

Effects of Inbreeding on Mortality: A North Indian Study

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ABSTRACT Consanguineous marriages are common among the Muslims of India and the frequency of sub-types of consanguineous marriages differ significantly. Two Muslim castes (Quraishi and Ansari) with low socio-economic levels and different localities (sub-urban, rural) have been selected from Uttar Pradesh, North India. A total of 9705 pregnant women have been studied. Total mortality (including prenatal and postnatal) is found to be two times higher in the inbred sub-sample than in non-inbred sub-sample in both castes and areas (sub-urban, rural). The total foetal loss is significantly higher ($P < 0.5$) in rural areas among consanguineous as well as non-consanguineous marriages. The mortality rate has been found to increase proportionately with the coefficient of inbreeding. The mortality rate (including prenatal, postnatal, abortions, still birth, infant and juvenile mortality) is quite high in rural areas among the Ansari group.