

***Family Planning Programme in India*****By Shanta Kohli Chandra****Delhi, India: Mittal Publication. 1987. 265 pp. Cloth.**

“Family Planning Programme in India” is a report of an evaluative study on the policies, implementation strategies, and adaptation techniques of Indian government in face of rapid population growth. The author, Dr. (Mrs.) Shanta Kohli Chandra, is on the Faculty of the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

The population size of India has rapidly increased in the 20th century, especially after '50. The ignorance, poverty, unemployment, and traditionalism make it difficult to change ordinary people's attitude and custom in family norm. Hence, the family planning program in India seems to be a long-term process of struggle.

The nation-wide family planning program of India started from 1952. In the seventies, some important population policies had been implemented by the Indian government. After three decades from that, the central government realized that the program cannot succeed without people's spontaneous cooperation.

Although the empirical data is not so sufficient, the author tried to explore the status of family planning program and the trend of crude birth rate and to assess the impact of the program with the help of time-trend analysis, goal effectiveness, need effectiveness, analysis of the characteristics of accepters and fertility change. Some primary data of 1970-71 and 1979-80 were used to supplement the secondary data.

The study found that the number of contraceptive acceptors increased rapidly in the seventies. Mainly due to the emphasis of governmental policy, the male sterilization method became the most prevalent method once. However, the number of acceptors of male sterilization declined abruptly when the policy changed after 1977.

In the conclusion, the author suggests that, in order to decline the crude birth rate successfully, efforts must be made in many aspects. In addition to the improvement in the skills and measures of fertility control, the ordinary people must be changed not only in their knowledge of contraception, but also in their attitude toward family planning and in their ideal family size. Education is the main part in changing people, but some other measures which can improve the living conditions of the masses, the standard of living, and the facilities of health care are also needed.

In the effort of increasing contraceptive acceptors, persuasion, instead of coer-

cion, should be used. And family planning program should be implemented in the spirit of service to humanity. People should be inculcated with social responsibility and be enlightened to know the benefits of family planning practice so that they accept the program as their own. In short, family planning must become a people's movement.

As regards policy-making, the author suggests that the population and family planning policies need flexibility allowed to accommodate local differences and, hence, encouraging local participation. Moreover, policy analysis is needed to coordinate population policy with other development planning. Hence, population and development must be pursued simultaneously.

The author also mentioned that the administrative structure needs to be efficient and effective, and the strict bureaucratic system needs to be changed to attract participation by the people.

All of the suggestions made by the author sounds reasonable and acceptable. The main question may be about the sequence of those measures and to what extent they should be emphasized. Considering the whole situation of India, one may wonder how they can take all those measures simultaneously. The author may have provided an ideal approach, but a more limited and practical strategy may be more urgently needed.

Anyway, the volume has provided us with a more or less comprehensive introduction of India's population status and family planning program. From this volume, one can easily find some common features of the third world. The common problems that the third world faces is worth understanding, thinking, and trying to find some kind of resolutions.

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