

Correlates of Family Planning Acceptance : A Multivariate Analysis

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The present paper intends to identify the correlates of family planning acceptance. The data collected during National Fertility and Mortality Survey, Maharashtra (1980) were used for the study. A multivariate generalised linear model has been adopted for the purpose. The unit of analysis is the individual woman. Variables such as caste, education, number of living sons, number of living children have been included in the analysis. The application of the model revealed that the existing number of children/son has a closer association with acceptance of contraception rather than the education or caste variables.

Introduction

India was probably the first country to initiate an official family planning programme on a countrywide scale. As early as in the fifties, the urgency for controlling the population size was felt strongly and family planning was introduced as part of the population policy. However until 1965, the programme was mainly clinic based and urban. Since 1965 the programme infrastructure has been expanded in rural areas and an extension approach adopted. The clinic-based cafeteria of methods, induction of family planning services in primary health centres, the camp approach, the use of incentives and disincentives, more coercive methods adopted during the Emergency and the current emphasis on spacing methods are different phases in the evolution of the programme. A couple protection rate of 56.4 per cent had been attained in Maharashtra and 43.3 per cent in India by 1990.

The high priority given to the family planning programme and the huge investments made in it by the government have been some times questioned on grounds of inadequate demand for family planning. The progress of family planning programme depends not only on policies, programmes and their implementation but also on the motivation of potential users. The level of motivation varies according to socio-economic classes and the characteristics of contraceptors change over time.