

Series B—Survey Report No. 8

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN RURAL UTTAR PRADESH

(A STUDY OF MIRZAPUR DISTRICT IN U. P.)

By

D. N. SAKSENA
ASSISTANT CHIEF



DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY
LUCKNOW
1977

PREFACE

The Demographic Research Centre, since its establishment in 1966, has sponsored a number of field enquiries to understand the reproductive behaviour of the people including their level of receptivity to different aspects of population control programme and attitudes towards family building in both rural and urban parts of Uttar Pradesh. In rural Uttar Pradesh the Centre has so far covered seven districts, namely, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria, Nanital, Almora and Pithoragarh. The present Report is based on the field study conducted during April, 1976 - November 1976 in rural Mirzapur. The study was oriented to understand the demographic aspects of the Scheduled Caste population. Dr. Sita Ram Rastogi, Research Officer, supervised the field work and Mr. T.N. Kapoor, Mr. M.A. Khan, Mrs. Geeta Pant and Mrs. Shusheela Singh conducted the interviews. I record my appreciation for their hard work.

Dr. Shridhar Misra, Director of the Centre, kindly read the whole manuscript and made several suggestions. This report is the result of his keen interest.

APRIL - 1977.

D.N. SAKSENA
ASSISTANT CHIEF

DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY
LUCKNOW. (INDIA).

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

SECTION -I

	Page No.
Introduction	1-4

SECTION-II

Analysis and Interpretation	5-44
1-Population : Socio-Economic Profiles.	5-12
2-Marraige, Fertility and Child Mortality	13-28
3-Family Size Ideals	29-45
4-Child Birth and Family Planning : Knowledge, Practice, and Opinion on Related Issues	35-44

SECTION-III

Over-view of Findings and Implications	45-49
Appendices	50-52

.....

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION
• IN RURAL UTTAR PRADESH

(A Study of Mirzapur District in U.P.)

SECTION I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Some of the Hindu castes, which after independence received constitutional protection and came to be known as 'Scheduled Castes', suffered in the past due to their neglect, extreme poverty, low social status, exploitation by higher castes and their immobility. In spite of several legal provisions to do away with the social and economic disabilities of the Scheduled Castes, their problems still persist and deserve a very careful consideration. In the recent past some important studies have been conducted in different states of the country like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu to understand the economic and social aspects of the Scheduled Caste population. A field study conducted in Bihar concluded, "The most important question facing the Scheduled Castes is the strengthening of their economic base. The government has been making strenuous efforts in this regard but the problem is so vast and the population involved is so large that it will take not only years but decades before

the masses of the Scheduled Castes are brought to subsistence level."¹ A socio-economic study of the Scheduled Castes in rural Maharashtra based on the survey of 230 villages revealed that, "... the Scheduled Castes are still the most depressed section of the population in several respects ... The overwhelming majority of the Scheduled Castes is engaged in manual work, as unskilled labour. ... and as for those among them who own land, the bulk of them have such small holdings that their condition is hardly better than that of agricultural labourers."² Another study highlighting the economic problems of the Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu based on 1961 Census data found that "The economic status of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu in 1961, measured against the yard-sticks of literacy, occupational distribution and land rights, was a decimal one."³ A study of Scheduled Caste population in Uttar Pradesh⁴ based on 1961 census data also inferred that the implementation of policies

-
1. Sachidanand, "The Harijan Educated Elite", Research Abstract Quarterly, ICSSR, Vol. No. III, Nos. 2 and 3, April-June 1974, p.164.
 2. G.M.Gare, "Socio-Economic Study of Scheduled Castes in Rural Maharashtra", Research Abstract Quarterly, ICSSR, Vol. No. III, Nos. 2 and 3, January-April 1974, p.119.
 3. S.Ramanathan, "The Profile Study on Economic Problems of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu", Research Abstract Quarterly, ICSSR, Vol. III, Nos. 2 and 3, January-April 1974, p.153.
 4. R.S.Mathur, "Sources and Forms of Discrimination against Scheduled Castes", in Rural Labour in India, edited by

regarding the distribution of surplus land among the Scheduled Castes and ensuring a fixed quota for them in public employment in the non-agricultural sector "has not been satisfactory".

On the basis of the studies referred above the Scheduled Caste population considering in terms of prevalence of literacy among both the sexes, nature of relationship with land, incidence of extra-agrarian employment, income levels, and the like, still represents the rock bottom of the Indian society. In this connection, it is also suggested that low social and economic position of the Scheduled Castes may also be due to their atypical demographic behaviour which provides sanction to very low marriage and for the girls, which considers unchecked reproduction as virtue and number of children as fated, and which rejects efforts to control conception on grounds of being sinful. In this context it should also be noted that social and economic uplift of the Scheduled Castes would not directly emanate from the specially designed economic and human resource development programmes for them, and all planned efforts to ameliorate their lot may remain wanting, if their attitude towards marriage, reproduction, and number of children in family do not undergo necessary changes.

...S.M.Pandey, published by Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, New Delhi, 1976.

Against the background stated above it is considered desirable to **further** understand the family and family living habits of the Scheduled Castes population in demographic terms as this would increase our understanding of the reasons for their low social and economic position. In response to this, a demographic survey of Scheduled Caste population in rural Uttar Pradesh was planned by the Demographic Research Centre of Lucknow University. The survey was undertaken in Mirzapur as this district far exceeds any other district of the State so far as the percentage share of the Scheduled Castes to total population is concerned. According to the Census of 1971, 34 % of the district's population belonged to the Scheduled Castes (516,456 persons) compared to the State's figure of 21 %. In other districts, the share of Scheduled Caste population varied between the range of 11 % in Garhwal, Rampur, Bareilly and Mathura to 30-32 % in Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli and Sitapur districts.

The demographic survey was conducted in rural areas of Mirzapur during April-November 1976 and a large amount of information on marriage age, fertility, child mortality and knowledge attitude and practice levels of family planning in addition to information on social and economic characteristics was collected from 542 Scheduled Caste couples out of a panel of 800 couples belonging to four selected villages of two sub-divisions of the district, namely, Dudhi and Robertaganj (see Appendix I and II).

SECTION II

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The demographic survey of Scheduled Caste population in rural Mirzapur was oriented to collect information on social and demographic characteristics of the population in addition to enlisting their opinion on various aspects of the family planning programme including reactions on family size and related issues. In the following pages, an effort is being made to describe the findings of the survey according to scheme given below :

1. Population : socio-economic profiles,
2. Marriage, fertility and child mortality
3. Family size ideals and
4. Child birth and family planning : knowledge, practice and opinion on related issues.

II.1 Population : Socio-Economic Profiles

Castes and household size and type: The surveyed Scheduled Caste couples belonged to different caste groups. The survey provided maximum representation to the Chamar community. About half of the covered households belonged to the Chamars (49.6 %) and little over one-fourth (28.4%) to the Gond community. Other caste groups like the Pankhas, the Cheros, the Aqariyas etc. accounted for about one-fifth (18.8%) of the survey households. (Table 1).

