CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Indias population has been growing at a great pace. With an intention of checking the rapid growth of population the family planning programme was introduced, in the year 1952. Demographic research centres were also established to promote the population research. Since then, innumerable studies have been carried out among the general population of India.

6.94 per cent of Indias population is constituted by the tribals. The growth of the tribal population is higher than that of the general population. Even then, the number of studies carried out among the tribals are very negligible. The present study aims at reducing the existing gap in the tribal demographic research.

The objectives of the study were as follows:

a. To study the composition of the Kota tribe
b. To estimate the level of fertility and to study the fertility differentials of the Kotas.

c. To estimate the level of mortality and to study the mortality differentials.

d. To study migration and differential migration.
Several hypotheses with respect to mortality and fertility have been formulated. Out of the six primitive tribes of the Nilgiris district, the Kota tribe was selected for the present study. By adopting census survey method all the 315 Kota households within the Nilgiris district were studied. Structured interview schedule was used for collecting the data. A period of eight months was spent in the field for data collection. The demographic components, composition, mortality, fertility, migration and growth were covered in this study. Differential mortality, differential fertility and differential migration were also studied. To test the hypotheses analysis of variance and chi-square were used. The data were processed at the Tata Institute of Social sciences, Bombay.

9.2. Main findings:

Composition:

The sex ratio of the Kotas was 931. The sex ratios were 931, 1031, and 748 for the age groups 0-14, 15-44 and 45+ years, respectively. In the young (0-14 years) and old (45 years and above) age groups males exceeded females and in the adult age group (15-44 years) females were in slight excess. The categories, 0-14 years, 15-44 years and 45+ years were constituted by 40.46 per cent of children, 40.31 per cent of adults and 19.22 per cent of old people respectively.
The child dependency ratio, old dependency ratio and total dependency ratio were 75.19, 10.69 and 85.88 respectively. Median age for the Kota males was 21.09 years, for the females was 19.82 years and for both the sexes it was 20.43 years. Mean ages of the Kota, males, females and both sexes were 25.46 years, 23.70 years and 24.61 years respectively. By applying UN secretariat method the accuracy of the age sex structure was tested. A total score obtained was 118.44. A highest percentage of the Kota households (58.79 per cent) belonged to the nuclear family while, only 10.23 per cent of the households belonged to the joint family (all types of joint families put together). 100 per cent and 100.00 per cent of the Kota male and female children respectively in the age group of 0-14 years remained unmarried. 59.58 per cent of the males and 80.74 per cent of the females from the age group 15-44 years were married. In the age group of 45 years and above 21.38 per cent of the males and 40.34 per cent of the females were widowers and widows respectively. Out of the total population, 14.80 per cent of the males and 25.59 per cent of the females were illiterates; 14.94 per cent of males and 15.01 per cent of females had primary education; 19.99 per cent of males and 7.54 per cent of females had secondary education, 2.07 per cent of males and 0.069 per cent of females had collegiate education. Only 16.78 per cent of the Kota women were working outside the house.
and were engaged in occupations like, agriculture, agricultural labour, service, crafts, administration and profession. 13.48 per cent, 4.01 per cent, 3.20 per cent, 9.75 per cent, 4.54 per cent, 0.40 per cent, 5.34 per cent and 2.14 per cent of males in the age group of 15-49 years were belonging to agriculture and agricultural labour, service personnel and security, transport and communication, technical and craftsmen, administrative, professional, no occupation and unemployed categories respectively. In the age group 50 years and above, 12.02 per cent, 0.27 per cent, 0.13 per cent, 2.40 per cent, 0.27 per cent and 1.60 per cent of males were from the agriculture and agricultural labour, service personnel and security, transport and communication, technical and craftsman, household and no occupation categories respectively.

Mortality:

Crude death rate of the Kotas was 16.11. Out of the total deaths which occurred during the reference period, 47.32 per cent of deaths were from the age group 0-4 years. The next highest percentage of deaths occurred in the age group of 70 years and above. An attempt was made to find out the age patterns of death of the children who were born for the currently married women in the age group of 15-44 years. This revealed that the percentage of male children died is greater than the female children in all the age groups.
Important causes of death were fever, prematurity, diarrhea, respiratory diseases and senility. Infant death rate among the Kotas was 120 per 1000 live births. The infant death rate calculated by a method suggested by Barclay was 119.67. For estimating the infant mortality rate some of the indirect methods, like, Brass method, Sullivan method and Trussell method were adopted. The estimated infant mortality rates by Brass, Sullivan and Trussell methods were, 0.1001, 0.1041 and 0.1042 respectively. Proportion of children dying before the age of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 15 years, among the children ever born to women in the age groups of 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years, estimated by Brass method were, 0.0694, 0.1505, 0.2381, 0.2497, 0.2451 and 0.3910 respectively; by Trussell method were 0.0724, 0.1572, 0.2280, 0.2400, 0.2256 and 0.3725 respectively; by Sullivan method were 0.0719, 0.1571, 0.2278, 0.2391, 0.2244 and 0.3704 respectively. An attempt was made to study the differential mortality of Kotas. For this, an index suggested by Vaidyanathan, K.E., was used. The index is, mean loss of children per married woman by age. Analysis of variance was applied to test the significance of the differences among the column means of means. The study showed that the differences in mortality due to the variables like type of family, education of the women, husbands education, working status of the women, husbands occupation, land holding and family income were not significant. The mortality differentials for the Kotas is yet to emerge.
Nuptiality, Fertility and fertility differentials:

