

Original Research Article

Wellbeing, occupation, money, education and knowledge (WOMEN): a descriptive study of NFHS-4 data comparing Maharashtra and national data on the WOMEN parameters

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ABSTRACT

Background: ‘Women rights’ is a contentious social issue. Well-being, occupation, money, education and knowledge (W. O. M. E. N.), are the basic parameters based on which a woman’s status in the society depends. Her wellbeing shows us her health, her occupation and education help us understand how she gets treated in her family and her capability to take future life decisions. Her involvement in the family money, her income, shows her economic understanding. Her knowledge, on her reproductive and sexual health, on domestic abuse shows her awareness on these issues and reflects on her personal experiences as well.

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted on NFHS-4 data (with permission from DHS) using Maharashtra and India data for analysis of W. O. M. E. N.’s characteristics.

Results: The results showed that p value for all W. O. M. E. N.’s characteristics in association with Maharashtra and India values was found to be highly significant.

Conclusions: the 904 (19.2%) women in Maharashtra said that beating was justified when wife goes out without telling the husband, whereas compared to India statistics, 28002 (23.8%) women feel the same. In a study by Jeyaseelan et al a cross-sectional study was conducted on 9938 women surveyed, 26% reported experiencing spousal physical violence during the lifetime of their marriage

Keywords: NFHS-4, Women health, Women empowerment

INTRODUCTION

‘Women rights’ is a contentious social issue even when humanity has crossed the threshold of the 21st century. Enough ink is spilt on voicing the issues related to women from different quarters of life, but the road to real freedom for women seems to be still far-fetched.

NFHS (National family health survey) is a survey conducted by IIPS (Indian Institute for Population Studies) to understand health and wellbeing of families as unit. Survey provides state and national information for

India on fertility, infant and child mortality, practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization, quality of health and family planning services.¹

Many parameters pertaining women’s health such as; access to maternal care, women’s empowerment, and nutritional status still require further improvement.²

Domestic violence is one of the forms of violence against women. It refers to violence emanating from household and within relationships covered by familial or emotional

(former/present) attachment. It covers physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in domestic sphere.³

The global health burden from violence against women in reproductive age group is about 9.5 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs).⁴

One of the important obstacles in the prevention of violence against women is the lack of gender sensitive health research and reliable data on the magnitude of the problem and its consequences.⁵

The study has revealed that poor health status of women was also due to marriages at an early age, resulting in early age pregnancies and improper pregnancy spacing.⁶

W. O. M. E. N. are the basic parameters based on which a women's status in the society depends. Her wellbeing shows us her health, her occupation and education help us understand how she gets treated in her family and her capability to take future life decisions. Her involvement in the family money, her income, shows her economic understanding. Her knowledge, on her reproductive and sexual health, on domestic abuse shows her awareness on these issues and reflects on her personal experiences as well.

Therefore, this study assesses women empowerment based on the W. O. M. E. N. parameters and comparative analysis of Maharashtra state and national (India) data by NFHS-4 data. (National family health survey).

Objectives

The objective of the study was as follows: To assess women empowerment based on W. O. M. E. N. parameters in state of Maharashtra by NFHS-4 data, to assess women empowerment based on W. O. M. E. N. parameters in India by NFHS-4 data and to compare Maharashtra state assessment to national (India) assessment of women empowerment by NFHS-4 data.

METHODS

Study type

The study was of retrospective, descriptive study.

Study place

Data of India and Maharashtra obtained from NFHS-4 and analysed at MGM medical college and hospital, Kamothe.

Study period

Data of 2015-16 collected from NFHS-4 and analysed in 2021.

Inclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria included-NFHS-4 data of Maharashtra and India on Women's wellbeing: Haemoglobin, recent illness, parity, domestic violence from family or husband. NFHS-4 data of Maharashtra and India on women's occupation: Employed or not. NFHS-4 data of Maharashtra and India on women's money: Salary (if employed). NFHS-4 data of Maharashtra and India on women's education: educated till: Primary education, Secondary education, graduation, post-graduation. NFHS-4 data of Maharashtra and India on women's knowledge: Knowledge on menstrual hygiene and reproductive health, knowledge on domestic violence.

