

A STUDY OF FAMILY PLANNING AMONG HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

(A Case Study in Hubli-Dharwar Municipal
Corporation Area in Mysore State

BY

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FOREWORD

The Government of India set up a Demographic Research Centre in the Institute in the year 1961. Since then, a series of studies in the fields of demography and family planning are being undertaken by the Demographic Centre of the Institute.

The first study undertaken by our Centre in Dharwar town in 1962 to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of family planning showed that the family planning idea had yet to catch firm roots among the people of the Dharwar area. But the resurvey in 1969 revealed some encouraging results. There was enormous increase in the awareness and knowledge (89 per cent) of family planning.

Dharwar town happens to be the centre of education and culture of northern-Karnatak (Mysore). It was therefore thought worthwhile to study the knowledge and practice of family planning among High School Teachers in Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation area of Mysore State. A survey was accordingly conducted in 1971.

Almost 100 per cent of teachers were aware of family planning. In all, 35 per cent of male teachers and 61 per cent of female teachers with knowledge of family planning were practising it.

The report is based on the data collected through personal interview method. The study was conducted by a team headed by Shri. A.P. Katti. I am happy that the team has done a good job.

I hope the study will be found useful by all those who are interested in the field of family planning.

Demographic Research Centre,
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D. P. KARMARKAR
DIRECTOR

28th September, 1973

P R E F A C E

The present report contains the main results of the survey conducted by the Demographic Research Centre of the Institute in the year 1970-71. The data were collected through personal interview method.

A resurvey of eligible husbands in Dharwar town in 1969 after the lapse of seven years of the first round of the survey in 1962, had revealed some encouraging results. There was significant increase in the awareness and knowledge of family planning (89 per cent) in 1969.

It was therefore felt worthwhile to study the knowledge, attitude and practice of family planning among High School Teachers in Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation area. The main objective was to study the knowledge and practice of family planning among this educated group in the educational and cultural centre of this part of Mysore State. It was also intended to ascertain their views on the legalization of abortion and to study whether the small family norm has made any dent up-on this class of society.

It appears that socially advanced communities are still attracted towards teaching profession. Teachers were heavily concentrated in the age group of 30-44 years. The male teachers accounted for 73 per cent in this age group and proportion of female teachers was 70 per cent. The median ages of male and female teachers were 36.9 years and 32 years respectively. Majority of the teachers were naturally graduates.

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The average size of the household of male teachers was 5.7 as against 5.3 of female teachers. The male teachers had on an average 3 children living at the time of the survey. But the female teachers had only 2 children living. The small family norm by and large, seems to have been accepted by this elite of the society.

A big majority of male and female teachers got married in the age group of 20-29 years. Generally consummation of marriage also took place for majority of them naturally in this age group. Similarly most of the respondents got the first child also in the same age group (20-29 years).

Almost every teacher was aware of family planning. As high as 97 per cent of male teachers and 85 per cent of female teachers had specific knowledge about atleast one method of family planning. The condom (Nirhodh) appears to be the most widely known method of family planning among teachers. More than 92 per cent of male and 77 per cent of female teachers knew this method.

Practice of family planning by secondary school teachers was not very encouraging. Only 35 per cent of male respondents with knowledge were practising family planning. In all, 61 per cent of female teachers with knowledge were practising family planning.

A size of 3 children appears to be the ideal size for both male and female teachers. A big majority of male and female teachers (71 per cent and 86 per cent respectively) did not favour legalization of abortion.

There is a big gap between awareness and knowledge on the one hand and practice on the other. Educational aspects of family planning programme needs to be intensified

even in the educated class to achieve better results in the field of family planning.

There are in all four chapters in this report. The first chapter deals with introduction, background of the project, objectives, methodology, sample, coverage and some important demographic characteristics of teachers. The second chapter discusses teachers' attitude towards family size. Teachers' desire for number of children is critically examined against their important socio-economic variables. There is an interesting discussion on teachers' views on ideal number of children they could have. Analysis of their ideal number of children against their actual number of living children and desire for more children has shown that ambivalence exists even among this educated group. The third chapter describes the extent of practice of family planning among them. The fourth chapter gives the summary of the findings and teachers' ^{opinions} on legalisation of abortion. Appendix gives some interesting verbatim replies to the question on legalisation of abortion.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Shri.D.P.Karmarkar-our Honorary Director for his valuable guidance and advice for conducting this study. We express our deep sense of gratefulness to Dr.G.V. Joshi, Chairman and Major R.H.Desai, Honorary Secretary of the Janata Shikshana Samiti (the parent body of the Institute) for their sustained interest in the project and for their encouragement for all the activities of our Institute. We express our sincere thanks to all our colleagues in the Demographic Research Centre of the Institute for the help rendered to us in various ways in conducting this study.

We hope the report will serve a useful purpose
for those who are interested in the field of family
planning.

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