

## A Study on Maternal Factors and Reproductive Outcomes among Tribal Communities of Telangana, India

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**Abstract:** Mortalities and morbidities related to reproductive health continue to remain higher among tribal communities in the state of Telangana despite the availability of various health initiatives and incentive schemes.

The present study aims to determine the maternal factors associated with reproductive outcomes among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) such as the Chenchu and the Andh and the most numerically dominant tribal groups such as the Koya, the Lambada and the Gond.

The study was conducted in eight *mandals* of four Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in the state of Telangana. All the households in the villages falling under the jurisdiction of these *mandals* were covered. A total number of 1599 women were included in this study. Structured schedules were used for data collection in this survey.

Results showed that there has been a significantly low occurrence of pre-term deliveries; the proportion of live births increased dramatically among the study participants due to their pronounced use of antenatal care and institutional delivery services. Some relaxations regarding norms such as age at marriage, the spacing between births, and reproductive decision-making were also observed. There were significant differences among the tribal groups with respect to the age at first conception, birth weights, and the time interval between the conception and confirmation of pregnancy by the health staff. There is no significant association between acceptance of Ante Natal Care (ANC) by the PVTGs and non-PVTGs and between birth order and acceptance of ANC by the PVTGs and non-PVTGs. Similarly, no statistically significant inter-tribal variation is found in birth weight.

*Keywords:* Antenatal care; Birth order; Pregnancy; Reproductive wastage; Tribal