

# The Desire for Children and Its Linkages between Sex Preference and C- Section delivery

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## Introduction

- Caesarean section is a surgical intervention it is part of the essential obstetric care functions which is carried out in clinical practice as a lifesaving technique for assuring the safety of mother and child.
- Over the past three decades, the overall caesarean delivery rates have been rising rapidly worldwide; this rise in caesarean rate has become a serious public health issue worldwide (Stanton and Holtz, 2006).
- India is also not lagging behind from this increasing trend of caesarean section; it expanded from 2.9 percent in 1992 to 17.2 percent in 2015.
- Caesarean sections are effective in saving maternal and infant lives, but only when they are required medically for indicated reasons. Caesarean section has several inherent complications on maternal morbidity like placenta previa, bladder or bowel damage, and intra abdominal adhesions, hysterectomy, haemorrhage, infection, thrombosis and postpartum depression.
- The pregnancy immediately following caesarean section could be life threatening. Yet, some women wish to have additional child. So, it is quite pertinent to know is this desire governed by the sex preference? Hence, to examine the linkages between son preference and desire for having additional children after caesarean delivery in India.

## Objectives

- To examine the linkages between son preference and desire for having more children after caesarean delivery

## Methodology

- The present study uses secondary data source, from the fourth round of National Family Health Survey. The survey have been conducted in 2015-16 (NFHS-4) Survey data were analysed by using statistical analysis tool like (SPSS.25)
- The analysis was done by using bivariate and multivariate regression analysis using all relevant socioeconomic, demographic variables, and significant variable ( $p < 0.05$ ) were considered in the multivariate logistic regression analysis.

## Results and Discussion

- It is found that among the first parity women with caesarean section, the desire for having additional child was lesser than that of the women with normal delivery.
- The result of binary logistic regression shows that the female child, rural, OBC, and Muslim women with first parity, irrespective of delivery status, are more likely desire for next child.
- The desire to have additional child is much higher among the women who have only female child than the women having only male child. Further it was lowest for women with two male children. The result of binary logistic regression exhibits that the rural, scheduled tribe, and Muslim women, irrespective of delivery status, are more likely desire for next child. But with the increase in the wealth quintile, women are less likely to desire for additional child.
- The percentage of desire for more children among women with caesarean having one son decreased from 73 percent to the 4 percent of women with four sons. Whereas, the women with female children it was 80 percent for women with one daughter and decreased to 24 percent for women with 4 daughters.

## Conclusion

- It is found that comparison between the women with only a son, the women with only a daughter are more likely to desire for additional child even after an episode of caesarean section.
- This suggests that the number of surviving son have significant strong impact on desire for additional child after caesarean section. Hence, concerted efforts are needed to curb the menace of son preference.

Fig 1: Percentage of desire of more children of women who went through different mode of delivery by total living sons, according to NFHS 2015-16

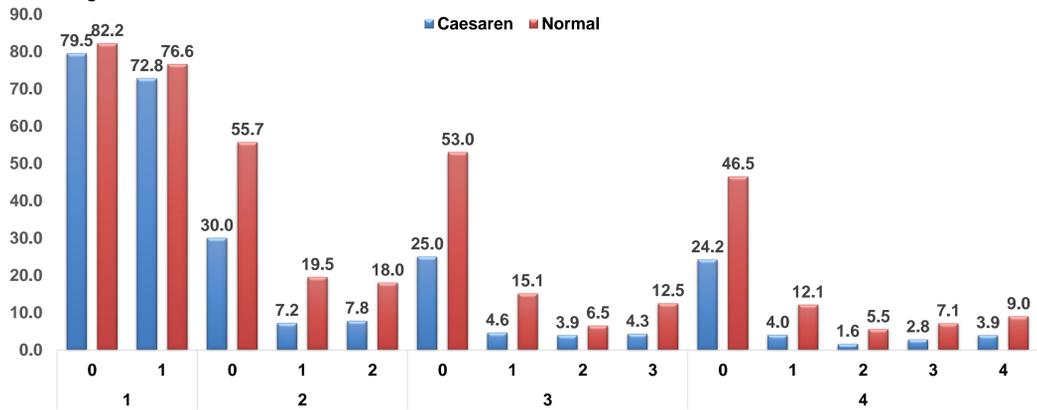


Table 1: Percentage and Odds Ratio showing effect of background variables on desire for having more children among women with first parity went through different mode of delivery: Results from logistic regression analysis, according to NFHS 2015-16

