

Effect of Family Planning Practice and Income on Fertility and Mortality Among the Two Tea-garden Labourers in the Duars Area of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT The present paper deals with the effect of family planning practice (that is, sterilization) and income on fertility and infant mortality among the Oraon and Tamang tea-labourers of Jalpaiguri district. The two groups possess different ethnic identities but similar ecological backgrounds. Both the groups are migrants and migrated in the study area around late 1800's. This study reveals that (1) Fertility (TFR) is higher in sterilized group than non-sterilized group, particularly in the Tamang, (2) Infant mortality is significantly higher in the non-sterilized group among the Oraons and sterilized group among the Tamang labourers, (3) Fertility is generally higher and infant mortality rate is lower in the lower income group among both the tea-labourers.