TABLE I

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD BY CASTE GROUPS

Size of Household (Number of persons)	Caste Groups						Total Per- centage
	Chamars	Gonds	Pankhas	Cheros	Agariya	Others*	
<u>Small Size</u> (2-5 persons)	156 (58.0)	91 (59.1)	35 (67.3)	22 (66.7)	8 (47.0)	13 (76.5)	325 (60.0)
<u>Medium Size</u> (6-8 persons)	80 (29.7)	40 (26.0)	12 (23.1)	11 (33.3)	7 (41.2)	3 (17.6)	153 (28.2)
<u>Large Size</u> (and more persons)	33 (12.3)	23 (14.9)	5 (9.6)	-	2 (11.8)	1 (5.9)	64 (11.8)
<u>Total Households</u>	269	154	52	33	17	17	542 (100.0)
<u>Percentage</u>	(49.6)	(28.4)	(9.6)	(6.1)	(3.1)	(3.1)	(100.0)
<u>Mean size of Household</u>	5.5	5.4	4.6	4.3	5.8	3.9	5.3
<u>Total Population</u>	1491	832	241	141	98	67	2870
<u>Percentage of Population</u>	51.9	29.0	8.4	4.9	3.4	2.3	99.9

*Nats- 5, Baiswars-2, Pataris- 10

The mean household size was found to be largest for the Agariya community (5.8 members), followed by the Chamars (5.5 members), the Gonds (5.4 members), The Pankhas (4.6 members), and the Cheros (3.4 members). (See Table 1). Only 29 % of the total households were reported to be joint family units and the rest (71 %) were of the nuclear type consisting of husband, wife and their unmarried children.

Level of Male and Female Education: As the Survey was basically an endeavour to collect demographic and family planning information from the population, a couple was identified in each household, and all information was obtained from the male. In most cases, the interviewed male was also head of the household. About two-thirds of the males were illiterate (66.2 %) and other about one-fifth were just literate but had no experience of formal schooling. (See Table 2). Only 3 Scheduled Caste males were educated beyond junior high school level (0.6 %). The degree of illiteracy was still higher in the case of females (99.3%).

TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS (MALES) ACCORDING TO
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Educational Level	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	359	66.2
Literate without schooling	104	19.2
Below Primary	42	7.7
Primary, Junior	34	6.3
Matric and above	3	0.6
Total ...	542	100.0

Occupation : About half of the male respondents reported themselves to be owner cultivators (48.2 %), though, of course, maintaining very small holdings and following very traditional methods of agriculture. About one-fourth of the respondents earned their livelihood through working on others' fields (22.7%), and other one-fifth as market labourers (See Table 3). The market labourers also work as forest labour during summers when the contract work of plucking "bidi Patti" (leaves in which tobacco is rolled to make country cigars-'biris') comes into swing in Dudhi and adjoining forest ranges. It can be concluded that in rural Mirzapur (and to a large extent in Dudhi- an interior tehsil of Mirzapur), males of working ages do not have stable jobs to follow and low agriculture yields, due to rocky topography and inadequate means to exploit scarce ground water reserves make it necessary for them to work as labourers in forests, in markets, in road side P.W.D. gangs and as contract labourers in newly inaugurated industrial endeavours around their homes in Dalha, Churk, Renukoot etc.

TABLE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR
OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

Occupation	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Owner Cultivator	261	48.2
Market Labour	123	22.7
Agricultural Labour	109	20.1
Service	25	4.6
Craftsman, Artisan	12	2.2
No Specific occupation*	12	2.2
Total ...	542	100.0

*Includes those who do not follow continuous jobs and engage themselves in seasonal activities in forests, market etc.

Level of Income and Opinion on Mobility : Because of unstable economic pursuits of the population and in the absence of fixed wage rates and availability of work round the year, it was difficult to estimate the monthly income level of the households. However, crudely it was assessed that about two-third of the households(63.7%) earned less than Rs 150/- per month, and other one-fifth (20.8%) between Rs 150-299. Only little over one-tenth of the respondents (11.1%) reported their monthly

household earnings as Rs 300/- and more (See Table 4 a). As proper income estimates could not be obtained and a lot of subjective considerations entered in calculating households' monthly income levels, the respondents were asked to state whether they find their monthly proceeds sufficient to maintain their families or not. In response to this 89.1 % of the interviewed males considered that their earnings are far short to provide support to their family members adequately. Only 10.1 % of the people considered their income as satisfactory (See Table 4 b). During summers when most of the rural households face shortage of food, groups of women and children can be seen collecting mahua fruits and chakore leaves (locally available edible grass) in and around their villages which constitute a large part of the daily diet of their family members.

TABLE 4(a)

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO
MONTHLY INCOME LEVEL

<u>Income Level</u> <u>(in Rs)</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Households</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Less than 50	22	4.1
50 - 99	166	30.6
100-149	157	29.0
150-199	75	13.8
200-249	38	7.0
250-299	24	4.4
300 and above	60	11.1
Total..	542	100.0

TABLE 4 (b)

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO
THEIR OPINION ON INCOME SUFFICIENCY
OF HOUSEHOLDS

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Income status is not satisfactory	483	89.1
Income status is satisfactory	55	10.1
Cannot say/ no opinion	4	0.7
Total	542	99.9

As people in the countryside of Mirzapur are embedded in weak economic infra-structure due to inhospitable land and climate and a large part of them belong to the weaker sections, special economic programmes like development of agricultural facilities like irrigation, grant of liberal credit to small and marginal farmers, making available of seed and fertilizers at subsidised rates, linking villages with all weather roads, extensive health care etc., are needed for these people to uplift them from their present circumstances. The males were also asked whether they would like to move out of their villages to places where better economic situation prevailed. Only

little over one-third (37.3%) of them exhibited their readiness to moveout and the rest nearly two-third (62.7%) stated that they would not lime to move. Of the people who could consent to move, 70.8% could still like to remain within the district. Of the people who did not favour extra-village mobility as many as 73.8% stated that they were deeply attached with their land and home and other 17.9 % feared that there is no securit outside. (See Table 5).

TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR
OPINION ON MOBILITY AND REASONS FOR
NON-MORTALITY

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Can move : -	202	37.3
within block	21	10.4
within Tehsil	17	8.4
within District	105	52.0
within State	19	9.4
any where	40	19.8
Cannot move : Reasons	340	62.7
Attachment with land and home place	251	73.8
Poor level of education	3	0.9
No Security outside	61	17.9
Cannot Say	25	7.4
Total ..	542	100.0

II.2. Marriage, Fertility and Child Mortality

In this section some important parameters of family building like age at marriage of the males and females, age of the female at first pregnancy, number of children born and surviving and incidence of child mortality would be studied.

Age at Marriage and Opinion on Ideal Age at Marriage: The data reveals prevalence of early age of marriage among both males and females. As many as 42.8 % of the males reported that they were below 19 years of age at the time of their marriage, and a similar number of them stated to have been married between ages 19-21 years. Only 18 males (3.3%) had crossed the age of 24 at the time of their marriage. In contrast to this, information on female age at marriage confirms prevalence of child marriage among these rural Scheduled Caste people. More than two-thirds of the males (68.5 %) stated that their spouses were not even 16 years old at the time of marriage and according to little over one-fourth of the males (28.4%), the ages of their spouses at marriage varied between 16-18 years. The mean age at marriage for the surveyed males and their spouses worked-out to be 19 and 14.3 years respectively. (See Table 6).

