

FAMILY PLANNING ENQUIRY IN DHARWAR TALUKA

(MYSORE STATE)



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A Survey conducted in Dharwar town and twenty
villages of Dharwar taluka

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P R E F A C E

This report presents the results of a survey of family planning knowledge and attitudes in Dharwar district, Mysore State, India. The family planning survey was carried out as a part of the demographic enquiry conducted in 1962 in Dharwar town and 20 villages of Dharwar taluka. The general demographic report is being issued separately.

Dharwar has always been considered as the cultural and educational centre of the northern region of Mysore State. An idea or programme which strikes roots in Dharwar may be expected to have a widespread impact in this part of the country. It was, therefore, considered worthwhile to know, in the first instance, how far the family planning movement had made a leeway in the Dharwar area. This survey could also be considered as a kind of base line study. If a similar enquiry could be carried out in conjunction with a fertility survey, as was done in this case after some lapse of time, say, five years, it could provide a very good measure of the changes coming about over a period of time. It could indicate the trends in fertility and family planning, the knowledge of which is so very necessary in the context of economic planning undertaken by the country.

At the time when this survey was conducted, practice of family planning was noticed to be quite insignificant even in Dharwar town. The attitudes could not be considered as unfavourable, although a fairly large number of respondents were at the moment not quite serious in respect of this subject. The proportion of persons not giving a definite number in reply to the question on ideal number of children, or the proportion of persons who were not quite willing to learn about family planning, was rather large. Yet, those who considered 3 or 4 children as the ideal number, or those who did not report a definite 'Yes' in reply to the question whether the last

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pregnancy was desired, or those who were willing to learn about family planning, did not certainly constitute an insignificant proportion, more especially if it could be considered that subjects like family planning always enlist only a small number of supporters in the beginning. But these same ideas may gain wide spread acceptance, once the initial headway is made. Family planning is being rightly given greater emphasis by the Government, and the Fourth Five Year Plan will have a much larger provision than heretofore for this subject. Although, therefore, the results of the present survey are not apparently quite encouraging, the subject may be expected to receive from the people a much wider and willing response in the future.

I must express my deep appreciation of the work done by the field and tabulation staff, in carrying out this project. I must also thank my colleagues on the research staff who helped me with their useful suggestions.

I hope this report along with the one on a similar enquiry in Shimoga district will give a fairly good idea about the level of family planning knowledge and practice in Mysore State.

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