Contents

1 Introduction  
1.1 The problem and perspective 1  
1.2 A brief review of the literature 2  
1.3 Description of data used 9  
1.4 Summary of the thesis 10  

2 Some recent determinants causing variations in first birth interval 15  
2.1 Introduction 15  
2.2 Data, variables and their scales of measurement 18  
2.3 Methodology 19  
2.3.1 Summary indicators 20  
2.3.2 Cox PH Model 21  
2.3.3 Examining linearity assumption 24  
2.4 Findings of our analyses 25  
2.5 Concluding remarks 34  

3 Determinants of variations in second and higher order birth intervals 35  
3.1 Introduction 35  
3.2 Methods and Materials 36  
3.3 Findings of the analysis 37  
3.4 Concluding remarks 68  

4 Distribution of closed birth intervals in a heterogeneous population 69  
4.1 Introduction 69  
4.2 Closed birth intervals with fixed fertility rates 71  
4.3 Heterogeneous population 72  
4.3.1 Probability distribution of the closed birth interval $T_{ia}$ for parity $i > 1$ 72  
4.3.2 Moments of $T_{ia}$ for parity $i > 1$ 75  
4.3.3 Probability distribution of the first closed birth interval $T_{1a}$ 75
4.3.4 Moments of various orders of $T_{1a}$ ................................. 76
4.3.5 Probability distribution of the last closed birth intervals $T_{i}$ for parity $i > 1$ .................................................. 76
4.3.6 Moments of $T_{i}$ for $i > 1$ .............................................. 78
4.3.7 Probability distribution of $T_{1i}$, the last closed birth interval of parity 1 .................................................. 78
4.3.8 Moments of $T_{1i}$ ......................................................... 79
4.4 Simulation .......................................................... 79
4.5 Conclusion ......................................................... 83

5 Fertility effecting factors: Infant and child mortality 85
5.1 Introduction .......................................................... 86
5.2 Log-normal and gamma models with constant variance .................................................. 88
  5.2.1 Multiplicative models with non-constant variance .............................................. 90
5.3 Detection of risk factors on infant mortality .................................................. 92
  5.3.1 Infant mortality data .................................................. 92
  5.3.2 Variables .......................................................... 92
  5.3.3 Findings .......................................................... 93
  5.3.4 Conclusion ......................................................... 98
5.4 Detection of social parameters affecting the child mortality .................................................. 100
  5.4.1 Child mortality data: Description .................................................. 100
  5.4.2 Description of covariates and levels .................................................. 100
  5.4.3 Analysis and interpretation .................................................. 101
  5.4.4 Discussion and findings for child mortality .............................................. 105
  5.4.5 Concluding remarks .................................................. 106

6 Estimation of female feticide rate and its relationship with other related parameters 107
6.1 Introduction .......................................................... 107
6.2 Methods of estimating Female Feticide rate .................................................. 109
6.3 Effect of Female Feticide in the Inter-live birth interval .................................................. 114
  6.3.1 Development of models of different categories of inter live birth intervals from Perrin and Sheps Model (1964) .................................................. 115
6.4 Effect of Sex-selective abortion and Differential Infant mortality by sex on the Expectation of life of Female children .................................................. 122
6.5 Concluding remarks .................................................. 124

7 Breastfeeding pattern and its impact on postpartum infecundity 126
7.1 Introduction .......................................................... 126
7.2 Description of data ........................................ 128
  7.2.1 Mid-Term Evaluation Survey of IPP-VIII in CMA 1998 ....... 128
  7.2.2 The National family Health Survey, West Bengal 1992 ....... 130
7.3 Methodology .................................................. 130
  7.3.1 Life table estimation .................................... 130
  7.3.2 Proportional hazards model with time varying covariates .... 131
7.4 Findings ...................................................... 132
  7.4.1 Breast-feeding pattern in KMA and urban West Bengal ....... 132
  7.4.2 Post-partum amenorrhoea in KMA and urban West Bengal ...... 133
  7.4.3 Breast-feeding pattern in Bihar for NFHS-3 and NFHS-2 ....... 140
  7.4.4 Post-partum amenorrhoea for Bihar in NFHS-3 and NFHS-2 ....... 143
7.5 Concluding remarks .......................................... 148

References ......................................................... 149