TABLE 6

AGE AT EFFECTIVE MARRIAGE FOR MALE RESPONDENTS
AND THEIR WIVES

Age at Marriage (in years)	Respondents		Wives	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 16	48	8.9	371	68.5
16 - 18	184	33.9	154	28.4
19 - 21	232	42.8	15	2.8
22 - 24	60	11.1	2*	0.4
25 +	18	3.3		
Total ..	542	100.0	542	100.1
Mean age at Marriage	19.0		14.3	

* relates to 20+

In view of the information on male/ female age at marriage of the survey couples, the practice of child and early marriage is obvious. As such the males were asked to indicate the ideal age at which boys and girls should get married. Such information is likely to indicate presence of **shift** in the attitudes (if any) regarding this important factor on which depends the total demographic behaviour of the couple. The analysis revealed that where as 68.5 % of the males reported that their spouses were aged less than 16 years

: 15 :

at the time of marriage, only 30.6 % opined that girls should get married by age 15 years. Further only 28.4% of the males stated that their wives were between ages 16-18 years at the time of marriage, a very large number (62.9%) considered 16-18 years as appropriate age for girls to marry. The mean ideal age for girls to marry at 16.2 years is clearly higher by 2 years than the mean age of 14.3 years worked out for the spouses of the surveyed males. Comparison between actual age at marriage for the males and the suggested marriage ages for the boys also reveals some interesting results. Only 14.4 % of the males reported to have married at ages above 21 years whereas 28.6 % supported ~~this~~ age bracket for the boys to marry. More than two-fifth of the males (42.8%) had married by age 18 but not even one-fifth of them (19.6%) considered this age-bracket as appropriate for the boys to get married and set-up their homes. The mean ideal age at marriage for boys works out to be 20.3 years(See Table 7)

TABLE 7

TABLE 7

IDEAL AGE AT MARRIAGE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
ACCORDING TO MALE RESPONDENTS

Ideal Age at Marriage (in years)	Ideal Age at Marriage for Boys		Ideal Age at Marriage for Girls	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 16	8	1.5	166	30.6
16 - 18	98	18.1	341	62.9
19 - 21	281	51.8	28	5.2
22 - 24	118	21.8	7*	1.3
25 +	37	6.8		
-Total	542	100.0	542	100.0
Mean Age at Marriage	20.3		16.2	

*Relates to 22 +.

Age of the Female at First Pregnancy: The foregoing analysis has revealed that the Scheduled Caste people adhered to practice of performing marriage of their girls at an early age. It is a welcome sign that this practice is undergoing some normative change. The practice of early marriage of girls also brings in early motherhood and couples are left with longer period for reproduction and family building. In this connection, the analysis related to age at first pregnancy reveals that about one-fifth (20.9%), of the females experienced

their first termination at age below 16 and other two-fifth(41.2 %) between ages 16-18 years. The mean age at first pregnancy at 18.3 years indicates a gap of . . . years from the mean marriage age and can be largely attributed to adolescent sterility and time lost in return marriage. (See Table 8). In terms of this analysis it is also to be noted that though the Scheduled Caste rural males mentally conceive 16.2 years as ideal age for girls to marry, and even if this rise in marriage age is realised, it would perhaps neither effect total fertility nor age at first pregnancy.

TABLE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE
AT FIRST PREGNANCY

Age at First Pregnancy (in Years)	Number	Percentage
Less than 16	98	20.9
16 - 18	193	41.2
19 - 21	111	23.7
22 - 24	29	6.2
25 +	37	7.9
Total ...	468	99.9
Mean Age at First Pregnancy		18.3

* 74 couples reported to have borne no child . Because of excessive under reporting on pregnancy wastages, the distribution of females according to age and number of pregnancy and number of live births did not differ and hance latter distribution is used in the analysis.

Number of Children Born and Surviving : Whereas females' age at marriage and age at which they experience first pregnancy is important, the age specific total number of children born and surviving speak about the reproductive potential of the population. In order to understand the reproductive potential of the population, necessary data to compute crude birth rate level were also collected. During one year period prior to survey a total of 105 births were recorded in the survey household. The crude birth rate level works out to be about 37 per 1,000 population and is indicative of high fertility level of the people. The total survey couples (i.e. 542) reported to have given birth to 2147 children by the time of interview, and out of these 1602 were alive. The mean number of children born and surviving works at 4.0 and 3.0 respectively.

The age specific child bearing pattern, further, showed preponderance of higher order births at lower ages of couples (females). About one-fifth of the females aged 15-19 (19.5 %) had two-three children, and little less than one-third aged 20-24 years(29.1 %) had three and more children. More than one-fifth of the females aged 25-29 (22.0%), little less than two-third aged 30-34 (61.8%), little over three-fourth aged 35-39 (75.7%), and about three-fourth aged 40-44(74.2%) and more than

four-fifth aged above 44 (81.1 %) have given birth to five and more children. The extent of childlessness was lower in the population as only 3.7 % of the couples with wives above age 44 were without any child. Assuming an average of 5.9 children borne/ ^{by} the females aged above 44 years as completed family size, about 56 % of the child bearing is completed by age 29 and 85 % by age 34 (See Table 9). From this analysis it is clear that if family planning efforts concentrate on couples with wives above age 30, desirable reduction in fertility may not be reached. Because the level of fertility is quite low upto age 24, educating couples on family spacing methods may also not deliver much results. It is, therefore, suggested that necessary services related to loop insertion and sterilization backed by strong follow-up machinery be given due consideration for the benefit of people of this area.

The analysis through computation of parity progression ratios (considering live births) also revealed pattern of high fertility level of the survey population and reflects presence of desire among the couples to build

larger and larger families. The analysis exhibited that 86.3 % of the couples had given birth to atleast one child and about 85 % with one child added second child also to their families. Considering transition of couples

TABLE 9

DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES ACCORDING TO AGE AND NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS

Age of Females (in years)	Number of Live Births											Total Females	Mean Number of live births	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+			
Less than 15	100.0												16	-
15 - 19	41.5	39.0	16.9	2.6									77	0.8
20 - 24	12.8	32.5	25.6	12.8	12.8	1.2	2.3						86	1.9
25 - 29	6.8	8.5	10.2	18.6	33.9	20.3	1.7						59	3.3
30 - 34	2.8	1.4	9.9	8.5	15.5	21.1	22.5	7.0	5.6	2.8	2.8		71	5.0
35 - 39	3.0	3.0	3.0	6.1	9.1	12.1	21.2	16.7		12.1	1.5		66	5.9
40 - 44	5.2	3.4	5.2	5.2	6.9	5.2	19.0	22.4		12.1			58	5.9
45 +	3.7	2.8	4.6	9.2	4.6	18.3	15.6	11.9		15.5			109	5.9
										12.8		13.3		
Total ...	74	71	58	47	57	59	61	42	35	24	14		542	4.0
Percentage ...	13.7	13.1	10.7	8.7	10.5	10.9	11.2	7.7	6.5	4.4	2.6		100.0	-

to higher parity levels, it is to be seen that about 75 % of the couples with 5 children also added sixth child and 65.3 % with six children also added seventh child. Sixty-two percent of the couples with experience of giving birth to as many as 8 children further added one more child to their families. (See Table 10).