The crude marriage rate for the Kotas was 7.61. General marriage rate, unrefined and refined were 12.78 and 43.14 respectively. Mean age at marriage for the Kotas was calculated using Hajnals method and it was 23.43 years for the males and 17.62 years for the females. Mean age at widowhood was also calculated by Hajnals method. The mean age at widowhood unrefined and refined were 34.9133 years and 34.0498 years respectively. Mean age at widowerhood, unrefined and refined were 35.1543 and 35.5820 respectively. For the study of fertility, Cohort approach and current approach were adopted. The age specific marital fertility rates of the Kota women in the age group of 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years were, 137.93, 327.27, 200.00, 129.03, 83.33 and 80.00 respectively. General marital fertility rate was 185.93. Total marital fertility rate was 4.79. The crude birth rate was 30.11 and the crude birth rate calculated by Reles method was 32.50. In the current approach average number of children ever born for the women in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44 years were, 0.52, 1.69, 3.29, 4.94, 5.04 and 6.28 respectively. Total fertility rate was 3.5125 and the total fertility rates calculated by Brass method were 5.7475 and 5.263. Basing on these estimates and comparing these estimates with that of the Tamil Nadu data, it can/said that the fertility of the Kotas is high.
Among the currently married Kota women married only once, only one woman (0.50 per cent) was primarily sterile. 7.54 per cent of the Kota women in the age group of 15-44 years were secondarily sterile.

In the study of differential fertility, both the cohort and current approaches were used. Analysis of variance was applied to test the significance of the differences in the mean values column means of the cohort approach. Standardization technique was also used in the cohort approach. Chi-square test was made use of in the current approach to find out the association between the dependent and independent variables. The analysis revealed that the differences in the means of means in the cohort approach, due to husbands education, wives education, husbands occupation, occupation of wife, type of family, number of members economically active, family income, land holding and marital duration were not significant. In the current approach also there was no significant association found between these independent variables and fertility. For the age at consummation and number of children deceased differences in the mean values of column means in the cohort approach were found significant at 5 per cent level. In the current approach, a significant association was observed. The fertility differentials in the Kota population has emerged with respect to two variables and with respect to other variables it is yet to emerge.
Internal migration of the Kotas was studied. Direct measures were used to estimate the migration of the Kotas. Place of birth approach, duration of last residence approach and place of last previous residence approach were adopted in the present study. The Kotas of the Nilgiris district traditionally lived in seven villages, namely, Gudalur, Killi, Kotagiri, Kollimalai, Kundah Kotagiri, New Kotagiri, Sholur and Trichicadi. At present the Kotas are seen living in places like, Ooty, Indu Nagar, Aruvankadu, Wellington, Coonoor of the Nilgiris district. Some of the Kotas have migrated to other districts of Tamil Nadu and even to other states like Kerala, Karnataka. The present study was confined to the migrants within the Nilgiris district.

By the place of birth approach, 200 migrants were identified and in this, 19 per cent were males and 81 per cent were females. By duration of residence and place of last residence approaches, 217 migrants were found out. Out of the migrants in these approaches 23.04 per cent and 76.96 per cent were males and females respectively. The number of inmigrants was equal to the inmigrants in the birth place approach. Because of this both the inmigrants and out-migrants were not studied. Only the inmigrants were studied in detail. The characteristics of the migrants identified by the place
of last residence approach was compared with the characteristics of the non-migrants. Age, sex, marital status, educational status and occupation were the aspects covered.

The percentage of migrant children in the age group of 0-14 years is smaller than the percentage of non-migrant children in the 0-14 years age group. In contrast to this, the per cent of migrants in the 15-49 years of age is higher than that of the non-migrants in the corresponding age group. This suggests that it is the population in the 15-49 years of age which migrate more than the children.

A comparison of the sex ratios of the migrants and non-migrants shows that the proportion of females among the migrants is high while it is not so among the non-migrants. The female migrants had a longer duration of stay than the males.

The percentage of married persons is high among the migrants and the percentage of unmarried is high among the non-migrants. This suggests that the married persons migrate greatly than the unmarried. The highest percentages in all the durations of residence was constituted by the married female migrants.
The male migrants had a high educational attainment while the female migrants were with only low educational level.

A comparison of the male migrants and non-migrants reveals that among those who were engaged in transport and communication, technical, administrative and professional occupations, a greater percentage was constituted by the migrants. Between the female non-migrants and migrants the difference is very little with respect to occupation.

A highest percentage (64.00) of the male migrants migrated due to occupations and a highest percentage of female migrants (71.86 per cent) migrated because of marriage.

Growth:

The population of the Kotas was 1267 and was 1446 in 1980. The population was marked by negative and positive variations. During the decades, 1961-1971 and 1971-80 the variation continued to be positive. The natural growth rate of the Kotas was 14.00 and is lower than the growth rates than the growth rates of Tamil Nadu and India. Proportion of females in the 15-49 years of age groups according to 1961 census and according to the present study were 0.2368 and 0.2337 respectively. Though the proportion has shown a decline, it is very small.