

## **Convergence in Rural and Urban Fertility**

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### **Abstract**

Generally fertility rates in rural areas are higher than that in urban areas. The rural-urban gap in the total fertility rate is narrowing but is still significant. There is still a lack of studies focusing exclusively on the convergence pattern of rural-urban fertility in India. Hence the primary objective of this paper is to examine trends and pattern of fertility convergence across the states by place of residence. For this purpose an empirical analysis is conducted using fertility data from 1971 to 2013 to assess the extent to which fertility levels have converged overtime. Rural-urban analysis of fertility convergence indicates that Indian states are becoming comparable in TFR levels during 1971-2013, to some extent. However, convergence in rural and urban fertility is high in the initial periods than in the most recent periods. The analysis has also shown that much of the rural-urban difference is on account of lower level of female education in rural areas than in urban areas. Therefore, programmes focusing on female education, family planning and poverty removal need to be revamped in rural areas.