

## PLACE OF IUD IN THE CONTRACEPTION-KIT OF INDIA

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It is a common view that something is wrong with the family planning programme in India. This is because the birth rate in India persisted at its high level even after the efforts of the first three five-year plans (i.e. till 1966) to bring it down. Even in 1972 the estimate of birth rate is 36.4 as given by Sample Registration Scheme.<sup>1</sup> Currently the trend of belief is that adequate decline in birth rate will not be achieved unless the socio-economic conditions in India change. Occasionally some diagnose the failure to attain adequate decline in birth rate to India's major dependence on sterilization. It is because the sterilization is resorted to very late in the reproductive span when average Indian women use up more than half of their potential to produce four or more children. Even if all the Indian women without exception were sterilized with the present average parity (i.e. 4.5 or so) at sterilization, the birth rate will decline only by about one-fourth or so.<sup>2</sup> By the end of the third five-year plan the common suggestion was to push IUD in the family planning programme. In Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Assam it brought to surface a high level of motivation towards family planning since very large numbers opted for it even in the initial days; e.g. in 1966-67 the programme covered about 1.2 to 1.8 per cent eligible couples with IUD in Maharashtra, Kerala and Assam and about 3.6 to 5.5 per cent in Haryana and Punjab. Gradually the oral pill also came into fashion and the Indian programme of family planning was blamed for not utilizing the super-novae of the present contraception kit, which is so easy to use. Actually when it is too easy to use, it may be misused and used where it does not suit a constitution. One therefore asks

<sup>1</sup> Estimate of birth rate in 1972 (provisional) as given by the Sample Registration Scheme of The Registrar General (mentioned in the Monthly Statement of Progress of Family Planning and MCH Programme in India, April 1976, p. 14), published by the Department of Family Planning, Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Planning and Evaluation Division), New Delhi.

<sup>2</sup> Source : Family Welfare Planning in India, Year Book 1972-73, Table A-14, p. 27. The data given in the table relate to that of the Sample Registration Scheme — Office of the Registrar General, India — published in the Pocket Book of Population Statistics, Registrar-General, India — Census Centenary, 1972 (p. 100).