

## An Analysis of Fertility and Mortality in the Minorities of Kanpur City

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*Fertility and mortality play important role in demography of society. This study reveals fertility and mortality rate in religious minorities of Kanpur city, which is based on sample survey conducted by authors in 2009.*

**Key words:** - Fertility, mortality, minorities, Kanpur city.

Fertility and mortality are the two most important components of population growth. Fertility and mortality both jointly determines the size of population if fertility rate is higher and the mortality rate is lower the population will be increased, while if fertility rate is lower and mortality rate is higher population will be decreased fast. Fertility of any area or any groups is effected by social factors mainly literacy of population and social thoughts. Mortality affects our economic, social and political life and its study solves various social problems of widowhood, deaths occurrence, extension of medical facilities etc. It is one factor, which is responsible for influencing the health of the mothers and puts a strain on the national medical and sanitary resources.

### Objective-

**This study has following two broad objectives:**

1. To examine the fertility rate in the minorities of Kanpur city.
2. To evaluate mortality rate in the minorities of Kanpur city.

### Methodology-

Fundamentally, our interest is concern to analyse fertility and mortality in religious minorities' population of Kanpur city. Fertility and mortality data regarding the minorities of Kanpur city is not available in published form. Therefore, researchers have conducted a random sample survey among the minorities of Kanpur city to gather primary data, which is used to analysed fertility and mortality rate. Measure of fertility, which has often been used, is known as General Fertility Rate (GFR). It measures the number of live births in a year per thousand women of normal reproductive age.

### Fertility rate is calculated by following formula:

$$GFR = \frac{B1}{Pf\ 15-44} * 1000$$

Where, B1 = stands for live births in a year and Pf 15-44 = stands for number of women in normal reproductive age.

Crude Death Rate (CDR) represents mortality rate, which is the simplest measure of mortality indicating the number of deaths in a particular year per thousand of population. It is calculated by following formula:

$$CDR = \frac{D}{P} * 1000$$

Where, D = stands for number of death in a year and P = for estimated mid-year population for the year.

Obtained results of fertility and mortality are tabulated and represented by bar pyramid diagram.

### Study Area-

Study area Kanpur city lies on the 26° 28'N latitude and 80° 21'E longitude. It is nestled on the right bank of eternal river Ganga that is located in the eastern part of upper Ganga Plains at an attitude of 126m above the sea level. The municipal area is 672.5 Km<sup>2</sup>. Kanpur city is a largest city in Uttar Pradesh, which has populations of 2797511 (2001). Hindus 2158157 (77.15%) is in Majority. Muslims 579205 (20.70%), Sikhs 35616(1.27%), Buddhists 3107(0.11%), Christians 12788(0.46%), Jains 6093(0.22%) and others 468 (0.09%) persons are in minorities. literacy rate in Kanpur is 77.63%. Kanpur is a Industrial city and famous for Trade.

Fertility in Minorities-

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The value of fertility rates among the minorities of the Kanpur city varies greatly from 32.3 to 213.4 per thousand, which can be observed from Table 1. The fertility rates of minorities are also represented in figure 1.A. Highest fertility rate (213.4 per thousand) is observed in Muslim minority, whereas lowest (32.3 per thousand) fertility rate is observed in Jain minority. The fertility rate in Muslims is high because of the men and women of this community are frequently engaged to produce children on the religious point of view, therefore they are not using contraceptive and the conception of mother hood as the God's grace and their sexuality effects fertility. Those religions, which do not put any bar on the number of marriage and children, are likely to have more fertility than the others, because more the number of waiver normally there are more the number of children.

Buddhist minority has also higher fertility rate (166.7 per thousand) second among the all minorities because they also produce more children due to their previous conversion from low caste Hindus and due to their poor economic conditions. One important reason behind this is that the people of poor sections of this society always work together with husband and wife either in agriculture or in industry and they have exposure that is more sexual because they do not have other source of entertainment except that of sexual exposure. Moreover, in Muslims and Buddhists community it is also believed that every child who is born will start earning something even at a very young age by doing some jobs. They feel that the cost of their upbringing will be less in comparison to their earnings. In addition, if a man does not have dependents, on whom will he depend when he is old and ill? Thus, they often see no advantage in limiting their children. In the societies where women are confined only to household jobs, they are considered suitable only for producing children and as such, those women who can produce good number of children are held in high esteem. Obviously, in such societies fertility is very high as compared with the societies where the women are expected to participate in all walks of life along with men, so that in such societies the women want to limit their children.

