

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE (KAP) SURVEYS  
IN FAMILY PLANNING : AN OVERVIEW OF  
TWO DECADES OF RESEARCH

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## FOREWORD

International Institute for Population Studies has so far published 8 annotated bibliographies on various aspects of population studies. This has been done with a view to making the main research findings easily available to research workers and policy makers. However, since the publication of these bibliographies, IIPS has received requests from several quarters for summarizing the findings of different research studies in such a manner that a comparative study could be easily made. With this aim in view, the Institute has already published an Overview of IUCD Studies, and has now undertaken the publication of an Overview of KAP Studies. An Overview of Sterilisation Studies is under preparation and will be published very shortly.

This Overview differs from the earlier attempts made to cover KAP Studies inasmuch as it provides the findings in a tabular form, whereas the earlier three attempts made by Agarwala (1962), Krishnamurthy (1968), and Mrs. Rao (1968) had summarized the studies individually. Also, the number of studies covered in this Overview is much larger. Agarwala covered 26 studies, Krishnamurthy covered 26 attitude and 19 knowledge and practice studies, and Mrs. Rao covered a total of 71 studies.

This Overview covers 173 KAP studies and reviews the status of knowledge, attitude and practice relating to family planning as revealed in the various studies. The Overview also studies the time-specific and area-specific concentration of KAP studies and

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identifies the areas where such studies have not been conducted. It is interesting to note that 40 per cent of such studies were conducted during the period 1961-65. It is also worth noting that the majority of such studies were conducted in urban areas. Research workers would also be interested to know that not a single KAP study has been conducted in the States of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland and that very few such studies have been conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

The Overview emphasises the need for conducting meaningful comparative studies. It also points out the need for presenting the findings in a manner which would permit an effective feeding of the research results in policy-making and programme implementation.

This Overview was prepared by D. N. Saksena in April 1971 when he was working as a staff member of IIPS. He was ably assisted by G. L. Das Verma, Dipti Das and C.Y. Tseng, three students of the Diploma Course in Population Studies at this Institute during 1970-71.

It is hoped that this overview will be useful to research workers as well as to policy-makers. Suggestions for its improvement will be greatly appreciated.

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