

Burden of Anaemia among Women in Jharkhand, India: Does Lifestyle Behaviour Matters?

Keywords: Anaemia; Binary logistic regression; BMI; Life style factor; Jharkhand

Abstract

Anaemia is a major public health problem worldwide, mostly among females of reproductive age in developing countries. In India, the prevalence of anaemia among women of age group 15 to 49 years is much higher; particularly in the State of Jharkhand the situation is very worst, almost 69% women are anaemic. Using data from National Family Health Survey-3, 2005-2006, a nationally representative cross-sectional survey that provided information on anaemia level among 2777 women of Jharkhand state. Prime objective of the paper is to understand the prevalence of anaemia among women and to examine the contribution of lifestyle factors at the women's anaemia level in Jharkhand. Both bi-variate and multivariate techniques have been used. Significant insight of the study is that about 1.3% of women are severe (<7.0 g/dl), 16.7% women are moderate (7.0-9.9 g/dl), 51.4% women are mild (10.0-11.9 g/dl), in overall about 70.0% women are having any anaemia (<12.0 g/dl). Binary regression analysis shows that place of residence, educational attainment, religion, wealth status, caste, religion, BMI (<18.5.0 g/dl), lifestyle behaviour of the women has a significant impact on the women anaemia status. For policy point of view effective program that targets to reduce the difference existing in socio-economic as well as lifestyle factors that influence the anaemia level of women and also their health, is the greatest prerequisite.

Background

Anaemia is a global public health problem affecting developing and developed countries with major consequences for human health as well as social and economic development. It occurs at all stages of the life cycle but is more prevalent in pregnant women and young children. However, it is ignored in most of the developed and developing countries though it has serious consequences for national development. About 1.62 billion of the world's population are suffering from any anaemia [1]. The burden falls predominantly on Asia and Africa with the complex interplay of dietary factors, infectious disease, genetics and other factors determining anaemia status [2]. Anaemia contributes to almost 1,20,000 maternal death worldwide, in low and middle-income countries, 18 of maternal mortality is attributed to iron deficiency South Asia suffers from some of the highest rates of anaemia worldwide [3], and in India, more than half are anaemic and around one-third of women of reproductive age are underweight [4]. In this region burdened by high maternal mortality, around 13 of maternal deaths are attributable to anaemia. Severe anaemia among women is an important contributor to maternal mortality and morbidity, lowered physical activity and lowered productivity [5-7]. In developing countries, women are more venerable, particularly in respect to their health, health care facilities and having proper food. Anaemia has a potential influence on the



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Satish Kumar Chauhan, Suresh Jungari* and Bal Govind Chauhan

International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India

*Address for Correspondence

Suresh Jungari, International Institute for Population Sciences, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai, India. Tel: +918451831615; E-mail: sureshjungariips@gmail.com

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overall women health and has been a concern for the government of India. The state of Jharkhand is one among the Empowered Action Group (EAG) is known for socioeconomic and demographic backwardness. Many other health indicators for women in Jharkhand remained poor like use of antenatal services, institutional deliveries, etc. The Jharkhand state also has large number of tribes. Tribal population lifestyle behaviour is more influenced by traditional and cultural factors.

The prevalence of various lifestyle indicators such as smoking, alcohol drinking and chewing tobacco has also been increasing. Although, it is presumed that the lifestyle indicators have a close association with prevalence of anaemia [8-10], very less number of studies have attempted to study the same in Indian context. In this context, the present study attempts to understand the association between some selected lifestyle indicators and its association with anaemia level of women in the state of Jharkhand. It has been thought that such an attempt will benefit the policy makers in understanding the current situation and the subsequent need for further program and planning.

Data and Methods

Data source

This study utilizes the data extracted from National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), was conducted in 2005-06 covering twenty-nine states in India, comprises near about 99% of India's population. NFHS-3 collected information from nationally representative sample of 109,401 households, with 124,385 women age 15-49 and 74,369 men age 15-54. It provides cross-sectional survey data on women's haemoglobin status, body weight, diet, social, demographic, determinants of India and all its states. A total of 2983 eligible women were interviewed in the Jharkhand and of these 2777 respondents were not pregnant and 206 women were pregnant on the survey date according to their own reporting and were selected for the present study. The main strata used in the sampling procedure were rural and urban areas. The primary sampling units (PSUs) (villages in the rural areas and census enumeration blocks in urban areas) were selected with probability proportional to size sampling and the households

were selected from within the PSUs. The non-response was not different by background characteristics for women and had not caused any bias in the data.

