

Foetal and Infant Mortality in Two Tribes of Rajmahal Hills, Bihar

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ABSTRACT A survey of 227 families of Santals and 494 of Pahriyas (208 of Saurias, 184 of Mals and 102 of Kumarbhags) was carried out to evaluate the consequences of genetic load in terms of foetal and infant deaths. Significantly higher percentage of foetal loss was observed in the Pahariyas (22.5%) in comparison to the Santals (16.5%). This loss was recorded highest during 5-19 weeks of the pregnancies in both the tribes. Maximum infant loss occurred during 0-7 days and 8-27 days. Among the demographic factors, only age of the mother had profound effects in foetal and infant deaths.