

## **Antenatal Care among Tribals: A Study of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**

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**ABSTRACT** The study examines the influence of socio-economic and demographic variables (age, social class, religion, marital duration, surviving children etc.) on the utilization of Antenatal care (ANC) services from public or other health professionals among tribals and non-tribals. It also examines the effect of availability and accessibility of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) services on utilization of ANC services. The data from District Level Household Survey under Reproductive and Child Health Project (DLHS-RCH-II) has been used for analysis. This survey collected data from 8860 currently-married rural women of Chhattisgarh and 10,569 currently-married rural women of Jharkhand during 2002-04. The discussion clearly reveals that in each socio-economic and demographic parameter, the tribal women are lagging behind others in both the states. Distance to the nearest public health facility is not a satisfactory predictor for utilization of public health services because distance to the nearest public health facility does not indicate the relative accessibility of that health facility when there are a number of alternative places to go for the same services. Accessibility is a matter not only of distance but also of the quality of services provided.