CHAPTER - 3

ESTIMATES OF FERTILITY INDICATORS

Since inception, SRS has been providing data for estimating various fertility measures. The fertility indicators considered in this chapter are Crude Birth Rate, General Fertility Rate, Age Specific/Marital Fertility Rates, Total /Marital Fertility Rates and Gross Reproduction Rate. Apart from this, the chapter includes sex ratio at birth. To examine the changes in the levels of fertility during the last decade, the average values of these fertility indicators for the years 2013-15 are compared with that for 2003-05.

3.2 The crude birth rate (CBR) at all India level had declined from 36.9 in 1971 to 33.9 in 1981, registering a fall of about 8 per cent. During 1991-2015, the decline has been about 29.5 percent, from 29.5 to 20.8. The rural-urban differential has also narrowed over these years. However, the CBR has continued to be higher in rural areas compared to urban areas in the last three decades. The total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 5.2 to 4.5 during 1971 to 1981 and from 3.6 to 2.3 during 1991 to 2015. The TFR in rural areas has declined from 5.4 to 2.5 from 1971 to 2015 whereas the corresponding decline in urban areas has been from 4.1 to 1.8 during the same period. In 2015, around 79.3 per cent of the deliveries were institutional which includes Government as well as private hospitals. The percentage of institutional deliveries in urban areas is 93.5 as against about 74.2 percent recorded in rural areas.

3.3 The data on most of the fertility indicators has been presented by age, sex and residence for all India and bigger States/UTs. It also includes data on fertility by level of education, order of birth, birth interval and medical attention at birth.

3.4 Apart from the fertility indicators at State and National levels, the SRS report 2015 also provides estimates of birth rates at sub-State, viz. NSS Natural Division Level. NSS natural divisions have been formed taking into consideration the geography of the State and by grouping contiguous districts having similar topography, population density, cropping pattern and rainfall etc. The Table 11 of this report contains data on birth rate besides death and infant mortality rate for 71 Natural Divisions of 22 bigger States/UTs.

Fertility by age of women

3.11 Age of women is an important factor affecting the fertility levels. On the basis of data on births to women by specific age groups in the reproductive span 15-49 years as available from SRS, age specific fertility rates have been calculated. Statement 19 below presents the age specific fertility rates for India by residence.

3.12 The data reveals that fertility in all the age groups is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. This distribution of age-specific fertility by residence is presented in chart 13. The fertility reaches the peak in the age group 20-24 and declines thereafter, irrespective of the place of residence. ASFR curve for urban areas falls under the ASFR curve of rural areas. Rural ASFR curve has declined very steeply after attaining peak for age 20-24 where as urban ASFR curve has gradually declined up to the age 25-29 after attaining peak at age group 20-24.

Statement 19

ASFRs (Age Specific Fertility Rates) by residence, India, 2015

Age Groups	Total	Rural	Urban
15-19	11.1	12.3	8.3
20-24	173.8	192.7	132.0
25-29	150.3	163.5	125.8
30-34	77.6	85.3	63.6
35-39	26.2	28.9	21.1
40-44	10.9	12.3	8.4
45-49	3.6	4.1	2.8

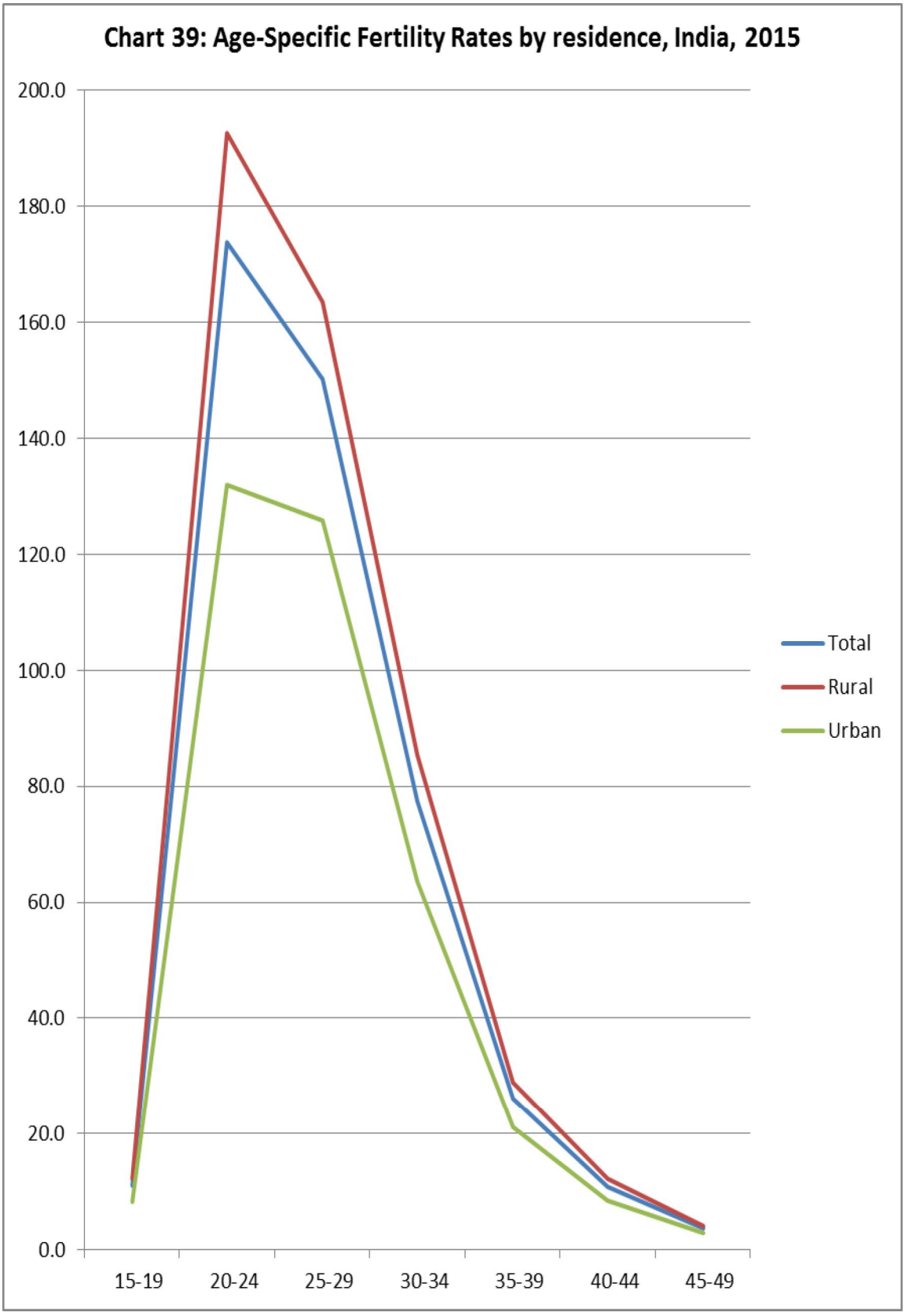
Chart 39: Age-Specific Fertility Rates by residence, India, 2015
200.0
180.0
160.0
140.0
120.0
100.0
80.0
60.0
40.0
20.0
0.0
15-19
20-24
25-29
30-34
35-39
40-44
45-49
Total
Rural
Urban