TABLE 10

PARITY PROGRESSION RATIOS

<u>Parity Progression</u>	<u>Number of</u>	<u>Proportion</u>
0	542	-
0 - 1	468	86.3
1 - 2	397	84.8
2 - 3	399	85.4
3 - 4	292	86.1
4 - 5	235	80.5
5 - 6	176	74.9
6 - 7	115	65.3
7 - 8	73	63.5
8 - 9	38	52.0
9 - 10+	14	36.8

The analysis of fertility differential has been attempted only in terms of caste dimension as educational, occupational and economic differences were not so significant among the survey households. The differences in fertility level have been studied among the two major caste groups covered in the survey, namely, the Chamars and the Gonds. The mean number of children at 4.0 for both the Chamar and Gond couples was slightly higher as compared to mean number of children at 3.8 worked out for the combined group of 119 couples including the Charos, the Pankhas, the Agariyas and few other castes. These are arithmetic averages and do not take account of variations in age of females among different caste groups. (See Table 11). In order to overcome this age specific mean fertility level (i.e. mean number of children has been worked for different groups in three broad age ranges i.e. less than 25 years, 25-34 years and 35 years and above.). The caste-group specific weighted means have also been calculated by taking the total survey females in the above three broad age ranges as weights. The analysis reveals that among the females aged less than 25 years, the mean fertility level was highest in the case of Chamars (1.4 children) and lowest for the group consisting of Cheros, Pankhas, Agarias and few other castes (1.1 children). The mean fertility level of the Gond couples with wives below

age 25 (1.2 children) was 14.2 % lower as compared to the Chamar couples. It is, further apparent that for the Gond couples with wives aged above 35 years, the mean fertility level (5.8 children) was 9.4 % lower as compared to the Chamar couples (6.4 children). The weighted means which are free from the effect of age differences among the females of different caste groups revealed that the fertility of Gond couples is about 5 % lower than the fertility of Chamar couples and mean fertility level of "other" castes consisting of Panikas, Cheros, Agariyas etc. is about 17 % lower than the Chamars (See Table 12). These caste-specific differences in fertility level could be successfully used to organise family planning programme at the micro level. This also calls for conducting demographic surveys among different major scheduled caste groups of the region in order to delineate differences in fertility behaviour so that family limitation programmes could be organised on the basis of relevant priori information.

TABLE 11

CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN BORN

Number of Children born	Chamars		Gonds		Others	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	28	10.4	24	15.6	22	18.5
1- 2	79	29.4	30	19.5	20	16.8
3 - 4	49	18.2	31	20.1	24	20.2
5 - 6	51	19.0	36	23.4	33	27.7
7 +	62	23.0	33	21.4	20	16.8
Total ..	269	100.0	154	100.0	119	100.0
Mean Number of Children born	4.0		4.0		3.8	

TABLE 12

AGE SPECIFIC MEAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN
ACCORDING TO CASTE STATUS OF COUPLES

Age of Females (in years)	Chamars	Gond	Others
Less than 25	1.4	1.2	1.1
25 - 34	4.1	4.5	4.2
35 +	6.4	5.8	5.0
Arithmetic Mean	4.0	4.0	3.8
Weighted Mean	4.2	4.0	3.5

The size of effective family at 3.0 surviving children reveals loss of 1 child on the average for the survey couples. The mean number of surviving children increased from 1.6 for the couples with wives between ages 20-24 to 2.5 with aged 25-29, 3.6 with wives aged 30-34, and 4.3 with wives aged 35 and above. Presence of large number of surviving children was also not uncommon among young and middle aged couples. Among the couples with wives aged 20-24, 22.1 % had 3 and more surviving children. Among the couple with wives between ages 25-29 and 30-34, 23.7% and 49.3 % had families consisting of four and more children. Of the total couples, about 16 % had families with six and more living children. (See Table 13).

It has already been states that the survey couples have experienced death of one child on the average of the total children born. The over-all incidence of child mortality works out at 25.4 % . The age-specific pattern of child mortality (i.e. percentage difference between mean number of children born and deceased) reveals direct relationship between age of wives and proportion of children dead. The incidence of percentage child mortality increase from 12.9 for the couples with wives between ages 15-19 to 16.3 with wives between ages 20-24, 24.0 with wives between aged 25-29 and varied between a narrow range of 26.2 to 27.5 for couples with wives above age 29 years. (See Table 14.).

TABLE 13

DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES ACCORDING TO AGE AND NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN

Age of Females (in years)	NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN											Total Females	Mean Number of Surviving children	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+			
Less than 15	100.0												16	-
15 - 19	45.4	40.3	13.0	1.3									77	0.7
20 - 24	17.4	36.0	24.4	14.0	5.8	2.3							86	1.6
25 - 29	8.5	15.3	20.3	32.2	18.6	5.1							59	2.5
30 - 34	4.2	8.5	21.1	16.9	15.5	14.1	14.1	2.8	2.8				71	3.6
35 - 39	3.0	4.5	12.1	18.2	19.7	13.9	10.6	7.6	9.1	-	1.5		66	4.3
40 - 44	6.9	5.2	10.3	5.2	29.3	19.0	8.6	3.5	8.6	1.7	1.7		58	4.3
45 +	4.6	6.4	11.9	19.3	15.6	9.2	11.0	11.9	8.3	1.8	-	109	4.3	
Total ..	85	90	85	80	74	45	34	22	22	3	2	542	3.0	
Percentage	15.6	16.6	15.6	14.8	13.6	8.3	6.3	4.1	4.1	0.6	0.4	100.0		

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN AND SURVIVING AND
PERCENTAGE CHILD MORTALITY BY AGE OF
FEMALES

Age of Females (in years)	Number of Females	Total Number of Children born	Surviving	Mean Number of Children born	Surviving	Percent- age of child mortality
Less than 15	16	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	77	62	54	0.8	0.7	12.9
20 - 24	86	166	139	1.9	1.6	16.3
25 - 29	59	196	149	3.3	2.5	24.0
30 - 34	71	353	256	5.0	3.6	27.5
35 - 39	66	389	287	5.9	4.3	26.2
40 - 44	58	343	250	5.9	4.3	27.1
45 +	109	639	467	5.9	4.3	26.8
Total ..	542	2147	1602	4.0	3.0	25.4

The analysis by relating number of children born and dead revealed that a little over half of the couples (52 %) have not experienced death of any child (including childless couples i.e. 74). One-fifth of couples (20.1%) had experienced death of only one child, 14.4 % two

children, 7.0 three children and 6.5 % more than three children. The proportions of couples with no experience of child mortality declined with rise in number of children born and this is obvious to need any mention. About 78 % of the couples with only 2 children were free from any such tragic experience compared to 23.7% with five children and 17 % with six and more children. (See Table 15).

TABLE 15

DISTRIBUTION OF COUPLES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN AND DEAD

Number of Children Born	Number of Children Dead							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	
0	74							74
	(100.0)							
1	66	5						71
	(93.0)	(7.0)						
2	45	12	1					58
	(77.6)	(20.7)	(1.7)					
3	29	13	5					47
	(61.7)	(27.7)	(10.6)					
4	24	21	9	2	1			57
	(42.1)	(36.8)	(15.8)	(3.5)	(1.8)			
5	14	18	13	8	6			59
	(23.7)	(30.5)	(22.0)	(13.6)	(10.2)			
6+	30	40	50	28	8	14	6	176
	(17.0)	(22.7)	(28.4)	(15.9)	(4.5)	(8.0)	(3.4)	
Total ..	282	109	78	38	15	14	6	
	(52.0)	(20.1)	(14.4)	(7.0)	(2.8)	(2.6)	(1.1)	

II. 3. Family Size Ideals

In this section, opinion of males regarding ideal family size and contemplated family size would be considered in the context of their own current family size. Such information is useful to understand the peoples' image regarding ideal size of family and how far do they themselves stick to such stated ideals.