Exclusion criteria

NFHS-4 data of other states of India, other NFHS data were excluded from the study.

Data collection tool

Data of NFHS-4 will be obtained from DHS.

Ethical approval

The study proceeded only with ethical approval from ethical committee of MGM medical college.

Data analysis plans and methods

Quantitative data was analysed using SPSS version 24.0. Content analysis will be done for qualitative data.

Amendment of protocol

No change in study procedure affected without mutual agreement of investigator, guide and ethical committee.

Confidentiality

The identity of the participating mother generated in the study was not be disclosed. The remaining data was available only to the investigator involved in the study and to the regulatory authorities.

Break in the confidentiality was possible only after detail review by the investigator and with the permission of the ethical committee. Information to be disclosed to the concerned person/authority under special circumstances like severe unreported untoward reactions.

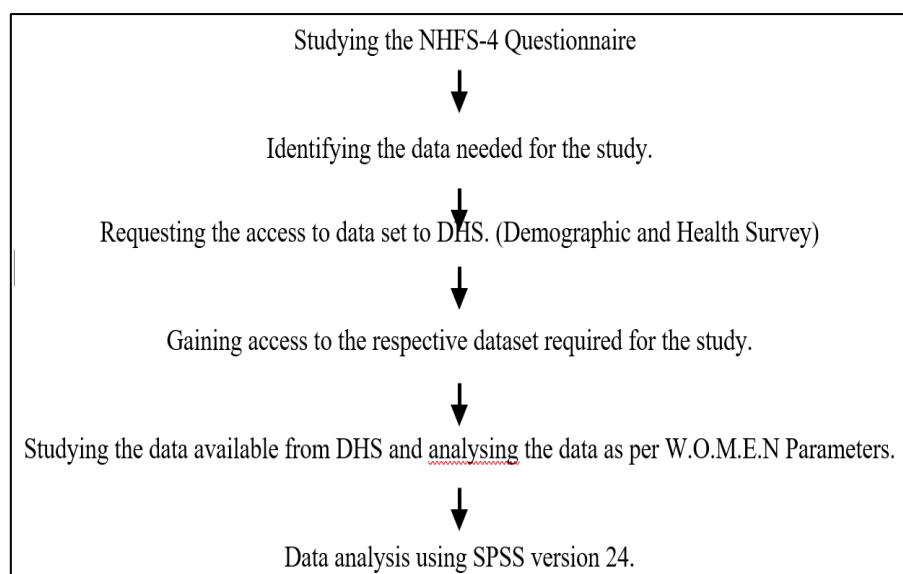


Figure 1: Methodology used.

RESULTS

Wellbeing

Wellness parameter involved physical abuse faced by the women and anemia assessment. Women in Maharashtra (29%) and India (29.2%) felt that beating from husband or family is justified if wide neglects the children and it was found to be highly statistically significant. Severe anemia in Maharashtra (0.7%) and India (1%) moderate anemia was seen in Maharashtra (10.2%) and India (12.2%) was seen respectively and it was also found to be statistically highly significant.

Occupation

In Maharashtra (60.4%) and India (70%) women were not in work force i.e., maximum women and 18.7% of women in Maharashtra were into agricultural labour, the values of occupational association were also found of be highly significant.

Money

As per the wealth index, 40.9% women were in the lower class in India but, 47.1% women were in the upper class in Maharashtra. The association of wealth index in Maharashtra and India data was found to be highly significant.

Education

Majority of the women, 58.8% from Maharashtra and 47.4% women from India had completed secondary education and the association found between education and Maharashtra and India data was found to be highly significant.

