CHAPTER-6

FERTILITY ASPECTS
Fertility is considered as the actual reproductive performance of women. But generally, it indicates the number of children which were produced by the women. It has been defined that fertility of women is totally depended on physiological function and socio-cultural practices.

Fertility potential is influenced by physiological factors from biological angels whereas the conditioning social environment is embraced by socio-cultural factors. In simple words, fertility means the actual reproductive performance of women or couples. Some demographers prefer to use the word natality, instead of fertility. Attempts have been made to study the association of culture with fertility behavior among certain tribes through social and demographic variables. These studies have taken culture as an independent variable determining the fertility behavior, because among tribal, every aspect of life from birth to death is being influenced by the prevalence of customs, beliefs and notions which have been practiced in their day-to-day life. Though fertility is a biological phenomenon there are a number of other factors influencing the levels and differentials of fertility among, tribals. Demographers usually measure the fertility differentials by taking into account women's income, occupation, education, family type, age at menarche, age at marriage, etc. (Dandekar and Dandekar, 1953; Dandekar, 1959; Roy Burman, 1961; Nag, 1962; Das, 1973; Thomson and Lewis, 1965; Vidvyarthi and Rai, 1977; Sahu, 1983; Basu and Kshatriya, 1989).

The study of human fertility occupies prominent position in the study of population for several reasons. The growth of any population entirely depends on human fertility. The various social, cultural, physiological as well as economic factors are found to operate and responsible for determining the level and deferential of fertility. On the related aspects a number of studies have been conducted by various workers, viz., Sharma (1994), Jain (2000), Sharma & Jain (2006) and Tiwari & Sharma (2007) etc. The results of the relevant aspects are presented in the following tables:
Table 6.1, shows age at onset of menarche, it could be observed from the table that maximum respondents reported 13 years age at onset of menarche (34.29), rather than 14 years (29.43), 12 years (24.29) and 11 years (12.00). It may be concluded from the table that 12 to 14 years age is most common for onset of menarche among the Hill Korwas.

Table 6.2, exhibits information regarding age at marriage (male and female), it could be seen from the table that maximum marriages among males occurred at the age of 12-18 years (52.00), rather than 19-21 years age group (40.00) and 22.25 years age group (08.00). In females maximum marriages shows 12-18 years age group (98.00) and few marriages in 19-21 years age group (02.00). It could be concluded from the table that the maximum marriages occurred at the age of 12-18 years.

Table 6.3, exhibits information regarding age at effective marriage (gona), it could be seen from the table that maximum gona is reported among males at the age of 12-18 years (50.86), rather than 19-21 years age group (39.43) and 22-25 years, (09.71). In female maximum age at gona shows at the age of 12-18 years (95.71) and few reported 19-21 years age group (04.29). It could be concluded from the table that the maximum effective marriage (gona) reported in 12-18 years age group.

Table 6.4, exhibits information regarding age at menopause, it could be seen from the table that maximum females reported onset of menopause after more than 48 years age (50.82), rather than 47 year age (21.31), 46 year age (14.75) and 45 years (13.11). It could be concluded from the table that the menopause age is more than 47 year among the Korwas.
Table 6.5, reveals information regarding number of living children in the family. It could be observed from the table that average numbers of boys are 2.5 and average number of girls are 2 in the families. It shows comparatively high fertility among the Hill Korwas.

Table 6.6, exhibits information regarding age at during first birth at could be seen form the table that maximum during first children in male 12-18 years age group (46.00) rather than 19-21 year age group (37.43) and 22-25 years age group (16.57). In female maximum first children shows 12-18 year age group (91.43), rather than (19-21) year age group (07.14) and few 19-21 year age group (01-43). It could be concluded from the table that the age at during first children shows in 12-18 year age group.
Summing up the fertility aspects of Hill Korwas, it could be concluded that:

1. The 13 years of age is most common for onset of menarche among Hill Korwas.

2. The early marriages are more common among males (52.00) and females (98.00).

3. The early effective marriage (gona) are more common among males (50.86) and females (95.71).

4. More than 48 years of age is most common for onset of menopause among Hill Korwas.

5. The average number of alive children in the family observed boys 2.5 and 2 girls.

6. The maximum age of mother at first children 12-18 year and male 12-18 years age group.

On the basis of above cited findings and discussions, it may be stated that there are high level of fertility and to much reproductive wastages, fertility indicators are also show high value. It shows that there is an urgent need to aware them and implement some meaningful programme related to reproductive health for the upliftment of health status among the Hill Korwas because fertility aspects plays an important role for determining the size of the population, simultaneously demographic indicators plays an important role for determining the health situation of any community.