

CHAPTER - V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS...

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In the preceding Chapter we presented the statistical tables and their analysis regarding slum dwellers attitudes and knowledge and awareness of family planning. In the present Chapter I am giving a summary of the whole research project undertaken by me and significant observation and analysis.

FAMILY PLANNING SITUATION :-

The problem of population is the problem of the present world. It is an urgent crisis today. The increase of human numbers has initiated a new and critical phase in the human history. It has become a most important problem today and with passage of time it is taking so adverse a course that its dangerous dimensions are over whelming the past few years been acknowledged as the problem of world today.

The World Situation:-

Within the past two decades, vast changes have occurred in many aspects of life practically in every country of the world, and due to the rapid rate of population growth it influences every sector of economic and social development. Population policy is rapidly becoming an accepted part of the development programme. The subject of population studies is being viewed scientifically right from the 18th Century. In 1798 A.D. Robert Malthus's distinguished work, "Essay on The Principle of Population", shed light on the dictum that man's ability to produce food was much slower than his capacity to increase the population. Herbert Spencar, Gini, Henri George, Karl Marx, Dumont, etc., have tried to illustrate various factors which are held responsible for determining the population.

The Population Council of U. N. O. has estimated that the rate of increase of World Population is 2 per cent per annum. The Organization of the American Demographers has revealed (N.T. 1980 : 1, Shaikh, 1984 : 4) on the basis of empirical studies that the population of the world increases by 272 persons per minute, 2,50,000 persons per day and 90 million persons per annum. According to the 'United Nations Population and Vital Statistics (1981) report the World population during 1980 escalated to the peak of 4,515 billions. Hans Raj (1978: 205). According to these estimates as brought out in its 'Demographic Trends in the World and its Major Regions 1950-70' by 2000 the World population will go up by 6.494 million out of which 1,454 millions will be living in developing and 5,040 millions in non-developing region. The less developed regions are found in the continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the countries of Europe, U. S. S. R., North America and Japan are the countries of developed region. In fact, by this time, the rate of population growth has been stabilized by various developed countries of the world, but the situation is quite alarming in the underdeveloped and developing countries. Though these countries are trying to solve this problem by their social and economic planning but they could not solve it yet fully. Because of their galloping population growth rate of population eats away all the benefits brought about by the achievements of economic and other policies. In fact, population is the main cause of disequilibrium in the human Society.

The Indian Situation :-

India is the second most populous country in the world after mainland China. India's population which at the time of 1961 Census was 439 million increased to around 550 millions in 1971. The population

of India provisional census (1981) is estimated at 68.4 crores, sharing 15.53 per cent of the total World population, but occupies only 2.5 per cent of the land area. India's annual population growth rate of 2.5 per cent, thirteen millions people of the size of Australia or Netherlands are added every year to India's population.

The Maharashtra and Kolhapur District Situation :

With the tremendous growth in numbers, the density of Indian population and also of Maharashtra population ~~and also of Maharashtra population~~ is naturally increasing. In 1901 Maharashtra's density of population was 77 persons per square kilometre, while in 1981 it was 221 per square ^{Kilo-}metre.

The population of Kolhapur District increased from 15.96 lakh in 1961 to 20.48 lakhs in 1971 giving a decadal growth of 28.28 per cent. In 1981 it has been 22,438 percent. The corresponding growth percentage of the State is 27.45. Among the total population the decadal growth rate in the rural areas of the district is 24.76 as against 22.22 in the State. The year 1921 is known as a big divide because prior to this region's population decreased by 9.17 per cent in the decade 1901-1911. But since (1921) there has been a distinct change in the trend of population growth. Population has constituted to grow at increasing rate. The main cause of rapid growth of population is the decline in death rate. It is thus, clear that the region's population is growing at a rapid rate.

The Kolhapur City Situation :

The population of Kolhapur City increased from 1,42,666 in 1951 to 1,93,186 in 1961 and 2,67,613 in 1971 to 3,40,625 in 1981. The above figures indicates that, the average rate of increase of population per year in Kolhapur is 6,599. On the basis of this figure we can estimate the population in 1984 as 3,60,422.

Family Planning Policy in India :-

Since, the official adoption of family planning policy in 1951 in India, The Government has paid more and more attention and invested money for its implimentation. Family Planning operations and condoms have been the main techniques of population control. The State Government District Health Office and its staff, the Chhatrapati Pramila Raje Hospital (C.P.R.H.), Kolhapur and the Midwives and other staff of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, etc. have tried to impliment the Governments family planning programmes in the slum areas. But in actual practice very rarely the Health Staff of midwives and Health and Family Planning Educaters visit the slum areas which I studied.

