

METHODOLOGY OF FAMILY PLANNING SURVEYS

Case 1

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(A review of the report on a follow-up study of IUCD by the Planning Research and Action Institute of Lucknow, May 1969).

A number of research centres in the country are working in the field of demography and quite a few reports are coming out either in print or in mimeographed form.¹ It is difficult to review all such reports. But there seems a need for reviewing at least the work of some of the important research centres since it is likely to be imitated by other centres. The present article thus reviews the report on 1174 IUCD acceptors in Lucknow district by the Planning Research and Action Institute (PRAI) in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

The Director of PRAI mentions in the foreword that the conclusions of the report will be useful in planning and implementation of any IUCD programme. It therefore seems essential to review the report carefully as it may be used as a guide in analyzing the work of similar programmes elsewhere. Occasionally an attempt is also made by us to set out comparable figures for another such study on IUCD in non-city area of Poona district in Maharashtra which helps to assess the responses and findings of the PRAI project.

The PRAI project includes a study of 1174 IUCD acceptors and because of the large size of sample observed especially in rural areas, the findings are no doubt interesting. A number of aspects of the IUCD programme described in the report provide a fund of information on loop-insertions,² removal or expulsion rates, reasons for termination of loop-practice, contraception after termination and so on. The methods of presentation however need a careful examina-

¹ When in the mimeographed form, the findings are used by many taking them to be reliable. Or, they are used or not taken cognizance of, as is convenient. Since there is little that is coming in print, and a lot that is mimeographed and used, there seems a need for reviewing even the mimeographed material.

² In this article IUCD and loop are regarded as identical.