



Tribal Families and Fertility At CrossRoads

By S. Patel

Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 1993. N.A. Book Condition: New. Xviii+115pp Tribal supernatural beliefs, particularly those concerning witchcraft, disease, fertility, infant-mortality, are widespread in rural populations, whereas urbanisation has brought in technological, economic and educational changes in their environment. Thus at urban areas, for them it is a world in which mass-produced goods and occupation with mechanised implements are as familiar as the new-eating-ceremonies. Thus there follows a cyclic change in marriage-pattern (basing on neighbourhood knowledge); kinship system (co-efficient of kinship tends to decline with increasing distance between the birth place of individuals, as the possibility of common ancestry decreases with distance); institutional changes that reverse the traditional changes that reverse the traditional flow of wealth; sex-roles; division of labour; energy consumption; period of lactational amenorrhea or sterility being influenced by diet; labour value of children, which ultimately influence the reproductive behaviour of the group at urban localities. Hence there appears to be less and less disagreement that a strong association does exist between fertility decline and development. But the question is, which specific component of development should be given precedence over others in a countr?'s attempt to reduce its rate of population growth, with due consideration to development, as a holistic...

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