Objectives and Methodology of Research :-

My research objectives were to understand the knowledge and awareness level of the slum dwellers and their attitudes regarding this massive family planning programme. For this purpose I selected 100 respondents and with the help of a Schedule collected required data. I also made use of records, documents and published materials on various family planning studies and situation in India. I carried data collection for a total period of one and half month. I present here some of the important observations and conclusions regarding the slum life and their responses towards the planned family planning programme.

Declared and Undeclared Slums :-

In Kolhapur City there are 58 slums locally termed as, 'Zopadpatti' out of which 31 (55%) are officially declared as slums by the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation and the remaining 27 (45%) are yet to be declared.



Photo 5 -- Plastic, Paper, Iron and Other Scrap Material, Collection.

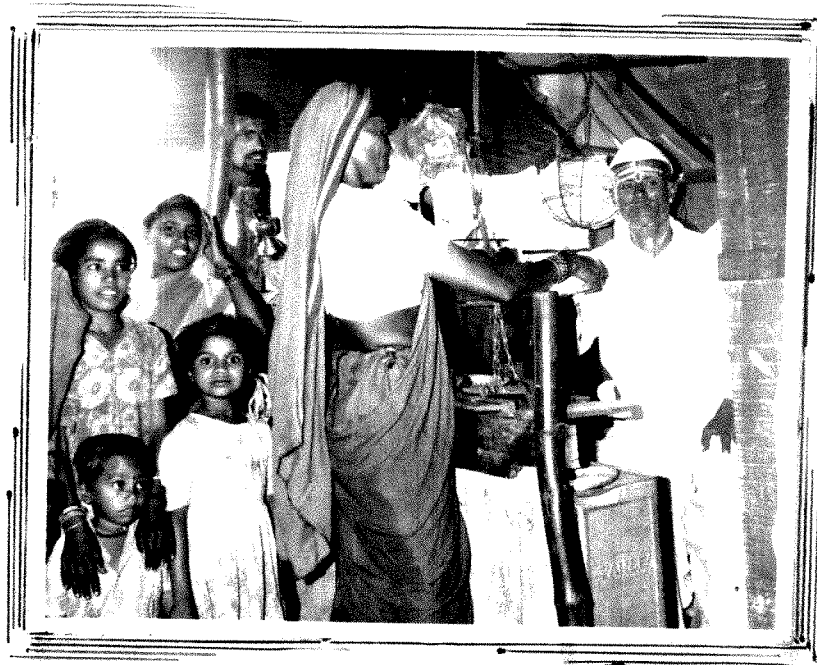


Photo 6 -- A Small Kirana Shop in the Slum.

Population and House Type :

The total population of the 58 declared and undeclared slums is 31,190, out of which there are 15,917 males and 12,802 females. This is not a correct figure, because children have not been enumerated in their census. According to my estimate the total population of the slums should be 64,000. A fresh Survey by the Municipal Corporation may be undertaken to estimate the correct population and their problems.

Labour and the Famine are as the main Pressing Reasons for Emergence of Slums in Kolhapur -

87% respondents migrated from Maharashtra and Karnataka State. Kolhapur City^{is} located on the border of Maharashtra and Karnataka State. Further Kolhapur is an industrially as well as agriculturally developed region which attracts the near^(by) drought stricken people from Jath, Miraj, Kavathe-Mahankal (Sangli District), Sholapur, Osmanabad, Dhule, Jalgaon, Baramati and also from certain areas of Hubli, Athani, Chhikodi, Vijapur, Hukkeri, Shankeshwar (Karnataka). Thus due to the above mentioned reasons Kolhapur ~~is~~ being comparatively developed, agro-industrially^{city} attracts number of people from the above mentioned districts who are found to be engaged in various forms of labour as well as hawkers, carpenters, scrap-workers, etc. Thus there is out^(side) contact and a number of slum areas have come up in the city.

Hindus and the Lower Castes Culture in the Slums -

In terms of religion 88% of the slum respondents are Hindus and in terms of castes 55% of the respondents belong to Lower Castes like Mahar, Mang, Chambhar, Dawari, Koravi, Madari, Kanjarbhat, Wadar, etc. Thus, the slum reflects a Lower Caste Hindu Culture, similar to the rural areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka. But unlike the village settlement pattern there is a mixed pattern of houses of Lower, Middle and Higher Castes in the Slum of Kolhapur. Thus the traditional restrictions of

castes ~~status~~ status on interactions and interpersonal communication is loosened and is less rigid in the slums. Due to the housing problem we find a number of Higher Caste families also staying in the slum area. Hence we may also find rich families.

Illiteracy and Low Education is a Characteristic of the Slum Dwellers in Kolhapur City :-

The percentage of illiteracy is comparatively more among the Lower Caste (72.8%) than among the Middle Caste (35.7%) or the Higher Caste (22.6%). In general, we can say that irrespective of caste, primary education is the most common form of formal education that the slum people get. The reasons for this are the poor economic background and parents attitudes and importance to earning their bread.