	Caesarean		Odds Ratio	Normal		Odds Ratio	Cases
	Want more	Don't want		Want more	Don't want		
<b>Sex</b>							
Male <sup>®</sup>	72.9	27.1		76.9	23.1		32649
Female	79.7	20.3	1.461***	82.2	17.8	1.377***	28741
<b>Place of residence</b>							
Urban <sup>®</sup>	73.7	26.3		77.6	22.4		17723
Rural	78.1	21.9	1.186***	80.1	19.9	1.081**	43667
<b>Caste</b>							
SC <sup>®</sup>	75.7	24.3		79.2	20.8		10587
ST	75.9	24.1	1.345***	82.1	17.9	1.292***	11141
OBC	78.4	21.6	1.071	80.7	19.3	1.006	23677
Other	73.3	26.7	0.875**	76.2	23.8	0.772***	15985
<b>Religion</b>							
Hindu <sup>®</sup>	75.1	24.9		78.6	21.4		46018
Muslim	82.6	17.4	2.021***	84.3	15.7	1.724***	8011
Christian	73.6	26.4	1.263**	85.7	14.3	1.747***	4232
Others	76.4	23.6	0.929	74.5	25.5	0.932	3129
<b>Education</b>							
No education <sup>®</sup>	76.1	23.9		80.3	19.7		9275
Primary	72.1	27.9	0.999	79.4	20.6	1.064	6469
Secondary	76.4	23.6	1.195**	79.2	20.8	1.153***	34500
Higher Secondary	76.2	23.8	1.244**	79.3	20.7	1.259***	11146
<b>Wealth Quintile</b>							
Poorer <sup>®</sup>	77.8	22.2		81.9	18.1		10188
Poor	76.8	23.2	1.003	80.0	20.0	0.932*	12636
Middle	76.6	23.4	1.002	78.6	21.4	0.848***	12869
Richer	74.8	25.2	0.997	78.5	21.5	0.842***	12726
Richest	76.1	23.9	0.949	77.7	22.3	0.800***	12971
<b>Total</b>	76.0	24.0	2.076***	79.5	20.6	3.125***	47049

Table 2: Percentage and Odds Ratio showing effect of background variables on desire for having more children among women went through different mode of delivery: Results from logistic regression analysis, according to NFHS 2015-16

	Caesarean		Odds Ratio	Normal		Odds Ratio	Cases
	Want more	Don't want		Want more	Don't want		
<b>Sex composition</b>							
1 Male 0 Female <sup>®</sup>	72.8	27.2		76.6	23.4		56799
0 Male 1 Female	79.5	20.5	1.465***	82.2	17.8	1.399***	43313
2 Male 0 Female	7.8	92.2	0.048***	18.0	82	0.073***	52267
0 Male 2 Female	30.0	70.0	0.217***	55.7	44.3	0.434***	24259
Others	14.5	85.5	0.053***	16.7	83.3	0.057***	431926
<b>Place of residence</b>							
Urban <sup>®</sup>	42.9	57.1		39.4	60.6		100848
Rural	45.4	54.6	1.204***	39.9	60.1	1.115***	238354
<b>Caste</b>							
SC <sup>®</sup>	43.3	56.7		38.2	61.8		60128
ST	47.4	52.6	1.545***	43.9	56.1	1.428***	55969
OBC	44.3	55.7	1.039	39.7	60.3	0.989	136372
Other	44.1	55.9	0.933	39.2	60.8	0.816***	86733
<b>Religion</b>							
Hindu <sup>®</sup>	43.2	56.8		38.7	61.3		263466
Muslim	49.2	50.8	2.200***	43.6	56.4	1.851***	37916
Christian	42.6	57.4	1.629***	49.9	50.1	2.976***	20954
Others	49.0	51.0	1.134*	39.3	60.7	1.270***	16866
<b>Education</b>							
No education <sup>®</sup>	37.9	62.1		32.7	67.3		131114
Primary	33.5	66.5	0.889	37.1	62.9	1.074**	51295
Secondary	43.7	56.3	1.160**	43.2	56.8	1.079***	130873
Higher Secondary	51.8	48.2	1.192**	52.0	48.0	1.168***	25920
<b>Wealth Quintile</b>							
Poorer <sup>®</sup>	44.9	55.1		37.7	62.3		59276
Poor	44.5	55.5	0.921	39.6	60.4	0.938***	71156
Middle	42.8	57.2	0.884	39.2	60.8	0.868***	71951
Richer	42.7	57.3	0.873*	41.1	58.9	0.812***	69352
Richest	46.3	53.7	0.857*	43.6	56.4	0.768***	67467
<b>Total</b>	44.2	55.8	2.223***	39.7	60.2	3.023***	339201

Note: <sup>®</sup>: Reference Category, \*\*\*: 0.01 level of significance, \*\*: 0.05 level of Significance, \*: 0.1 level of significance

Fig 2: Percentage of desire of having more children of women who went through different mode of delivery by number of living sons and daughters according to background characteristics, NFHS 2015-16