Methods

Descriptive statistics and bivariate analysis are carried out to estimate the level and prevalence of anaemia in Jharkhand. Further, bivariate and multivariate analyses are used to understand the socioeconomic and demographic differentials in the prevalence of anaemia level in Jharkhand. Multivariate analysis in terms of Binary logistic regression is done to check the associations of selected socioeconomic and demographic covariates on the prevalence of anaemia in Jharkhand. Binary logistic regression is the most appropriate technique in a situation where the dependent variables are categorical and have two outcomes.

Variables

Dependent variables

Anaemia level: Women with any anaemia (mild, moderate, severe) are considered for the study. The level of anaemia among pregnant and non-pregnant women varies, greatly, and for non pregnant women the cut off Haemoglobin level is less than 12 g/dl and for pregnant women it is less than 11 g/dl. For the study point of view we consider only non-pregnant women of reproductive age group. To show the percentage distribution, anaemia variable are divide into three categories; a) Severe (<7.0 g/dl), b) moderate (7.0-9.9 g/dl), c) mild (10.0-11.9 g/dl) and for the logistic regression analysis purpose anaemia variable are divide into two categories: Anaemic (<12 g/dl) and not anaemic (>12 g/dl).

Independent variables

The study incorporated several independent variables to understand the extent of lifestyle behaviour and its linkage with the level of anaemia in reproductive age women. The socioeconomic and demographic variables are age of women, place of residence, Religion, Caste, wealth index, women education, media exposure, household structure, working status, partner education, children ever born and BMI (recoded as total thin, <18 kg/m²; Normal, 18.5-24.9 kg.m² and overweight/obese, >25 kg.m²). Lifestyle behaviour variables are smoking status, consume fruits, pulses and beans, and consume curd or milk, eating non-veg and green leafy vegetable.

Results

Table 1 showing percentage distribution of women by background characteristics in Jharkhand state, 44% of women were belongs in 30 and above age group following 22.3% in age group of 15-19. Looking at urban-rural differentials 72.2% women belongs from the rural areas and 27.8% from urban areas. As far as religion is concern the Hindu religion women are dominating with 71.3% following 14.7 Muslims and 14% belongs to other all religions. According to Caste Scheduled Caste (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) women constitutes 35.8% whereas other backward Classes (OBC) 46.8%. Nearly half of women belong from the poorest wealth quintile. 58% of women were not educated and 60% of women not had any exposure to media. Nearly 70.5% women do not work. Interestingly 20% of women given birth to 5 and above children. According to BMI status 43.0 women are

thin and only 5.4% women were obese. Only 11.4% women were smoking in the women sample at survey time. Only 4.7 % of women consumed fruits daily whereas large number of women 69% only occasionally consumed fruits. About one third of women daily had pulses and beans in their diet. Consumption of milk and curd is very less among the Jharkhand women, 34% of women never had milk and curd in their diet and 82% of women occasionally eat non-vegetarian food and 47% women have had green leafy vegetables in their diet.

Differential in anaemia level of women by socio economic characteristics

Table 2 presents the women age 25-29 years are more severely anaemic with compared to other age groups of women. The women aged 30 and above years are mildly anaemic (51.0). The rural women are more anaemic whereas the women in the urban area less anaemic. In Jharkhand, a great diversity is found in prevalence of anaemia among various caste and class. A difference of approximate 14% in between scheduled caste/tribes and others caste (except other backward caste) in moderately anaemic category and about 7% in mild anaemic can be seen in which the high women suffering anaemia belongs to scheduled caste/tribes. Education leads to awareness, and the effect of education is reflected in the statistics of women suffering from anaemia. Women with no education are more anaemic than the women who are educated. The higher percentage of women lies in mild anaemic where poorest women are (52.0), poor (53.0), middle (45.0), richer (44.0) and richest (46.0). Similarly, the more severely anaemic women are found among poorest. Therefore, it can be seen that as the economic status escalates the degree of anaemic severity reduces. Women form nuclear family are more anaemic than its counterparts, about 51% of women are mild anaemic whereas about 49% women are mild anaemic in no-nuclear families.

