

# **TRENDS AND DIFFERENTIALS IN LIFE EXPECTANCIES IN INDIA: AN ANALYSIS BASED ON NFHS DATA**

By

*S. Sulaja and V. Jayachandran*

## **Abstract**

Life expectancy at birth is considered as one of the best crude measure that gives health status of any population. However, during recent periods not many studies are carried out in this direction to assess the health status of the Indian population, with the exception of some life tables from the Sample Registration System (SRS). But the life tables based on SRS also limits its presentation to state level and sex. Therefore, an attempt has been made here to estimate and analyse the trends in life expectancy by religion and caste/tribe in India. For this purpose data from two rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) were used.

Results from the analysis clearly brings out the fact that the life expectancy at birth during the period 1997-98 is almost 70 years for both males and females compared with about 60 years during 1991-92. This highlights the fact that, the country has progress in health sector during that period. However, progress in life expectancy at different ages is not so encouraging. Further, the rate of progress in life expectancy among different religious and caste groups throws us mixed but expected results.