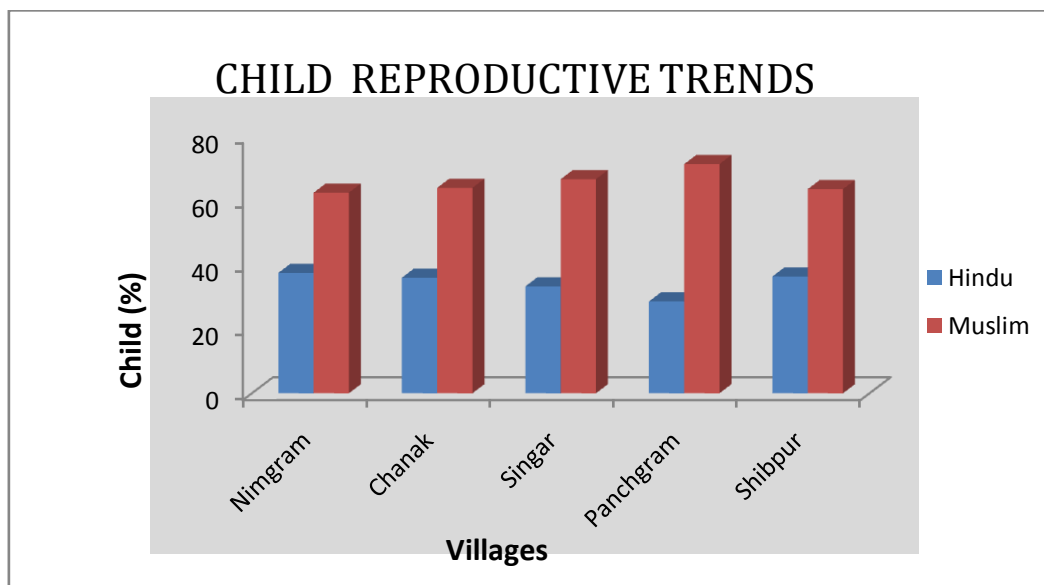


Figure 6

8. FERTILITY RATE IN SELECTED VILLAGES:

The fertility rate is the ratio between the number of live births in a year and the whole female population of childbearing age (average number of women between 15 and 50 years of age over the year). Unlike total period fertility, the fertility rate is partly dependent on trends in the age structure of women between the ages of 15 and 50.

Table No 8

Villages	Reproductive Women	Total Child	Fertility rate
Nimgram	1004	528	525.9
Chanak	496	189	381.0
Singar	1533	572	373.1

Panchgram	5329	2057	386.0
Shibpur	238	87	365.5

Source: Primary Survey, 2019

Fertility ratio = (Number of resident live births / Number of females age 15-44 years) x 1,000 Number of Resident Live Births X 1,000 Number of Females Age 15-44 Years Population.

Fertility ratio was one of the most important indicators of demography. It indicated several numbers of significance like socio-economic conditions, educational status, practice of culture, efficiency of thinking in such region. In this region had maximum fertility ratio for the backwardness due to religious thinking, lack of modernization, trends of minimum percentage of people's engagement in higher education etc.

CONCLUSION

There are various conclusion may be identified on the basis of this paper. The subject matters of this paper deals with the relationship between religious attitude and reproductive behaviour in several villages of Nabagram block and various socio-economic and demographic features such as Education, Occupation, Family structure, marriage age and other variables have been dealt with the result which reflects the all these aspects are responsible to controlled in the studied area selected by random sampling.

Lack of excessive use of contraception this study area deals with high fertility rate which reflects the religious consciousness and educational unavailability among people. Marriage at the age of below 18 years is another indicator for the high fertility rate. The child marriage rate of Muslims community of people was almost twice than the Hindu community. About 63% women got married in the age of below 15 and as a result they become mother at 20 years or below 20 years age. This significance clearly identified that family planning is very low among Muslim's; they mostly used traditional method compared to Hindus. Women sterilization and spacing is the prevalent method among Hindus and they were practiced with modern culture.

Maximum number of various religious people in this study area is poor and illiterate. Minimum numbers (2.08%) of persons are engaged in various governmental sectors. Thus the nature of government is greater purport to reduce birth rate or change in reproductive behaviour among Hindu and Muslims. Thus cultural as well as social programme may be took play an important role in this event also.

For the high concentration of dependency ratio this region is reflected the significance of underdeveloped area having low or minimum literacy and literally or economically backwardness maximum percentage of people in the study area are engaged in primary activity.

After a pilot survey of this study area' it is clear that government both in state and central took play an important role for preventing such backwardness related to this region by various project work or consciousness about such poor characteristics.

