

Reang Women: Development, Autonomy and Fertility

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ABSTRACT Using primary data collected through multistage random sampling design from 400 women respondents, this paper investigates the determinants of fertility among the Reang tribe of Tripura. Building on the demand theory of fertility which emphasizes the crucial role of socioeconomic development for fertility decline, and incorporating the effect of women's autonomy on fertility behavior; Poisson regression analysis has been employed to discern the determinants of children ever born, as a measure of fertility. Results indicate that Reang women with more years of formal education and higher autonomy levels bear fewer children, even after adjusting for other factors such as age at marriage, socioeconomic status and women's work status. Hence, policies aimed at promoting higher education of Reang women have to be implemented efficiently. Also, this study emphasizes the need to support processes and factors that increase women's autonomy as a route to reducing fertility among the Reangs.