Christian's minority comes on third position in minorities because of its fertility rate 114.3 per thousand. The reason of moderately higher fertility rate in Christians is also more or less similar as Buddhists. Christians are educated hence; their fertility rate is lower than the Buddhist and Muslims. Sikhs and Jains have low fertility rate among the minorities because they are more economically well off and educated. Education and fertility have very close relationship (negative correlation). Educated and employed women want to have a very small family because of the following reasons:

- Educated women are quite conscious of having a limited family size.
- At an age when there are very bright chances of having good fertility the girls are in the colleges and university and thus they do not get children while during that period- uneducated girls get.
- In many cases, educated women are employed and with the employment, they cannot take care to have more children.
- Span of child producing period in the case of educated women is much less, as compared with illiterate women.

Mortality in Minorities-

Based on samples Crude Death Rate in the form of mortality is measured for Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains. The value of Crude Death Rate varies greatly from 4.5 to 21.5 per thousand among the minorities as mentioned in Table 2. The Mortality rates of minorities are also represented in figure 1.B.

Table 2 and Fig. 1.B represent that the highest (21.5 per thousand) Mortality rate is observed in Muslims, whereas lowest (4.5 per thousand) is found in Jains. Mortality rate is high in Muslims due to high infant mortality. Obviously, a question, which arises, is as to why this rate remains so high in Muslims. Some of the important reasons can be:

- The cause can be related to birth, which includes lack of medical facilities, incompetence of nurses attending on the child-mother, congenital; mal-transformation; immature birth, etc.
- The cause can also be related to outside factors such as exposure to cold or heat; illiteracy of parents resulting in the negligence of children; air pollution; poverty and ill-nourishment and nutrition etc.

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- iii) The mothers can be ignorant and may not realize the need of after medical care, after the birth of child.
- iv) In some families where the number of children, particularly of the same sex, may be, quite high and additional child may not be much cared.
- v) The orthodoxy has deep roots in this community.
- vi) Interval between the birth of two children is rather less.
- vii) The system of child marriage prevails.
- viii) The death of the women is not very much cared.

### The lowest mortality in Jains is because of the following important reasons:

- i) Male and women are literate therefore; they have more attention on the health of child and mother.
- ii) They have maximum one or two baby.
- iii) Marital status occurs in higher age.
- iv) They are economically strong for these they avail proper medical facilities

The second highest mortality rate 15.2 per thousand is recorded in Buddhists, while the third highest mortality rate 12.0 per thousand is observed in Christians. The reasons behind the higher mortality rate in Buddhists are due to maximum conversion from lower caste Hindus as Schedule Caste population to Buddhists. Hence, the economic condition of these converted people is not strong and the mortality rate is higher for following reasons:

- i) Due to poor economic conditions, the pregnant women in Buddhists do not get nutritive food.
- ii) Buddhists People are mostly illiterate.
- iii) Therefore, they do not give proper attention on medical and other facilities for mother's health and childcare.

Christians Minority in Kanpur city has 12.0 per thousand-mortality rate, which is third lowest among the minorities; some of the important reasons behind the low mortality are:

- i) Christians are mostly educated and they are not orthodoxy.
- ii) Marital status occurs in higher age for male and female therefore possibilities of infant mortality are lower.
- iii) Christians have their own medical facilities centers established by missionary and therefore, they avail good health facilities.

The mortality rate in Sikhs is also lower 8.7 per thousand and they have second lowest mortality rate because of following points:

- i) They are economically strong for this they avail medical and other facilities.
- ii) Genetically they have long life expectancy and strong body.

### Conclusion-

It is concluded from the above discussion that the fertility and mortality in minorities varies greatly from one religion to another. High fertility and mortality rates are observed in Muslims, while low fertility and mortality rates are in Jains. Higher fertility and mortality can be controlled by increasing educational and medical facilities. Children and mothers care regarding their health and nutrition should be improved.

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**Table No. 1**  
**General Fertility Rate (GFR) in Minorities of Kanpur city.**

Sl.No.	Religious Minorities	General Fertility Rate (GFR)
1.	Muslims	213.4
2.	Christians	114.3
3.	Sikhs	62.5
4.	Buddhists	166.7
5.	Jains	32.3

**Source:** Sample Survey conducted by researcher.

**Table No. 2**  
**Crude Death Rate in Minorities of Kanpur city**

Sl. No.	Religious minorities	Crude Death Rate (CDR)
1.	Muslims	21.5
2.	Christians	12.0
3.	Sikhs	8.7
4.	Buddhists	15.2
5.	Jains	4.5

**Source:** Sample Survey conducted by researcher.