

POSSIBLE TARGETS AND THEIR ATTAINMENT IN THE FIELD OF FAMILY PLANNING IN INDIA DURING 1966-76*

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IT IS INTENDED to get here an estimate of the number of couples that may be helped to stop child-bearing so that the birth-rate declines by a given percentage¹. Hereafter this number is referred to as the target. From the performance of the sterilization programme and the I.U.D.² programme in a limited area, the possible attainments during the next 10 years in the decline in birth-rate due to these programmes have been assessed in this paper. In the actual administration of the family-planning programme, the gap between the target and the possible attainments has to be made up by pushing the use of some acceptable contraceptive device. In cities this gap can be partly made up by the use of condom and similar other devices, depending on the acceptability of a contraceptive. For rural area more propaganda to popularize I.U.D. may be the only way to fill in the gap, because the acceptance of other contraceptive appliances has been found to be almost nil in this area during the last few years.

To illustrate the procedure for fixing the possible targets for various acceptable contraceptives, the district of Poona from Maharashtra State has been chosen. There are two reasons for this choice: One is that in this district the programmes of both sterilization and I.U.D. have taken root. The other reason is that the data regarding the family-planning activity for the last five years being available for

* The calculations in this paper are based on the findings by the author in her article "Sterilization Programme : Its Size and Effect on the Birth Rate" in *Artha Vijnana*, September 1959. In this article it was observed that the birth-rate could fall by 47.5 per cent if couples stopped child-bearing after two living children. The corresponding fall after the third and the fourth living child was 29.7 per cent and 18.2 per cent respectively.

All the calculations were presented in this article for eligibility for a stop to child-bearing after two, three, or four living children.

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² I.U.D. is Intra Uterine Device.