Life style behaviour factors and anaemia level of women

According to lifestyle behaviour factors it is showing that, high percentages of women suffering from moderate and mild anaemia are underweight whereas the normal weight women and overweight are less anaemic. Those women who smoke & chew tobacco contribute a high percentage in severely anaemic (1.4) than those who are non-smokers and do not chew tobacco. The similar trend can be seen in the moderate & mild anaemic women. Those women, who are currently working, are more suffering from all type of anaemia than the women who are not working. Women daily consuming milk or curd, fruits, eating non-veg once in a week are less anaemic than its counterparts.

Logistic regression results

The odd ratios and 95 CI of the logistic regressions are presented in Table 3. Three models, we applied to see the determinant of the anaemia level among women. In the first model socio-economic and demographic factor, in second model life style factor and in the third model all variables we have included for the analysis. In the Model 1, women belonging 20 and above age groups had significantly low odds of being anaemic compared with women belonging to 15-19 years age group category. Women age 30 and above years are 13% less likely to being anaemic (OR = 831, C I= 0.572, 1.207). Women belonging to Rural area and belongs to other religion are more likely to anaemic (OR =1.031, C I= 766, 1.387 and OR= 1.279, C I= 895, 1.827 respectively) than women belongs to urban area and Hindu

Table 1: Percentage distribution of women by background characteristics in Jharkhand, 2005-06

Percentage distribution of Non pregnant women by background characteristics in Jharkhand, 2005-06	n	%
Women's Age		
15-19 year	615	22.3
20-24 year	517	18.6
25-29 year	428	15.3
30 and above	1217	43.9
Place of Residence		
Urban	1106	27.8
Rural	1671	72.2
Religion		
Hindu	2009	71.3
Muslim	424	14.7
Other	344	14.0
Caste		
SC/ST	906	35.8
OBC	1283	46.8
OTHERS	588	17.3
Wealth index		
Poorest	1080	45.9
Poorer	381	15.1
Middle	331	11.7
Richer	444	13.3
Richest	541	14.0
Women Education level		
No education	1454	58.0
Primary	276	9.9
Secondary	696	22.4
Higher	348	9.6
Partner Education		
No education	748	38.1
Primary	269	13.0
Secondary	888	39.3
Higher	266	9.7
Children ever born		
No Child	787	27.4
1-2 Child	747	26.3
3-4 Child	720	26.3
5 and above	523	20.1
Media exposure		
No exposure	1452	59.0
Any exposure	1325	41.0
Household Structure		
Nuclear	1248	44.5
Non-Nuclear	1529	55.5

Working Status		
No	2014	70.5
Yes	759	29.5
BMI of the Women		
Total thin(<18.5 kg/m ²)	1079	43.0
Normal(18.5- 24.9 kg/m ²)	1375	51.6
Overweight & obese(≥25 kg/m ²)	186	5.4
Smoking Status		
No	2486	88.6
Yes	291	11.4
Consume Fruits		
Never	145	6.0
Daily	168	4.7
Weekly	623	20.2
Occasionally	1840	69.1
Pluses and beans		
Daily	998	32.1
Weekly	1181	43.5
Occasionally	598	24.3
Consume curd or Milk		
Never	854	34.4
Daily	512	15.4
Weekly	233	7.3
Occasionally	1178	42.9
Eating non-Veg.		
Never	258	8.4
Occasionally	300	9.7
Weekly	2219	81.9
Green leafy vegetable		
Daily	1374	46.9
Weekly	1048	38.7
Sometime	355	14.4
Total	2777	100

Note: n indicates the un-weighted sample and percentage distribution is weighted. Number is not equal due to missing cases.

women. Women education is negatively associated with the anaemia level of women. As the education level of women increases the odds of having anaemia is decreasing. Women belongs to secondary and higher education category are less likely to anaemic than women belongs to no educated category (OR = 0.901, C I= 0.666, 1.217 and OR = 0.787, C I= 0.476, 1.296 respectively). Working women are also significantly more risk of having anaemia than non-working women (OR =1.295, 1.040-1.613). It is also observed that women with more number of children are significantly more likely to have anaemia than women with no children. As the numbers of children are increasing the odds of having anaemia is also increasing. Women with 1-2 children are 51% more likely (OR = 1.513, C I= 1.107, 2.068), women with 3-4 children are 55% more likely (OR =1.550, C I=1.089, 2.206) and women having 5 and more children are 57% more likely

(OR =1.576, C I= 1.070, 2.323) to have anaemia than women have no children.

