

Foetal Wastage and Infant Mortality in Four Endogamous Population Purnia District (Bihar)

B.N. Pandey, S.K. Mishra, Sobha Yadav and P. Dash Sharma¹

P.G Department of Zoology, Purnia College, Purnia 854 301, Bihar, India
¹Department Anthropology, University of Ranchi, Ranchi 834 008, Bihar, India

KEYWORDS Foetal Wastage. Endogamous Population. Purnia District

ABSTRACT A survey of 826 families of the Kisan, Kulhaiya, Brahmin and Oraon of Purnia district in Bihar was carried out to assess the effects of different factors on foetal and infant deaths. Highest percentage of foetal wastage was observed in the Kulhaiya (26.01), followed by Oraon (21.92) and Kisan (19.17). The minimum abortion was observed in Brahmin. The minimum infant death was noticed in Kisan (11.11) while maximum in Kulhaiya (23.55). Among the demographic factors, only age of the mother had profound effects on foetal and infant deaths. Different possible factors responsible for foetal wastage and infant mortality have been discussed.