Labour and Petty-Sellers the main Occupations of the Slum :-

Majority of slum dwellers (74%) are small businessmen like hawkers, petty-sellers, carpenter, etc., and wage-earners, or labourers. These poor economic occupations and conditions have a direct and indirect influence over the slum dwellers and attitudes towards the family planning. They think that more children is an asset to the family and its income. Further the poverty gives rise to a distinctive culture of the poor people. Oscar Lewis an Anthropologist who made a study of the slums in Mexico and other countries ^{says that} Irrespective of the country or ^{society} ~~version~~ poverty has its own culture which influences the attitudes, knowledge and thinking of the people.

Poor Economic Background of the Majority People in the Slum :-

Majority (65%) of the slum dwellers salary income per month is between Rs. 180 - 500 and therefore they live in poor conditions.

Majority of the slum dwellers had been working as a servant in a cloth stores, Retail and Petty-sellers, Raw-material collectors and sellers, Wage-earners, Coolies, Carpenters, Auto-drivers etc.

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING :-

1) Family Planning is a national and mass-media programme in India, It is an extensive programme in India, where social, economic, ethnic and cultural differences are wide spread. In slum area's 100% respondents irrespective of Caste, Education, Religion etc. , are aware of the Government's Programme of Family Planning which includes the most known things the Vasectomy (Male Operation), Tubectomy (Female Operation) and Condoms.

2) Comparatively, the Hindus who are in majority are more inclined and favourable for the family Planning practice. So we need to give more attention to population education of the different religious minorities, communities in India.

Ideal Number of Children : -

We may say that the respondents of the present study hold a certain opinion about the ideal number of children in accordance with the normal trend of average population in this regard. There is an association between more number of desirable children and lower level of caste groups, substantiated more by Lower Caste and poor groups, whereas Higher and Middle Caste groups showed more preference in favour of less number of desirable children. We observe and confirm that the Muslims preferred to have more number of Children than the Hindus.

It is significant to note that there is almost one to one relationship between the percentage of respondents preferring 3-4

(65%) ideal children and the number of respondents (58%) who got operated after having 3-4 children. The peoples attitude formation, value formation and exposure to educative and informative experiences regarding ideal family size, structure and functions are very important which influence their future course of action, for example, their decision to get operated. It is meant that there is a close relationship between values and attitudes and peoples decisions and actions. This indicates that the Government must give equal importance to population education and ^{for} changing the social, cultural atmosphere of the slum and rural areas favourably.

Reasons for Non-Adoption : -

The Lower Caste group slum people mostly are engaged in Labour and Manual Work. Irrespective of literacy these families prefer to have their wives operated. While taking into account the reasons of non-adopting ^{of} the families ~~the~~ planning operation of male respondents, we see ~~that~~ they fear that they may not be able to do their routine hard-work after the operation.

Out of the female respondents those who did not get operated the most important reason they gave, 'Illness' and 'Fear of Operation'. The male respondents who disapproved birth control (39%) gave, 'Weakness', 'Fear of Operation', 'Lack of Son' and 'Lack of Girl' or 'Additional Children' as reasons.

Extended Family & Joint Family Types Preferred by Majority : -

Majority of the slum dwellers (65%) prefer Extended and Joint families and actually live in these type of families, because they feel it is convenient ^{en} for earning jointly their family income & also to take care of the younger children at home.

Majority of the Slum Dwellers for the Family Planning Programme:-

Majority of the respondents (79%) were for the family planning programme in India, which is likely to bring health and happiness to them.

Effect of Impressions about the Operation :-

Out of 61% family planning Operation respondents, a large majority of them being women (51%) had no problems and had good impressions about the family planning. Only marginal 10% had problems of illness, and had bad impressions about family planning. This indicates that the technical staff mostly Doctors, Nurses and Other Health Staff should take more care of the patients during and after operations. New and simple uncomplicated operation techniques should be followed.

Knowledge about Test-Tube-Baby :-

Majority of the respondents (76%)^{are} still ignorant about developmentsⁱⁿ child-birth. But it seems that only 24% respondents know this new way of child-birth, particularly those who are in contact with the scientific developments. They got the information through News-papers, Radio, Television, etc.

Need of Population Education :-

Family Planning is a National and mass-media programme in India. India is the second largest country in the World in terms of population ~~at~~. It is an extensive programme in India where social, economic, ethnic and cultural differences are wide spread. Day-by-day, the media for large-scale publicity and propaganda are ~~in~~ increasingly evidenced in consonance with the extensive nature of family planning programme in India. Mass-media, such as, the Radio, Television, Newspaper, Documentaries, Magazines,

Exhibitions and Commercialized family planning campaigns have been playing a significant role in creating awareness of family planning among people. Promotional techniques, such as, incentive to the acceptors, family planning education and health education indicating the health hazards in large families help to some extent in motivating^{at} people.