In the model 2, which assessing the association between life style factors and anaemia level of the women are showing the odds of anaemia is less among women with normal BMI (OR = 0.955, C I= 0.809,1.127) and in contrast, significantly less in overweight/obese category (OR = 0.629, C I= 0.442, 0.896) compare to thin women. It was observed that the women who reported smoke or consume tobacco were more likely to be anaemic than those who did not smoke or consume tobacco (OR=1.353 C I=1.023, 1.790). It was observed that woman who consume fruits, either daily or weekly or occasional, were significantly less likely to be anaemic than their counterparts who never eat fruits (OR= 0.663, C I= 0.383, 1.148

Table 2: Prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49 years) by socio economic and different Life style background characteristics in Jharkhand, 2005-06.

Covariates	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Anaemia	n
Socio-economic and demographic variables					
Women's Age					
15-19 year	0.8	17.8	48.6	67.2	621
20-24 year	1.6	20	47.7	69.3	549
25-29 year	1.8	20.5	48.2	70.4	448
30 and above	1.3	17.6	51.5	70.3	1159
Place of Residence					
Urban	0.8	12	45.8	58.6	1050
Rural	1.5	20.9	50.9	73.3	1727
Religion					
Hindu	1.4	17.7	49	68.2	2022
Muslim	0.8	15.4	45.6	61.8	409
Other	1.2	26.1	56.6	83.9	346
Caste					
SC/ST	1.9	25.8	53.3	81	919
OBC	1	15.4	47.8	64.2	1298
Other	0.8	11.9	46.6	59.3	560
Wealth Index					
Poorest	1.6	23.2	51.8	76.6	1130
Poorer	1.4	16.6	53.4	71.4	391
Middle	1	18.5	44.7	64.1	327
Richer	1.5	13.9	44.5	59.9	423
Richest	0.4	8.6	46	55	506
Women's Education					
No education	1.8	20.8	50.9	73.5	1483
Primary	0	20.8	48.5	69.3	284
Secondary	0.9	15.5	47.2	63.6	684
Higher	0.8	8.8	47.7	57.4	323
Media Exposure					
No exposure	1.5	21.2	51.7	74.4	1503
Any exposure	1	14.5	46.2	61.8	1274
Household Structure					
Nuclear	1.3	19.6	50.7	71.7	1215
Non-Nuclear	1.3	17.8	48.7	67.8	1562
Women Work Status					
Not working	1.2	15.8	45.5	66.8	2017
Working	1.4	20.6	52.6	76.4	755
Partner Education					
No education	1.5	22	50.8	74.3	777
Primary	2.2	19.4	48	69.6	283

Secondary	0.9	18.6	48.6	68.2	898
Higher	0.9	12.3	47.4	60.5	262
Children ever born					
No Child	1.2	14.9	48.6	64.7	781
1-2 Child	1.3	20.8	47.3	69.5	771
3-4 Child	1.2	20.4	49.7	71.2	713
5 and above	1.5	18	54.1	73.6	512
Life style variables					
BMI of Women					
Total thin(<18.5 kg/m ²)	1.1	19.3	51.3	71.7	1123
Normal(18.5- 24.9 kg/m ²)	1.6	18.8	48.9	69.2	1464
Overweight & obese(≥25 kg/m ²)	0.5	10.3	42.9	53.7	188
Smoke/Consume Tobacco					
No	1.3	17.9	49.1	31.7	2488
Yes	1.4	24.1	53	21.5	289
Consume Fruits					
Never	2.1	21.1	55.3	78.5	149
Daily	1.1	12.7	41.5	55.3	160
Weekly	0.5	15.4	47.4	63.4	621
Occasionally	1.5	19.7	50.2	71.4	1864
Pluses and beans					
Daily	1	15.2	48.1	64.4	978
Weekly	1.1	21.5	49.5	72.1	1199
Sometime	1.9	21.2	53.7	76.8	600
Consumed Milk or Curd					
Never	1.7	24.7	51.8	21.7	860
Daily	0.9	13.5	47.1	38.5	496
Weekly	1.4	10.6	44.8	43.2	230
Occasionally	1.1	16.8	49.4	32.7	1191
Eating non-Veg.					
Never	0	12.4	50.4	62.7	258
Occasionally	1.5	19.6	50	71.1	295
Weekly	0.7	14.9	45.5	61.1	2224
Green leafy vegetable					
Daily	1.4	17	49.4	67.8	1350
Weekly	1	19.3	49.1	69.4	1069
Sometime	1.6	21.4	51.9	74.9	358
Total	1.3	18.6	49.6	69.5	2777

