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WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023

CTD: 09BP- BIO-CULTURAL APPROACH, POPULATION STUDIES AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

SUB-DOMAIN: DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION AND POPULATION DYNAMICS

PANEL TITLE: TRIBAL DEMOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

Demography, like anthropology, is a multidisciplinary subject of human population which encompasses both biological aspects such as Fecundity, fertility, mortality, and social aspects which includes migration, urbanization, population structure and above-all the culture of the group. The relationship between anthropology and demography is so close that the Oxford dictionary describes 'Demography' as a part of Anthropology which studies the statistics of birth, death, and diseases. We even find the term 'Anthropological Demography' or 'Demographic Anthropology' or 'Population Anthropology' in the dictionary of Demography which explains that such terms strictly refer to demographic studies of fertility, mortality, and migration among the small human communities (ethnic groups), usually studied by the anthropologists. However, at present such terms are commonly used to refer to the multitude of more general empirical population studies carried out by the anthropologists as well as by the demographers.

Thus, literally speaking when a demographic study is conducted on a tribe, it is known as the study of Tribal Demography. Very often we come across terms like ethno-demography (Demographic study of ethnic groups), Population Anthropology or Demographic Anthropology (demographers entering in to anthropo-demographic aspects with empirical approach). However, in the beginning demographers were more interested on secondary data such as census findings, vital registrations, and other survey reports. Such data were normally used for the construction of various demographic models, life tables, and other mathematical calculations like estimations and projections. In other words, the technical aspect of demography was of much importance to the former scholars. During the 1960s some social demographic studies were conducted among the non-industrial and preliterate societies. Since then, many scholars all over the world are being engaged in tribal and social demographic research.

Keywords: Fecundity, fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization

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