Knowledge

Knowledge of the women was judged on knowledge on ovulatory cycle reasons for hysterectomy performed and contraception used and intention of use. 49% women from Maharashtra stated that they used modern method of contraception and 21.8% women from Maharashtra and 33.3% women from India stated that they did not intend to use contraception.

32.8% women from India said that they feel their ovulation occurs immediately after her periods, where as 30% women from Maharashtra stated that they felt their ovulation occurs anytime. The association of the knowledge parameter with Maharashtra and India data was highly significant.

DISCUSSION

The following study shed light on the condition of women in Maharashtra and India from NFHS-4 data conducted in 2015-2016. All NFHS surveys have been conducted under the stewardship of the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW), government of India.

NFHS-4 was designed to provide information on sexual behaviour; husband's background and women's work; HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour; and domestic violence only at the state level (in the state module), while most indicators in the district module are reported at the district level.

A subsample of 15 percent of households was selected for the implementation of the state module, in addition to the district module.

Wellbeing

The 904 (19.2%) women in Maharashtra said that beating was justified when wife goes out without telling the husband, whereas compared to India statistics, 28002 (23.8%) women feel the same. In a study by Jeyaseelan et al a cross-sectional study was conducted on 9938 women surveyed, 26% reported experiencing spousal physical violence during the lifetime of their marriage.⁷

Occupation

The 2845 (60.4%) of women in Maharashtra mentioned that they are not included in the work force, comparatively, 82293 (70%) women said the same. In a study by Babu et al stated that majority of women participants were house- wives. With regard to income, majority participants possessed monthly family income of less than INR 2000 (@US\$ 40).⁸

Money

The 8452 (28.7%) women in Maharashtra, stated that they come under lower class, and 274263 (40.9%) in India, women stated the same.

Education

The 4671 (15.9%) women in Maharashtra, had no education, similarly 191885 (28.6%) had no education in India.

Knowledge

The 479 (69.3%) women stated that their reason for performing hysterectomy was excessive menstrual bleeding or pain, similarly in India 9294 (53.2%) stated the same.

Women and girls face barriers and disadvantages in every sector in which we work. Around the world 62 million girls are not in school. Globally, 1 in 3 women will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. In the developing world, 1 in 7 girls is married before her 15th birthday, with some child brides as young as 8 or 9. Each year more than 287,000 women, 99 percent of them in developing countries, die from pregnancy and childbirth-related complications. While women make up more than 40 percent of the agriculture labour force only 3 to 20 percent are landholders.

Limitations

The limitation of the study is that when the study was initiated, NFHS-5 data was not available therefore, a new study can be initiated on similar guidelines for analysis of

NFHS-5 data.

CONCLUSION

The findings showed that more than 50% women were not having any occupation, resulting in house work. The percentage of women without education also is alarming as education of girl child has been promoted extensively by the government of India. From this study it can be concluded that W. O. M. E. N. criteria can be successfully used to analyse the general health amongst women and their social well-being combined.

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Conflict of interest: None declared

Ethical approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee

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APPENDIX

Table 1: Comparison of WOMEN's characteristics with NFHS-4 Maharashtra and India data.