The males were asked to state additional number of children desired by them. The proportions desiring to have additional children showed a declining trend with size of present family. About 81 % of the males with no living child and 90 % with one child desired to have more children. The desire for additional children was absent among the males with families consisting of 6 and more children. The mean size of present family for both the groups differentiated with regard to desire for children differed considerably. The males who did not desire for more children had on the average 4.3 children compared to 1.4 for those who considered their family building still incomplete and desired to have more children. (See Table 16).

TABLE 16
OPINION OF MALES ON DESIRE FOR CHILDREN
ACCORDING TO CURRENT SIZE
OF FAMILY

Present Family Size	Desire No Children	Desire Children	Total
0	8 (9.4)	77(80.6)	85
1	9(10.0)	81(90.0)	90
2	39(45.9)	46(54.1)	85
3	51(63.8)	29(36.2)	80
4	63(85.1)	11(14.9)	74
5	35(77.8)	10(22.2)	45
6	83(100.0)	-(0.0)	34
Total ..	288(53.2)	254(46.8)	542 (100.0)
Mean Surviving Children..	4.3	1.4	3.0

An interesting picture of family building emerged when present size of family was related with the respondents' desire for additional children. The analysis revealed that only 8 males (1.5 %) contemplate to remain childless : all their life. Only 2.4 % of the couples would prefer to have one child in their families, and 42.6 % between 2 to 3 children. More than half of the Scheduled Caste males contemplate to have 4 and more children in their families. It is also to be noted that more than one-fourth of the males with two children (27.0%) desired to build families with 4 and more children and this ratio increased to more than one-third (36.2%) in case of couples who currently had 3 child families(See Table 17)

TABLE 17

TOTAL NUMBER OR CHILDREN CONTEMPLATED IN COMPLETED FAMILY

<u>Present Family Size (Number of Surviving Children)</u>	<u>No Children</u>	<u>One Child</u>	<u>Two Children</u>	<u>Three Children</u>	<u>Four Children</u>	<u>Five Children</u>	<u>more than five children</u>	<u>Total</u>
No Children	8 (9.4)	4(4.7)	16(18.8)	41(48.2)	15(17.6)	1(1.2)	-	85
1 Child		9(10.0)	11(12.2)	50(55.6)	16(17.8)	2(2.2)	2(2.2)	90
2 Children			39(45.9)	23(28.1)	21(24.7)	2(2.3)	-(0.0)	85
3 Children				51(63.8)	21(26.2)	7(8.8)	1(1.2)	80
4 Children					63(85.1)	9(12.2)	2(2.7)	74
5 Children						35(77.8)	10(22.2)	45
6 and more Children							83(100.0)	83
<u>Total ..</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>542</u>
<u>Percentage</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>12.2</u>	<u>30.4</u>	<u>25.1</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>18.1</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The analysis, however, brings out that the males who did not consider their present family size as adequate contemplated to have on the average 3.5 children in their families. In view of this, it can be said that the prospects of building smaller families among the Scheduled Caste people are bright.

Reasons for desiring additional children : The males were also asked to give their reasons for desire for more children. More than half of the respondents (55.1 %) 140 out of 254 males desiring to have children, considered that their present size of family is not adequate . About one-fourth (24.8%) stated that more children would bring more money for the household and would work as insurance against aged parents. 19 respondents(7.5 %) related their desire to increase family size to prevelant higher child mortality in the area and 14 (5.5 %) were of the view that more children increase respect in the communtiy. (Table 18).

TABLE 18

REASONS FOR DESIRING ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

<u>Reasons</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
-Children not sufficient	140	55.1
-More children increase respect	14	5.5
-More children bring in more money for family	22	8.7
-Children are needed for care for old age care	41	16.1
-For religious reasons	10	3.9
-To combat higher child mortality	19	7.5
-No Specific reason/Can't say	8	3.2
Total...	254	100.0

Opinion on Ideal Family Size : Majority of the males considered 3 and 4 child families as ideal. About four-fifth of the total Scheduled Caste males (79.3 %) stated that an ideal family should consist of 3-4 children. Only little over one-tenth of the surveyed males(11.6%) were favourable to 2 child families. The findings also revealed that no matter as to how many children were considered ideal, the preference for male children was overwhelming. Of the respondents, who considered 3 child family as ideal, 96.3 % gave the preferred sex composition of 2 sons and 1 daughter (See Table 19).

TABLE 19
NUMBER OF CHILDREN CONSIDERED IDEAL

<u>Number of Children considered Ideal by sex composition</u>	<u>Total Respondents</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<u>0 Child</u>	7	1.3
<u>1 Child</u>	5	0.9
All Male	5(100.0)	
<u>2 Children</u>	63	11.6
1 male, 1 female	49(77.8)	
2 males	14(22.2)	
<u>3 Children</u>	243	44.8
1 male, 2 females	2(0.8)	
2 males, 1 female	234(96.3)	
3 males	7(2.9)	
<u>4 Children</u>	187	34.5
2 males, 2 females	134(71.7)	
3 males, 1 female	53(28.3)	
<u>5 Children</u>	32	5.9
3 males, 2 females	28(87.5)	
4 males, 1 female	4(12.5)	
<u>6 and more Children</u>	5	0.9
<u>Total</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>99.9</u>

The responses of males on ideal family size according to their number of surviving children revealed that more of the males with fewer children stated smaller families as ideal. Of those with no children, about three-fourth (74.1 %) considered 2 or 3 child families as ideal. (See Table 20). It is also to be noted that to a separate question on desire for children, 67 % of these males contemplated to build families with 2 or 3 children. It can be said, therefore, that questions enlisting peoples' opinion on family size and projected child bearing plans do provide reasonable data to understand probable reproductive behaviour of a section of population- particularly young couples. The analysis also revealed that the proportions of respondents considering 2 or 3 child families as ideal varied inversely with present size of family. For example, none of the males with 5 child family considered 2 children as ideal. It can be said that opinions related to family size are influenced by respondents' own family size but in case of younger couples (i.e. with fewer children) such opinion data seem to reflect their family building intensions to a reasonable degree. (See Table 20). To sum up, the Scheduled Caste males considered that an ideal family should consist ^{on the average} of 3.3 children. In line with this, and as given elsewhere,

the males who considered their surviving/^{number of}children as insufficient contemplated to have in their families on the average 3.5 children.

The opinion of males on ideal size of family in the context of their present size of family reveals that in case of about one-fourth of the respondents (23.2 %) the stated ideal size matched with the current size. Little less than one-half of the males (47.8%) found their present size of family short of stated ideals and nearing one-third (29.8%) have far exceeded in family building compared to their image of ideal family size. These results have been deduc~~t~~ed from the description of findings given above.

