PREFACE

Centuries have been jostling with man and his activities. All social sciences such as Demography, Economics, History etc. revolve round them. The question on the number of the people on the earth and their means of subsistence have been raised and answered from time immemorial. Unfortunately, the area of land and its resources are finite, but population is expanding rapidly in whole of the World. Especially, in developing countries, growth rate is high in comparison to other countries, India, one of the developing countries has small resources base but a large population and vast majority of population lives in abject poverty. The high rate of population growth in India is not beneficial from the economic and social point of view. It is the need of today to control the population growth by the reduction of birth rate every where in India.

One of the methods to control the fertility is the large use of family planning methods. It is obvious that when a couple wants to limit their family size through family planning programmes or otherwise, this limitation is likely to
be reflected in the number of surviving children of the couple and this change in family size affects the birth rate. The need for family planning is recognised by all and it is recognised as a national policy in India and as an integrated part of social-economic plans. For policy purposes, it has always thought to seek these socio-economic factors which have a bearing of fertility behaviour. Consequently several surveys have been conducted throughout India to examine the knowledge, attitude and practice of family planning methods and to find out influences of various socio-economic variables on fertility. With a view to develop further knowledge on the relationship between socio-economic variables and fertility we undertook the present study. The study selected the following socio-economic variables to investigate their influence on fertility in Azamgarh city (situated in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, India), viz. age at marriage, education of male/female, religion, economic status, type of family and marriage duration.

The subject is divided in five chapters. The chapter 1 is introductory describing the view of several past and present thinkers on the population problem. Also without knowing objectives and purposes of study, no proper study can be done. Hence chapter 2 deals with objectives and methodology in details.
Chapter 3 deals with the structure of sample population and current fertility measures of reproductive women aged 15-49 year of sample population. Different measures of fertility such as CBR, CDR, ASFR, GRR etc. are calculate to know the present level of fertility in project area.

The influence of certain socio-economic variables on fertility of women is discussed in chapter 4 giving the results of previous studies conducted throughout India and World.

The conclusions and suggestion are written in chapter 5 of the thesis. Some useful suggestion are provided which may be helpful for checking the population growth through fertility declination.

The author believes that the results of this investigation would provide important information useful to researchers, policy maker and administrator concerned with the solution of the present population problem.

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(P.C. Srivastava)