Variables	Maharashtra		India		P value
	N	%	N	%	
Wellbeing					
Beating justified if wife goes out without telling husband					
Yes	904	19.2	28002	23.8	0.0001**
No	3788	80.5	88182	75	
Don't know	15	0.3	1460	1.2	
Beating justified if wife neglects the children					
Yes	1366	29	34311	29.2	0.0001**
No	3324	70.6	81899	69.6	
Don't know	17	0.4	1434	1.2	
Beating justified if wife argues with husband					
Yes	1030	21.9	31412	26.7	0.0001**
No	3651	77.6	84453	71.8	
Don't know	26	0.6	1779	1.5	
Beating justified if wife refuses to have sex with husband					
Yes	649	13.8	14910	12.7	0.0001**
No	4027	85.6	99974	85	
Don't know	31	0.7	2760	2.3	
Beating justified if wife doesn't cook food properly					
Yes	911	19.4	20843	17.7	0.0001**
No	3779	80.3	95437	81.1	
Don't know	17	0.4	1364	1.2	
Anemia level					
Severe	214	0.7	6736	1	0.0001**
Moderate	2936	10.2	79554	12.1	
Mild	10264	35.8	252868	38.5	
Not anemic	15234	53.2	317105	48.3	
Occupation					
Not in work force	2845	60.4	82293	70.0	0.0001**
Physical scientists	4	0.08	60	0.05	
Physical science	1	0.02	37	0.03	
Architects, engineers, technologists and surveyors	6	0.13	56	0.05	
Engineering technicians	1	0.02	44	0.04	
Aircraft and ships officers	0	0.00	17	0.01	
Life scientists	0	0.00	12	0.01	
Life science technicians	1	0.02	23	0.02	
Physicians and surgeons	2	0.0	24	0.02	
Nursing and other medical and health technicians	9	0.19	452	0.38	
Scientific, medical and technical persons, other	3	0.06	44	0.04	
Mathematicians, statisticians and related workers	2	0.04	7	0.01	
Economists, and related workers	3	0.06	33	0.03	
Accountants, auditors and related workers	3	0.06	129	0.11	
Social scientists and related workers	5	0.11	68	0.06	
Jurists	0	0.00	29	0.02	
Teachers	51	1.08	1986	1.69	
Poets, authors, journalists and related workers	0	0.00	15	0.01	
Sculptors, painters, photographers, and related creative artists	0	0.00	24	0.02	
Composers and performing artists	0	0.00	12	0.01	
Professional workers, N.E.C.	3	0.06	112	0.10	
Elected and legislative officials	0	0.00	24	0.02	
Administrative and executive officials' government and local bodies	3	0.06	74	0.06	

Continued.

Variables	Maharashtra		India		P value
	N	%	N	%	
Working proprietors, directors and managers, wholesale and retail trade	1	0.02	10	0.01	0.0001**
Directors and managers, financial institutions	1	0.02	8	0.01	
Working proprietors, directors and managers mining	0	0.00	6	0.01	
Working proprietors, directors managers and related	0	0.00	4	0.00	
Working proprietors, directors and managers, other services	0	0.00	16	0.01	
Administrative, executive and managerial workers, N.E.C.	3	0.06	30	0.03	
Clerical and other supervisors	9	0.19	117	0.10	
Village officials	3	0.06	67	0.06	
Stenographers, typist and card and tape punching operators	2	0.04	32	0.03	
Book keepers, cashiers and related workers	0	0.00	33	0.03	
Computing machine operators	2	0.04	50	0.04	
Clerical and related workers	5	0.11	107	0.09	
Transport and communication supervisors	2	0.04	9	0.01	
Transport conductors and guards	0	0.00	8	0.01	
Mail distributors and related workers	0	0.00	8	0.01	
Telephone and telegraph operators	2	0.04	18	0.02	
Merchants and shopkeepers, wholesale and retail trade	13	0.28	563	0.48	
Manufacturers, agents	3	0.06	69	0.06	
Technical salesmen and commercial travellers	0	0.00	51	0.04	
Salesmen, shop assistants and related workers	17	0.36	818	0.70	
Insurance, real estate, securities and business service,	3	0.06	41	0.03	
Money lenders and pawn brokers	1	0.02	25	0.02	
Sales workers, N.E.C.	7	0.15	263	0.22	
Hotel and restaurant keepers	8	0.17	108	0.09	
House keepers, matron and stewards (Domestic and institutional)	34	0.72	655	0.56	
Cooks, waiters, bartenders and related workers (Domestic and institutional)	18	0.38	1048	0.89	
Maids and related house keeping service workers, N.E.C.	14	0.30	339	0.29	
Building caretakers, sweepers, cleaners and related workers	9	0.19	195	0.17	
Launderers, dry-cleaners and pressers, N.E.C.	1	0.02	60	0.05	
Hair dresser, barbers, beauticians and related workers	15	0.32	167	0.14	
Protective service workers	9	0.19	209	0.18	
Service workers	34	0.72	1079	0.92	
Farm plantation, dairy and other managers and supervisors	4	0.08	225	0.19	
Cultivators	61	1.30	2156	1.83	
Farmers, other than cultivators	310	6.59	4075	3.46	
Agricultural labourer	880	18.70	9674	8.22	
Plantation labourers and related workers	24	0.51	352	0.30	
Other farm workers	67	1.42	427	0.36	
Forestry workers	7	0.15	97	0.08	
Hunters and related workers	0	0.00	21	0.02	
Fishermen and related workers	2	0.04	83	0.07	
Miners, quarrymen, well drillers & related workers	0	0.00	68	0.06	
Metal processors	4	0.08	26	0.02	
Wood preparation workers and paper makers	1	0.02	42	0.04	
Chemical processors and related workers	1	0.02	33	0.03	
Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers	0	0.00	759	0.65	
Tanners, fellmongers and pelt dressers	2	0.04	39	0.03	
Food and beverage processors	7	0.15	182	0.15	
Tobacco preparers and tobacco product makers	4	0.08	316	0.27	
Tailors, dress makers, sewers, upholsterers & related workers	69	1.47	1949	1.66	
Shoemakers and leather goods makers	0	0.00	21	0.02	
Carpenters, cabinet and related wood workers	3	0.06	43	0.04	
Stone cutters and carvers	4	0.08	145	0.12	