Note: Anemia category included the all the severely, Moderate and mild anemic women. Severely Anemia (<7.0 g/dl), Moderate Anemic (7.0-9.9 g/dl), Mild Anemic (10.0-11.9 g/dl). n- refer to un-weighted cases and n not equal due to missing cases.

for women who eat daily fruits and OR 0.778, C I= 0.507, 1.194 for women who eat fruits weekly). Consumption of milk or curd is also

significantly associated with anaemia level of women; however the odds is not much difference in the daily, weekly and occasionally

Table 3: Binary Logistic Regression Models Showing Odds Ratio (OR) and Confidence Interval (CI) for prevalence of anaemia among Women (Aged 15-49 Years), Jharkhand, 2005-06

Covariates	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Women's Age			
15-19 year®			
20-24 year	.910(.641-1.293)		.907(.637-1.292)
25-29 year	.872(.590-1.289)		.854(.576-1.267)
30 and above years	.831(.572-1.207)		.840(.575-1.228)
Place of Residence			
Urban®			
Rural	1.031(.766-1.387)		.986(.730-1.332)
Religion			
Hindu®			
Muslim	.874(.673-1.135)		.834(.636-1.093)
Other	1.279(.895-1.827)		1.189(.828-1.709)
Caste			
SC/ST®			
OBC	.544*** (.427-.693)		.563***(.438-.723)
Other	.631*** (.455-.875)		.660***(.473-.921)
Wealth Index			
Poorest®			
Poorer	.930(.704-1.229)		.965*(.727-1.282)
Middle	.677***(.490-.934)		.696**(.500-.967)
Richer	.571***(.395-.825)		.599***(.409-.878)
Richest	.527***(.318-.873)		.585**(.343-.998)
Women's Education			
No Education®			
Primary	1.059(.772-1.453)		1.093(.794-1.503)
Secondary	.901(.666-1.217)		.905(.667-1.227)
Higher	.787(.476-1.296)		.822(.495-1.363)
Media Exposure			
No Exposure®			
Any exposure	.905(.711-1.151)		.907(.710-1.158)
Household Structure			
Nuclear®			
Non-Nuclear	.940(.775-1.140)		.967(.796-1.176)
Women Work Status			
Not Working®			
Working	1.295** (1.040-1.613)		1.261** (1.010-1.575)
Partner Education			
No education®			
Primary	.915(.684-1.223)		.905(.675-1.212)
Secondary	1.095(.851-1.409)		1.112(.860-1.437)
Higher	1.258(.820-1.928)		1.247(.808-1.924)
Children ever born			
No Child®			

1-2 Child	1.513***(1.107-2.068)		1.534***(1.118-2.103)
3-4 Child	1.550***(1.089-2.206)		1.586***(1.111-2.264)
5 and above	1.576***(1.070-2.323)		1.621***(1.095-2.400)
Life style variables			
BMI of Women			
Total thin(<18.5 kg/m2) ®			
Normal(18.5- 24.9 kg/m2)		.955(.809-1.127)	1.005(.828-1.220)
Overweight & obese(≥25 kg/m2)		.629***(.442-.896)	.703*(.466-1.061)
Smoke/Consume Tobacco			
No®			
Yes		1.353***(1.023-1.790)	.994(.729-1.354)
Consume Fruits			
Never®			
Daily		.663(.383-1.148)	.687(.357-1.321)
Weekly		.778(.507-1.194)	.795(.489-1.293)
Occasionally		.919(.625-1.353)	.865(.561-1.333)
Consumed Milk or Curd			
Never®			
Daily		.620***(.470-.819)	.916(.649-1.293)
Weekly		.474***(.342-.657)	.620***(.422-.911)
Occasionally		.621***(.509-.758)	.752***(.595-.950)
Pluses and beans			
Daily®			
Weekly		1.189*(.974-1.452)	.921(.726-1.169)
Sometime		1.257*(.960-1.645)	.976(.709-1.343)
Green leafy vegetable			
Daily®			
Weekly		.882(.733-1.061)	.901(.729-1.114)
Sometime		.940(.708-1.248)	.991(.716-1.370)
Eating non-vegetarian			
Never®			
Occasionally		1.228(.927-1.627)	1.118(.807-1.551)
Weekly		1.004(.702-1.435)	.997(.658-1.512)