II. 4 Child Birth and Family Planning : Knowledge, Practice and Opinion on Related Issues

In this section, opinion of Scheduled Caste males on various aspects like practice of abortion through safe procedure, cause~~s~~ of child birth, knowledge and practice of family planning methods and suggestions on family planning incentives would be considered. As Scheduled Caste people represent a very backward section of the society and hence its understanding of the causes of child birth and in what ways the couples can exercise control on birth of children is important for the success of the compaigns urging them to have smaller families.

IDEAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN

Number of children considered ideal	Number of Surviving Children									Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
0	2 (2.4)	2(2.2)	1(1.2)	-	1(1.4)	-	-	-	1(3.7)	7
1	-	1(1.1)	-	-	4(5.4)	-	-	-	-	5
2	17(20.0)	12(13.3)	22(25.9)	5(6.2)	4(5.4)	-	1(2.9)	1(4.5)	1(3.7)	63
3	46(54.1)	50(55.6)	36(42.3)	52(65.0)	22(29.7)	11(24.4)	12(35.3)	4(18.3)	10(37.0)	243
4	17(20.0)	23(25.6)	26(30.6)	17(21.2)	40(54.0)	25(55.6)	18(52.9)	13(59.0)	8(29.6)	187
5	3(3.5)	2(2.2)	-	6(7.5)	3(4.1)	8(17.8)	2(5.9)	3(13.6)	5(18.5)	32
6+	-	-	-	-	-	1(2.2)	1(2.9)	1(4.5)	2(7.4)	5
Total..	85 (100.0)	90 (100.0)	85 (100.0)	80 (100.0)	74 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	34 (99.9)	22 (99.9)	27 (99.9)	542
Mean Ideal Children	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.4	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.3

It is striking to note in this context that a large number of ^{the} males (69.7%) still considered that birth of children is fated and there is nothing they can do about it. In line with this, only 78 males(14.4%) approved of sponsored abortions and did not see any thing wrong if a pregnancy, likely to endanger either health of the mother or further deteriorate family's economic position or for some other sound reasons, is terminated prematurely with medical assistance. Of the couples who did not approve of seeking abortions (total males 406-74.9%), nearly three-fourth (70.0 %) considered such act as sinful , about one-fifth(19.2 %) saw in it hazard to mother's health, and about one-tenth(9.3%) disapproved on grounds of social customs and traditions. (Table 21).

TABLE 21

OPINION OF MALE RESPONDENTS ON ABORTION

Opinion	Number	Percentage
- Approve of abortion	78	14.4
- Don't approve of abortion :Reasons	406	74.9
- It is sinful	284	70.0
- Endangers health of mother	78	19.2
- Against social customs	38	9.3
- No specific reason	6	1.5
- Can't say	58	10.7
Total ..	542	100.0

Opinion on Limiting Size of Family : The males were also asked to state their intentions to limit size of family. In the presence of very poor understanding of the cause of child birth from the view point of how family size can be planned and birth of children can be controlled and strictly anti-abortion disposition of the people, the fact that 361 males (66.6 %) cherish intentions to limit number of children speaks about the growing effect of family planning publicity efforts in the area, of course, to comment on the depth of communication and motivational contents of the programme ^{is} difficult. The analysis also revealed that about two-third of the males with less than 3 children (varying between 61.2 % - 65.9%) desired to limit number of children and ^{to} have planned families in future. In case of couples with 3-5 children, about three-fourth intended to limit number of children (varying between 70 % - 78.4 %), and it is likely that many of these have already realised that their families are larger than they can actually support and hence would like to end child bearing. (See Table 22).

TABLE 22

DESIRE TO LIMIT NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY CURRENT FAMILY SIZE

Present Family Size (Number of surviving children)	Desire to limit children	De not desire to limit children	No Opinion	Total
0	56(65.9)	28(32.9)	1 (1.2)	85(100.0)
1	59(65.6)	29(32.2)	2 (2.2)	90(100.0)
2	52(61.2)	32(37.6)	1 (1.2)	85(100.0)
3	56(70.0)	22(27.5)	2 (2.5)	80(100.0)
4	58(78.4)	14(18.9)	2 (2.7)	74(100.0)
5	33(73.3)	10(22.2)	2(4.4)	45(99.9)
6 +	47(56.6)	35(42.2)	1 (1.2)	83(100.0)
Total ..	361(66.6)	170(31.4)	11 (2.0)	542(100.0)

Knowledge of Family Planning Methods and Incentives Given for Sterilization : More than four-fifth of the males (84.3%) stated to have knowledge of one or the other method to control family size. The information on method specific knowledge of the people revealed that 94.7% of the males, who knew about any method, were aware of sterilization (largely vasectomy), 24.1% loop and 17.9 % condom. Forty respondents (8.8%) stated that they were in knowledge of certain herbs which can be successfully used to control conception. (Sec Table 23).

TABLE 23

KNOWLEDGE OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS AS
INDICATED BY MALE RESPONDENTS

Level of knowledge	Number	Percentage
- With knowledge of family planning methods	457	84.3
Vasectomy	433	94.7
Loop	110	24.1
Condom	82	17.9
Herbal Method	40	8.8
Natural method (including self control)	9	2.0
Tasacts	1	.02
- Without Knowledge : Would you like to learn	85	15.7
Yes	19	22.04
No	63	74.1
Can't Say	3	3.5
Total ...	542	100.0

It should be noted at this place that prevalence of overwhelming knowledge about sterilization does not truly reflect the people's understanding about it in scientific sense and measures only the level of sketchy awareness (i.e. mere contact with the word commonly known as "nusbandi" in the countryside). This is also due to large emphasis which the public programme of family planning placed on sterilization during the recent years. It can also be said that other programmes like loop insertion and condom distribution and their related publicity did suffer on this account. The analysis also revealed that of the males who

did not know about any method to limit and plan family size (85 males- 15.7%) sixty three males (74.1%) did not want even to acquire knowledge.

Regarding peoples' knowledge about incentives for sterilization, 329 males (60.7%) observed that they knew about monetary incentives and the rest 213 males (39.3%) were not so aware. The interviewed males were also asked to state their suggestions regarding different forms of incentives that government should consider to provide to those who take to family planning and sterilization. In this connection, more than half of the males (306- 56.4%) could not give any suggestion. Thirty-eight percent of the males (total -206) favoured that both land and money should be given to such people. About 5 % of the males said that the acceptors be provided gainful employment(15 males- 2.8%) and be considered for loans to build their own houses (11 males- 2.0%) (See Table 24).

TABLE 24
SUGGESTIONS ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING INCENTIVES

Suggestions	Number	Percentage
- Land should be given	95	17.5
- Money should be given	111	20.5
- Priority in Employment	15	2.8
- Free Seed distribution	4	0.7
- Residential loans should be given..	11	2.0
- Can't Say/ No suggestions	306	56.4
Total	542	100.0

Level of Practice of Family Planning : In view of the larger awareness of the people towards different methods of family planning and also their willingness to limit size of family, the actual efforts made by them to control number of children rate dismally low.