Continued.

Variables	Maharashtra		India		P value
	N	%	N	%	
Blacksmiths, tool makers and machine tools operators	0	0.00	20	0.02	0.0001**
Machinery fitters, machine assemblers and precession instrument makers (except electrical)	1	0.02	47	0.04	
Electrical fitters and related electrical and electronic workers	2	0.04	10	0.01	
Broadcasting station and sound equipment operators and cinema projectionists	1	0.02	1	0.00	
Plumbers, welders, sheet metal and structural metal preparers and erectors	1	0.02	14	0.01	
Jewellery and precious metal workers and metal engravers	11	0.23	69	0.06	
Glass formers, potters and related workers	0	0.00	48	0.04	
Rubber and plastic product makers workers	0	0.00	33	0.03	
Paper and paper board products makers	1	0.02	39	0.03	
Painters	1	0.02	24	0.02	
Stationery engines and related equipment operators, oilers	1	0.02	17	0.01	
Transport equipment operators (driver)	0	0.00	40	0.03	
Labourers (labourers, NEC.)	45	0.96	3390	2.88	
Other (new workers seeking employment)	35	0.74	1254	1.07	
Don't know	0	0.00	117	0.10	
Money					
Wealth index					
Lower class	8452	28.7	274263	40.9	0.0001**
Middle class	7130	24.2	140038	20.9	
Upper class	13878	47.1	255925	38.2	
Education					
Highest education level					
No education	4671	15.9	191885	28.6	0.0001**
Primary	3762	12.8	84528	12.6	
Secondary	17308	58.8	317619	47.4	
Higher	3719	12.6	76194	11.4	
Knowledge					
Knowledge of ovulatory cycle					
During her period	3206	10.9	40289	6	0.0001**
After her period	6463	21.9	219951	32.8	
Middle of the cycle	5062	17.2	114241	17	
Before period begins	2953	10	34370	5.1	
At any time	8856	30.1	161610	24.1	
Other	0	0	100	0	
Don't know	2920	9.9	99665	14.9	
Reason hysterectomy performed: excessive menstrual bleeding/ pain					
Yes	479	69.3	9294	53.2	0.0001**
No	212	30.7	8173	46.8	
Contraceptive use and intention					
Using modern method	14612	49.6	215216	32.1	0.0001**
Using traditional method	394	1.3	31036	4.6	
Non- user- intends to use later	2043	6.9	41960	6.3	
Does not intend to use	6425	21.8	223060	33.3	
Never had sex	5986	20.3	158954	23.7	