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APPENDIX:

Respondents S.L. No	Height in meter	Weight in Kilogram	BMI	Status
1	1.55	54	22.476587	Normal
2	1.6	58	22.65625	Normal
3	1.51	45	19.735976	Normal
4	1.59	60	23.733238	Normal
5	1.5	57	25.333333	Overweight
6	1.53	51	21.786492	Normal
7	1.63	45	16.937032	Underweight
8	1.6	60	23.4375	Normal
9	1.49	54	24.323229	Normal
10	1.56	57	23.422091	Normal
11	1.54	48	20.239501	Normal
12	1.6	49	19.140625	Normal
13	1.53	43	18.369003	Normal
14	1.52	60	25.969529	Overweight
15	1.58	53	21.230572	Normal
16	1.52	37	16.014543	Underweight
17	1.62	57	21.71925	Normal
18	1.44	54	26.041667	Overweight
19	1.6	43	16.796875	Underweight
20	1.45	56	26.634958	Overweight
21	1.57	57	23.12467	Normal
22	1.49	60	27.02581	Overweight
23	1.49	54	24.323229	Normal
24	1.57	47	19.067711	Normal
25	1.54	48	20.239501	Normal
26	1.65	37	13.59045	Underweight
27	1.63	60	22.582709	Normal
28	1.49	55	24.773659	Normal
29	1.45	48	22.829964	Normal
30	1.54	43	18.131219	Normal
31	1.6	52	20.3125	Normal
32	1.48	54	24.653031	Normal
33	1.52	56	24.238227	Normal
34	1.58	45	18.025957	Normal
35	1.45	60	28.537455	Overweight
36	1.49	56	25.224089	Overweight
37	1.56	60	24.654832	Normal
38	1.58	54	21.631149	Normal
39	1.58	52	20.829995	Normal
40	1.53	55	23.495237	Normal
41	1.49	57	25.674519	Overweight
42	1.5	59	26.222222	Overweight
43	1.63	56	21.077195	Normal

44	1.45	33	15.6956	Underweight
45	1.54	37	15.601282	Underweight
46	1.65	56	20.56933	Normal
47	1.48	60	27.392257	Overweight
48	1.64	39	14.500297	Underweight
49	1.56	40	16.436555	Underweight
50	1.62	55	20.957171	Normal
51	1.59	60	23.733238	Normal
52	1.45	55	26.159334	Overweight
53	1.56	54	22.189349	Normal
54	1.49	45	20.269357	Normal
55	1.54	32	13.493001	Underweight
56	1.61	55	21.218317	Normal
57	1.51	51	22.36744	Normal
58	1.59	60	23.733238	Normal
59	1.55	41	17.065557	Underweight
60	1.65	56	20.56933	Normal
61	1.56	53	21.778435	Normal
62	1.45	38	18.073722	Normal
63	1.51	45	19.735976	Normal
64	1.53	47	20.077748	Normal
65	1.6	56	21.875	Normal
66	1.45	51	24.256837	Normal
67	1.59	58	22.94213	Normal
68	1.62	52	19.814053	Normal
69	1.51	49	21.490286	Normal
70	1.45	34	16.171225	Underweight
71	1.62	60	22.862369	Normal
72	1.49	56	25.224089	Overweight
73	1.64	53	19.705532	Normal
74	1.55	41	17.065557	Underweight
75	1.63	58	21.829952	Normal
76	1.49	56	25.224089	Overweight
77	1.45	45	21.403092	Normal
78	1.48	56	25.566107	Overweight
79	1.61	49	18.903592	Normal
80	1.52	60	25.969529	Overweight
81	1.65	59	21.671258	Normal
82	1.45	60	28.537455	Overweight
83	1.55	34	14.151925	Underweight
84	1.51	32	14.034472	Underweight
85	1.5	45	20	Normal
86	1.6	58	22.65625	Normal
87	1.56	51	20.956607	Normal
88	1.52	38	16.447368	Underweight

89	1.5	54	24	Normal
90	1.6	59	23.046875	Normal
91	1.44	51	24.594907	Normal
92	1.53	47	20.077748	Normal
93	1.45	53	25.208086	Overweight
94	1.62	60	22.862369	Normal
95	1.64	55	20.449137	Normal
96	1.49	54	24.323229	Normal
97	1.55	51	21.227888	Normal
98	1.51	58	25.437481	Overweight
99	1.53	60	25.631167	Overweight
100	1.64	56	20.82094	Normal
101	1.43	48	23.47303	Normal
102	1.51	42	18.420245	Normal
103	1.58	59	23.634033	Normal
104	1.55	53	22.060354	Normal
105	1.5	54	24	Normal
106	1.61	53	20.446742	Normal
107	1.49	60	27.02581	Overweight
108	1.61	39	15.045716	Underweight
109	1.59	45	17.799929	Underweight
110	1.62	64	24.386526	Normal
111	1.48	58	26.479182	Overweight
112	1.45	59	28.061831	Overweight
113	1.45	47	22.35434	Normal
114	1.55	51	21.227888	Normal
115	1.45	65	30.915577	Obesity
116	1.56	33	13.560158	Underweight
117	1.6	51	19.921875	Normal
118	1.5	62	27.555556	Overweight
119	1.54	57	24.034407	Normal
120	1.47	61	28.228979	Overweight
121	1.62	57	21.71925	Normal
122	1.52	35	15.148892	Underweight
123	1.5	42	18.666667	Normal
124	1.48	64	29.218408	Obesity
125	1.61	58	22.37568	Normal