

## Summary

- In demography, the word fertility is used in relation to the actual production of children or occurrence of births, specially live births'. Fertility must be distinguished from fecundity which refers to the capacity to bear children. In fact, fecundity provides an upper bound for fertility. As a measure of the rate of growth of population various fertility rates are computed

- **The crude Birth rate (CBR)**

This method is the simplest of all the measures of fertility and consists in relating the number of live births to the total population. This provides an index of the relative speed at which additions are being made through the child birth. The fertility pattern of the above mentioned measure is given by Crude Birth Rate (CBR) defined as follows:

**CBR = [Total number of live births in the given region or locality during a given period t (Bt) / Total population of the given region during the period t (Pt)] \* K**

Where, K= 1000

- **General Fertility Rate (GFR)**

This method calculates the total number of live births to the number of females in the reproductive or child bearing age and is given by the formulae:

**GFR = [Number of live births occurring among the population of a given geographic area during a given period t, (Bt) / Total female population in the reproductive age, in the given geographical region during the same time t, ( $\Sigma fPx$ )] \* K**

Where, K= 1000

Thus, general fertility rate may be defined as the number of babies per k women in the reproductive age.

- **Specific Fertility Rate (SFR)**

The concept of specific fertility rate originated from the fact that fertility is affected by a number of factors such as age, marriage, migration, state or region etc. The fertility rate computed with respect to any specific factor is called specific fertility rate and is defined as,

**SFR = [Number of births to the female population of the specific section in a given period / Total number of female population in the specified section] \* K**

Where, K= 1000

- **Age Specific Fertility Rate**

In order to overcome the drawback of the General fertility rate and get a better idea of the fertility situation prevailing in a community or locality it is necessary to compute the fertility rates for different age groups of reproductive age separately. The fertility rate so computed on the basis of specification say age

is called age specific fertility rate, for its computation, the reproductive span is split into different sub groups and specific fertility rate is worked out for each sub group

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**

Age specific fertility rate is not of much practical utility for comparative purposes. In order to arrive at more practical measure of the population growth, the age specific fertility rates for different groups have to be combined together to give a single quantity. A simple technique is to obtain standardized fertility rate. This leads to total Fertility Rate (TFR) which can be obtained by adding the Annual Age specific fertility rate