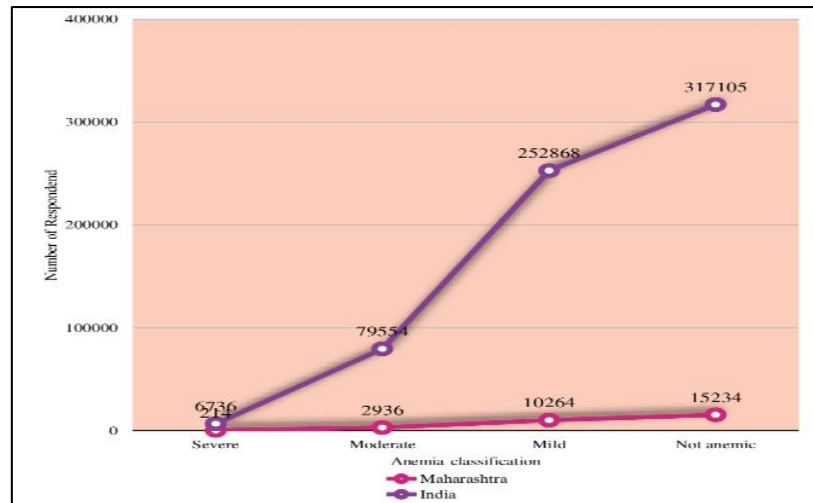


Figure 1: Anemia level observed in Maharashtra and India with NFHS-4 data.

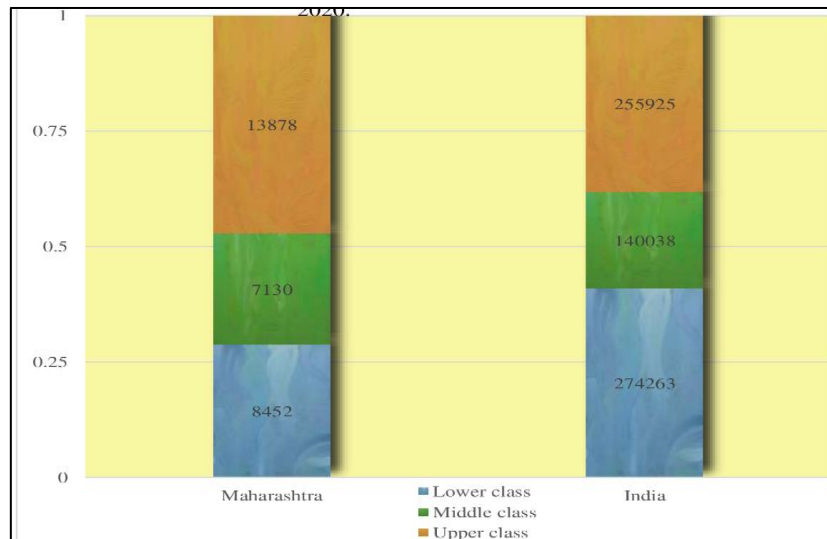


Figure 2: Wealth Index observed in Maharashtra and India with NFHS-4 data.