On the basis of interviews with a number of village chiefs in Dudhi Tehsil, a study¹ revealed that according to them village people were not enthusiastic about the sterilization programme due to fear of weakness and because of lack of follow-up facilities. In the present survey only 57 males (10.5 %) reported that they were currently using one or the other method to limit number of children. The number of couples who have undergone sterilization at 36 is quite low in the context of pregnancy risk profiles of the survey couples. Only 12 males were currently making use of condom, 5 have their wives protected through loop and 2 were adhering to natural methods. Whereas forty males (8.8 %) knew about certain herbs of anti-fertility character, only one stated to be using them. (See Table 25).

1. D.N.Saksena : Family Planning Programme in Rural Mirzapur, Occasional Paper No. 12, Demographic Research Centre, Lucknow University, Lucknow, 1976.

TABLE 25

CURRENT USE STATUS OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS
BY AGE OF WIFE

Age of Wife (In years)	Total	Currently not using any method	Currently using Family Planning	Method Used					
				Steri- liza- tion*	Con- dom	IUD	Pills	Na- tu- ral	Her- bs
Less than 25	179 (100.0)	167 (93.3)	12 (6.7)	3	8	-	-	1	-
25 - 34	130 (100.0)	118 (90.7)	12 (9.3)	8	1	3	-	-	-
35 - 44	124 (100.0)	102 (82.3)	22 (17.7)	17	2	1	1	1	-
45 +	109 (100.0)	98 (89.9)	11 (10.1)	8	1	1	-	-	1
Total..	542 (100.0)	485 (89.5)	57 (10.5)	36	12	5	1	2	1

* Only one couple reported to have undergone Tubectomy and the rest were vasectomy acceptors.

The proportions currently using any method increased from 6.7% among couples with wives aged below 25 years to 9.3 with wives between aged 25-34 years, and further to 17.7% with wives aged 35-44 years. The analysis also revealed that prevalence of condom was maximum among the young couples i.e. with wives below age 25 years (8 out of total 12 users). Majority of the sterilized couples were old ones- 25 out of 35 sterilized couples reported current ages of their wives as above 34 years (but these are not the ages of wife at vasectomy) (See Table 25). The level of practice of family

planning methods according to size of family also brought out similar findings. Nine out of a total of 12 condom users had less than 3 children and 30 out of 36 sterilized couples had 3 and more children. Maximum protection through different methods from further conceptions prevailed among the couples with 5-6 children (16.4 %) followed by those whose families consisted of 3-4 children (14.9 %). (See Table 26).

TABLE 26

CURRENT USE OF FAMILY PLANNING METHOD
BY NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHILDREN

Number of Surviving Children	Total	Currently not using any method	Currently using F.P. methods	Types of Methods Used					
				Steri- liza- tion	Con- dom	IUD	Pills	Naru- ral	Her- bs etc.
0	85 (100.0)	83 (97.6)	2 (2.4)	-	2	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	175 (100.0)	162 (92.6)	13 (7.4)	6	7	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	154 (100.0)	131 (85.1)	23 (14.9)	17	-	4	-	2	-
5 - 6*	79 (100.0)	66 (83.5)	13 (16.4)	9	2	1	1	-	-
7 +	49 (100.0)	43 (87.7)	6 (12.3)	4	1	-	-	-	1
Total	542 (100.0)	485 (89.5)	57 (10.5)	36	12	5	1	2	1

* Only one couple reported to have undergone Tubectomy and the rest were vasectomy acceptors.

SECTION III

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

The demographic survey of 542 Scheduled Caste couples, belonging to four villages of the two selected Tehsils, namely, Dudhi and Robertsganj of Mirzapur district, was oriented to understand the level of fertility and related family building parameters, status of family planning programme and disposition of people towards family limitation and associated issues. Various Scheduled Castes of the area were represented in the survey, like the Chamars, the Gonds, the Cheros, the Pankhas, the Agariyas etc. The field work for this survey was started in April 1976 and got completed in November 1976.

The survey area is characterised by low agricultural yield coupled with inadequate means to exploit scarce ground water resources and rocky topography. The males of working ages do not have stable jobs to follow round the year, and it becomes necessary for them to work as labourers in forests, in markets, in road-side PWD gangs and as contract labourers in newly inaugurated industrial endeavours around their homes in Dhala, Churk and Renukoot etc. During summers when most of the rural households face food shortage, groups of women and children can be seen collecting mahua fruits and chakore leaves (locally available edible grass) in and

around their villages which constitute a large part of the daily diet of their family members. Poverty in all its fury is present in the area and as many as 89.1 % of the respondents conceded that their earnings are far from being sufficient to support their families. Even in the presence of such poor economic base of the survey households, it is striking to note that a large number of the interviewed males would still like to cling to their hearths and homes and would not move out of their villages to improve their lot.

In view of the demographic profiles of the survey households, the evidence support prevalence of high level of fertility. The level of crude birth rate works out to be 37 per 1,000 population. The mean age at marriage for the surveyed males and their spouses at 19 years and 14.3 years respectively confirm adherence of the population to pattern of early marriage. An average female aged above 44 years gave birth to 6 children and 85 % of their children arrive by age 34 and 56 % by age 29. Desire to build larger families was further revealed by the parity progression pattern of the couples. As many as three-fourths of the couples with 5 child families went on to add sixth child and about two-thirds of the couples with experience of

having 8 children further added one more child to their respective families. With respect to caste differences in fertility, the mean fertility level was found to be higher among the Chamar couples compared to the Gonds and the combined group of Pankhas, the Cheros, the Agariyas etc. The over-all incidence of child mortality was 25.4 % and as many as 48 % of the couples reported to have lost one or more children.

An interesting picture of family building emerged when present family size of the couples was related with their desire for additional children. The analysis revealed that only 2.4 % of the couples would prefer to have 1 child in their completed families, 42.6 % 2-3 children, and the rest 55 % more than 3 children. More than one-fourth of the couples with two child and more than one-third with three child families desired to increase their family size to 4 and more children. With respect to opinion on ideal family size, majority considered 3 or 4 child families as ideal. A very large majority, which considered 3 child families as ideal, gave 2 sons and 1 daughter as preferred sex composition.

It is striking to note that a large number of the interviewed males considered birth of children as fated and there is nothing that they can do about it. Only 78

males (14.4 %) approved of sponsored abortions and did not see any thing wrong, if a pregnancy, likely to endanger either mother's health or further deteriorate family's economic position, is terminated prematurely with medical assistance. In the presence of traditional attitudes towards sex and reproduction, the fact that about two-thirds of the males were found willing to control number of children, speaks well about the publicity efforts of the family planning programme. A large number of couples with 2-5 child families intended to end child bearing. Nasbandi-prevalent name for sterilization in the countryside, was known to many males as a method to limit family size. Other methods of family planning were less commonly known, like loop (24.1%), and condom (17.9%). Forty respondents (8.8%) knew certain herbs which could be used to control conception. Our depth enquiries with males revealed that their knowledge of vasectomy was sketchy and was equivalent to mere contact with the word.

The proportion currently practising any family planning method was dismally low. Only 57 males (10.5%) were using one or the other method to limit birth of children. And of these, 36 couples had taken to sterilization.

The findings, therefore, indicate that whereas people are willing to limit size of family and also know some methods to help themselves, their willingness still requires to be converted into need-based readiness and in this context family planning and health workers have a much larger role to play. Provision of services on mass scale backed by even liberal incentives might fall short and under-utilization of services may continue if the people's attitude towards sex and child-birth are not successfully changed through mass education on importance of family planning. The pregnancy-risk profile of the Scheduled Caste couples calls for a concerted programme of family planning education and services to be pressed in this area.

