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Subject: Re: Caste correlation table

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 2015 13:19:08 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Specialist, Fred Arnold:

"In the 1992-93 survey (NFHS-1), there are three questions related to caste/tribe of the head of the household in the household questionnaire, with the same questions about the head of the household repeated in the woman's questionnaire. The first question asks whether the head of the household belongs to a scheduled tribe (ST). If yes, the second question asks for the name of the tribe. If the head of the household does not belong to a scheduled tribe, the third question asks for the caste name of the head of the household. There are no questions about scheduled castes (ST) or other backward classes (OBC).

The 1998-99 survey (NFHS-2) and the 2005-06 survey (NFHS-3) include the same two questions on caste/tribe in the household questionnaire. The first question asks for the name of the caste or tribe of the head of the household, and the second question asks whether the caste or tribe is an SC, ST, OBC, or none of these. NFHS-2 does not have any caste/tribe questions in the woman's questionnaire. In addition, NFHS-3 asks the same two questions that are in the household questionnaire in the woman's questionnaire and the man's questionnaire for the respondent for those questionnaires, not for the household head.

In NFHS-2 and NFHS-3, the respondent self-reported their caste/tribe status as SC, ST, OBC, or none of these, and no attempt was made to verify which category the caste/tribe they mentioned was actually in. It is not possible to match up the caste names in NFHS-1 to the SC, OBC, or none of these categories since the schedules of castes and tribes are state-level designations not national designations. In other words, a particular caste that is an SC in one state may not be an SC in another state. There are further complications when a person moves between states that have different caste schedules. Some states even break down their lists of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by region within the state, so a particular caste/tribe designation may be different in different parts of the same state."