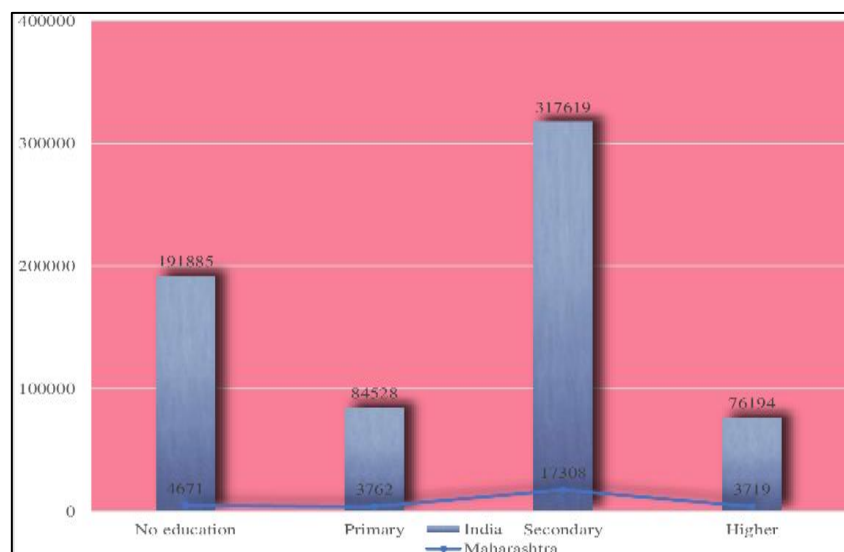


Figure 3: Education attainment in Maharashtra and India with NFHS-4 data.

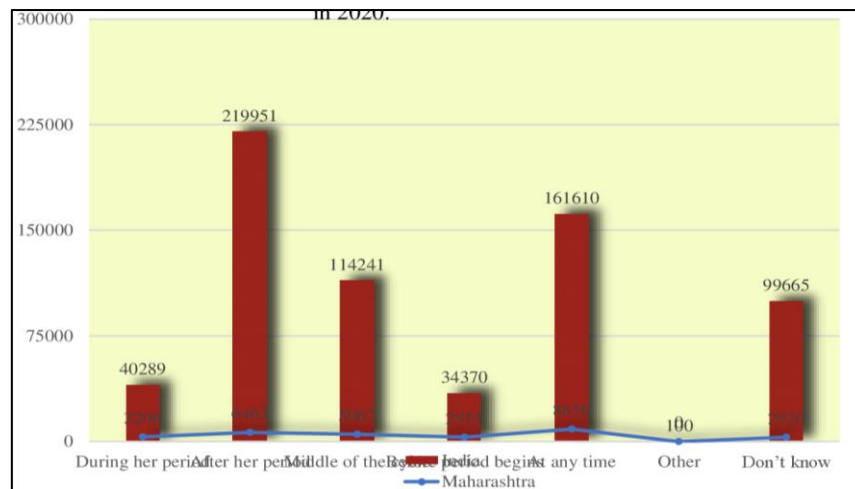


Figure 4: Knowledge regarding ovulatory cycle in Maharashtra and India with NFHS-4 data.

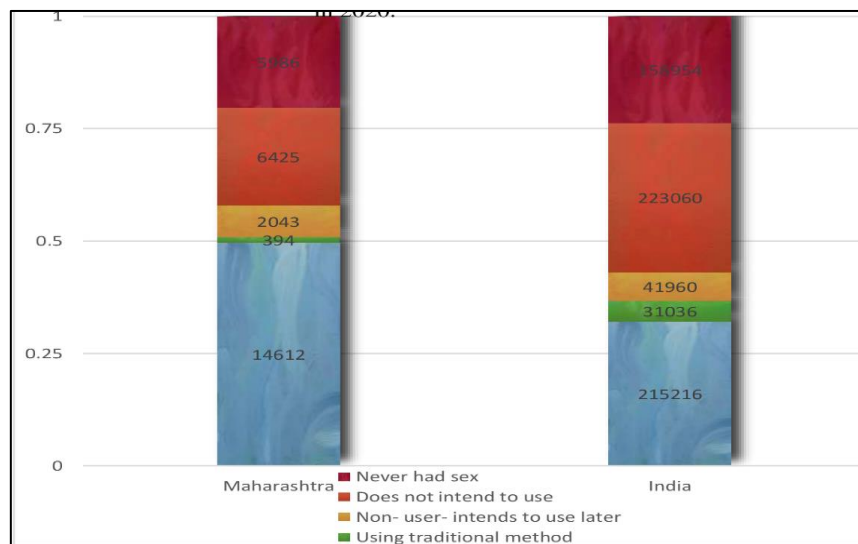


Figure 5: Contraceptive use and intention in Maharashtra and India with NFHS-4 data.