....

APPENDIX I

The demographic survey of Scheduled Caste population in rural Mirzapur was spread over two sub-divisions of the district, namely, Duchi and Robertsganj. Further, from each sub-division two development blocks were selected. One village each from the selected blocks was drawn for survey work according to following criteria :

1. A selected village should have atleast 1,000 people belonging to Scheduled Castes.
2. The village should be on the road and be situated within the radius of 5 kms. from the block headquarter. Attention was given to this point in view of very poor means of communication in the area, and also the field team did not have at its disposal any means of transport to make required field visits. This factor led to selection of well accessible villages.

Selection of the Couples

In order to select the Scheduled Caste couples for our enquiry we conducted house listing in the selected villages through a printed proforma. In the houselisting we recorded all households in a sample village according to caste and name and of the household head. We also recorded number of couples in the household, names and ages of both husband and wife, total number of their children and details regarding their family planning acceptance. The household size for each household was also noted. Thus, the houselisting data provided us

the total population of the selected villages and number and names of all Scheduled Caste couples. Table I exhibits total population, total Scheduled Caste population, number of all couples and number of Scheduled Caste couples in the selected villages.

After preparing the list of Scheduled Caste couples for each sample village, we embarked on selecting the couples for the purpose of interview. We decided to interview 200 couples in each sample village. Thus, 800 couples were selected from the sample villages. Table I shows that in the selected villages one-third of the enumerated Scheduled Caste couples were interviewed. We interviewed only male partners of the selected couples.

Field Work

The sample couples (male partners) were interviewed through a printed questionnaire (see Appendix II). Our interview schedule included questions on personal particulars of the respondents, their occupational status and other economic characteristics, household details, information on reproductive history including marriage and details regarding knowledge and attitude towards family planning and practice of birth saving devices etc.

The field work was performed during April- November 1976. The survey team experienced difficulties in conducting interviews in Dudhi sub-division as many of the selected Schedules Caste respondents were not available in their villages. Main reasons for their non-availability were as follows:

1. seasonal nature of employment in forest ;
2. many of them were working as construction labour outside the village;
3. some of them were engaged as market and general labour in adjoining towns, and
4. some of the respondents could not be contacted as they were away to their fields which lie at a considerable distance from their villages.

However, we tried to contact them in several visits in their villages both in day and night, yet all could not be traced. Out of 800 selected Scheduled Caste couples, we could, in all, interview 542 couples.

Interviews of the selected persons were performed by the trained investigators of our Centre. All completed schedules were internally checked by the Research Officer (Surveys). He also checked 10 percent of these schedules at the spot.

APPENDIX TABLE I

TOTAL POPULATION, SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION AND NUMBER OF COUPLES
ACCORDING TO HOUSELISTING CONDUCTED IN SURVEY VILLAGES
DURING 1976

Tahsil	Block	Village	Total Population 1976	Total Number of Households	Total Number of couples	Total S.C. Popu- lation	Total S.C. House- holds	Total S.C. couples	Number of Sample couples selected for interview	Number of couples actually interviewed
1.	Dudhi	Bidar	2386	469	573	1158	219	279	200	128
	Muir- pur	Raspa- bari	2227	381	427	1516	194	211	200	102
2.	Roberts- ganj	Salkhan	2926	557	745	2171	431	491	200	163
	Chopan	Billim- parkundi	4770	649	840	3311	613	647	200	149
Total ..			12309	2056	2585	8156	1457	1628	800	542

S.C. =Scheduled Caste.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Series A : Books

1. An Urban Fertility Field, 1970—*Dr. (Miss) I. Z. Husain.*
2. State and Status of Demographic Research in the Country, 1970-
Dr. (Miss) I. Z. Husain.
3. Differential Urban Fertility - Lucknow, 1973 - *D. N. Saksena.*

Series B : Survey Reports

1. Report of the Fertility Survey of Lucknow District, 1971-
D. N. Saksena.
2. Report of the Fertility and Family Planning Survey of Eastern
Region of Uttar Pradesh, 1974 - *D. N. Saksena.*
3. Some Aspects of Family Composition and Family Planning in Hilly
Villages of Almora, 1973 - *D. N. Saksena.*
4. Demographic Motivational and Health Education Aspects of
Vasectomy Acceptance in Kumaon Hills of Uttar Pradesh,
1975 - *D. N. Saksena.*
5. Report of the Fertility and Family Planning Survey of Kumaon
Region, Uttar Pradesh, 1975 - *D. N. Saksena.*
6. Role of Managements and Trade Unions in Family Planning
Programmes 1977 - *Dr. S. R. Rastogi.*
7. Socio-Demographic Survey of Industrial Workers of Kanpur
City 1977 - *J. N. Srivastava & Dr. S. R. Rastogi.*

Series C : Occasional Papers

1. Divisional Demographic Features and Population Projections of
Uttar Pradesh, 1961 - 81, 1967 - *(Miss) I. Z. Husain.*
2. Mean Age at Marriage and Natality - State and Divisional
Estimates, 1967 - *Dr. (Miss) I. Z. Husain.*
3. Methodology of Demographic Projections - A Study of Kanpur
Region, 1967 - *Dr. (Miss) I. Z. Husain.*
4. Family Planning in India, 1968 - *J. N. Srivastava.*
5. Population of India and Uttar Pradesh (A Preliminary Note on
1971 Census), 1971 - *J. N. Srivastava.*

6. Fertility, Family Planning and Population Growth in the Selected Districts of Uttar Pradesh (Study of Gorakhpur and Kumaon Regions), 1973 - *S. R. Rastogi*.
7. Some Demographic Aspects of Tharu Families, 1974 - *D.N. Saksena*.
8. A Study of Inter-District Variations in Family Planning Acceptance in Uttar Pradesh, 1974 - *J. N. Srivastava*.
9. Economic Development and Population Growth in Uttar Pradesh, 1974 - *S. R. Rastogi*.
10. Demographic Rationality in Vasectomy Acceptance in Rural Communities, 1975 - *S. R. Rastogi*.
11. Fertility, Child Mortality and Family Planning in the Rural Areas of Uttar Pradesh - *D. N. Saksena*.
12. Family Planning Programme in Rural Mirzapur, 1976 - *D. N. Saksena*
13. Status Differential in Fertility and Fertility Attitudes Among the Industrial Workers, 1976 - *D. N. Saksena*.
14. Family Planning in the Industrial Sector and Asian Response, 1977 - *D. N. Saksena*.
15. Family Planning Acceptance in Madhya Pradesh, 1977-*J. N. Srivastava*.

Series D : Periodicals (*Prepared by J. N. Srivastava*)

- Demography and Development Digest Vol. I No. 1 & No. 2—1967
 Demography and Development Digest Vol. II No. 1 & No. 2—1968
 Demography and Development Digest Vol. III No. 1 & No. 2—1969
 Demography and Development Digest Vol. IV No. 1 & No. 2—1970
 Demography and Development Digest Vol. V No. 1 & No. 2—1971
 Demography and Development Digest Vol. VI Jan. - December, 1971
 Demography and Development Digest Vol. VII Jan. 1972 Jan. 1973