Note: ® is the reference category, ***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p<0.1

consumption of milk or curd. Women who consumed pulses and beans frequently were significantly less likely to be anaemic than those who either ate weekly and sometime. However, it must be mentioned that frequent consumption of pulses has the strongest influence on reduced risk of anaemia compared with other food items mentioned above (OR=1.189, C I= 0.974, 1.452) for consumption of weekly consumption of pluses and beans; OR=1.257, C I= 0.960, 1.645 for sometime consumption of pulses and beans. Although, the odds to be anaemic is less among those women who ate green leafy vegetable weekly and sometime compare to those who consumed green leafy vegetable daily. Similarly, women who eating non-vegetarian food occasionally or weekly are more likely to be anaemic than who never ate non-vegetarian (OR= 1.228, C I= 0.927-1.627) for women who ate non- vegetarian occasionally and OR=1.004, C I= 0.702, 1.435 for

women who ate non-vegetarian weekly.

Model 3, adjusted for the all socio-economic demographic and life style factor showing the odds of anaemia among women. From this model, it is observed that rural women are 2% less likely to be anaemic (OR= 0.986C I= 0.730, 1.332) than urban women. In all socio-economic and demographic variables the value of odds ratio is slightly increases in the model 3 than model 1. However in model 3 the life style factor such as women with normal BMI at equal risk of being anaemic (OR=1.005, C I= 0.828, 1.220) with women with normal BMI. In contrast, overweight or obese women have significantly fewer odds to be anaemic (OR= 0.703, C I= 0.466, 1.061) than total thin women and whose women who smoke or consume tobacco have fewer odds of being anaemic (OR= 0.994, C I= 0.729, 1.354) than women who

consume or smoke tobacco. It is also observed that those women who ate pulses or beans either weekly or sometime have less odds than those women who ate pulses or beans daily (OR= 0.921 CI=.726, 1.169 for weekly and OR= 0.976 CI= 0.709,1.343 for sometime) which is inversely showing by model 2. Similarly, those women who ate non-vegetarian weekly the odds of being anaemic are less than those women who ate never.

Discussion

Poor socio-economic development state of Jharkhand is evident in India. The level of development of the state affects weak segment and women population. The study results are clear and loud that women in Jharkhand are at greater risk of being anaemic. The overall anaemia among reproductive age women is higher than the national average. The primary concern of the study was to determine the lifestyle behaviour factors and level of anaemia among the reproductive age women in Jharkhand. The results were showing the significant relationship with lifestyle behaviour with the level of anaemia among the reproductive age women this may have serious health consequences during their pregnancy and childbirth. It was observed that the women who reported smoke or consume tobacco were more likely to be anaemic than those who did not smoke or consume tobacco the similar results were also found in previous studies [11-13].

This study also highlights the facts that the higher prevalence of anaemia among working women is greater than non-working women this may be due to the dual burden of household work and professional responsibility. However, women who consume pulses and beans frequently are less likely to be anaemic than those not. This is clearly indicating the patterns of food consumption have direct relationship with anaemia status of women. It is hypnotised that rural women are at greater risk of being anaemic than urban women. However, if we control other life style factors the in the model it is found that rural women are 2% less likely to be anaemic than their counterparts and some of the previous studies also reported [4].

Programmes and policies should address the issue of iron fortification through the life-cycle approach so that iron deficiency can be reduced during pregnancy and childbearing. Integrated child development scheme (ICDS) should be deal with pregnant women and children. Providing iron rich food during childhood is important. Promoting nutritional awareness among the married women is another important aspect which can be done through the National Rural Health Mission. The states of Jharkhand have 32% tribal population of the total population and have different socio-cultural differences with other population. Tribes are also live under the extreme poverty and backwardness. Addressing the contextual

factors of the tribes related to nutritional habits is required to effective interventions.

Conclusion

It is clear from the study that lifestyle behaviour has effects on anaemia levels among the women in Jharkhand. Study results illustrated that those women use smokeless tobacco and smokes are at greater risk for being anaemic. The dietary intake patterns and consumption of non-vegetarian food and milk curd are significant predictors for the level of anaemia among the women. The specific interventions are required to address the higher anaemia levels in Jharkhand women. The programmes which are aimed to provide awareness among women need to be accelerated.

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