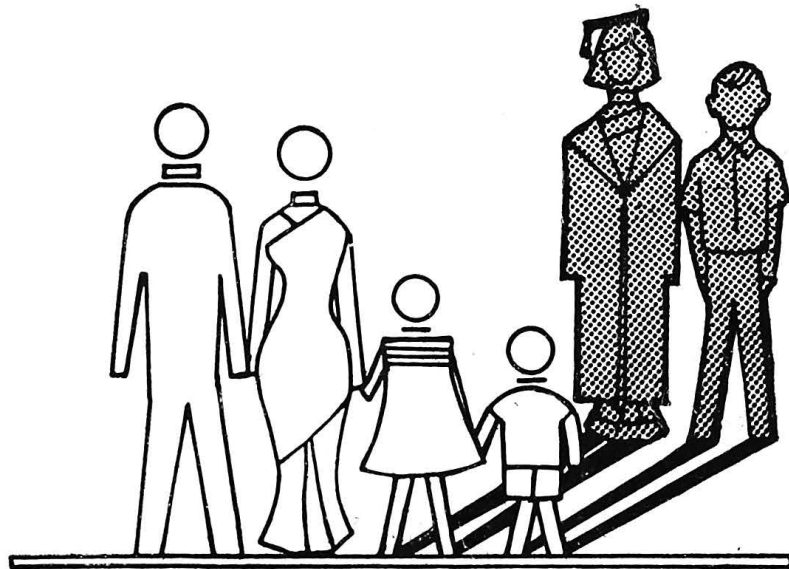




MODEL SURVIVORSHIP PROBABILITIES

A METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSIS



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FOREWORD

The question about how many children a family should have in order to be reasonably sure that at least a few of them will survive till the old age of the parents is one that arouses considerable attention. It is particularly so in a developing country like India where infant mortality and child mortality continue to be fairly high, and used to be very high till the recent past. The parents are generally ignorant or unaware of the tremendous breakthrough of the medical science which has reduced mortality to a considerable extent as compared to what it used to be in the past, and are still having the concepts related to very high mortality from the past experience. They are, therefore, reluctant to restrict their family size to two or three children and are conditioned to prefer many children to be assured of at least a few survivors. In India, even in its interior parts, the health conditions are now fast improving. It is a matter of great curiosity among the researchers as well as the lay public, as to what is the impact of this reduced mortality on child survivorship. In view of its urgent need, Mr. R.B. Gupta of this Institute has made an attempt to calculate survivorship probabilities by taking three and less surviving children to a couple initially, considering the 1971 Indian mortality level. For the purpose, many different age combinations for children and parents have been considered. Further, by using Coale and Demeny life tables, model survivorship probabilities for children for most probable age pairs of parents have been calculated. The results have revealed that the chances of survivorship of atleast one child out of two over their parents are quite high, even under the present mortality conditions in India. The computations show that the chances of survivorship of atleast one child out of three children are as high as 98 percent.

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