Man by virtue of his intellectual superiority has exploited the natural resources and thrived so well that its own numerical preponderance has posed threat to its future existence. There is a hue and cry among the civilized people about rapid increase in human heads. Space and food on this 'good earth' is not unlimited and also there is increased danger of intra-specific struggle. Disparity in technological knowledge, crippled with political chauvinism has charged the global atmosphere with unhealthy competition.

A Report by Dr. Richard Estoo of Pennsylvania University School of Social Work reveals that overall quality of life in most of the Afro-Asian countries is very low with India occupying 85th position. All of our technological advancement will be dissipated if a large section of world population is dehumanized by the so called affluents.

When man was completely under the mercy of Nature, the population number was balanced according to the territorial resources by natural process. But when medical knowledge flowed to such people who are developing, the first sign we notice is that onslaught of death is stalled. But birth remained
Thus there has been a sharp rise in population number. There are three categories of population - (a) where birth rate and death rate are artificially controlled; (b) where death rate is lowered but not birth rate; and (c) where birth and death rates are still controlled by Nature.

Most of the developing nations conform to the second category. The national planners are at a loss to implement the development programmes. The demographers have appeared at the scene to diagnose the root of the ailment.

Birth is obviously a biological process but in case of man, this is greatly influenced by a number of non-biological elements like social, cultural and economical conditions. Epidemic and other natural calamities which take toll of human life, are indirectly responsible for reproduction. Human reproduction and its successful survival is thus a very complex aspect of our life, and the demographic studies are also of very divergent types.

Often we see diverse results of similar types of studies on human population in different regions of this earth. Our final detection is ever elusive. Various types of demographers have attacked the problem of fertility, mortality, survivability and even infertility from different angles - yet no result has
been universal solution. Each type of population with all its special socio-economic and ecological features, present a problem of its own.

Coming to the Indian context, we observe that more complexity is added to the problem because the social cultural, economic and ecological perspectives vary in different regions. It is an unsolved problem that which factor leads to increased birth. It is not that demographic studies are less but the uniqueness of the variable features. India is groping the solution of controlled birth so that every citizen can be provided with better facilities of life.

Orissa is a State, where we find extension of traditionalism to a deeper extent. Modernization is very recent and still at superficial level. Demographic studies on this burning question of human reproduction are still very meagre in this part of India. Present project has been taken up to unravel the underlying correlative factors of fertility in a limited scale. The facts presented in this dissertation can be called "a tale of two cities" - a traditional ancient urban settlement and a new developing town.

Human fertility is influenced by such a multitude of factors, that it is a stupendous task to pay attention to all variables in such a limited attempt. In this study the attempt
has been made to find out the influence of most of the variables on fertility. My study has also been geared by various factors like - availability of U.G.C. Fellowship, consequent leave from service, which enabled me to devote full attention, and encouragement from my family members. Dr. Usha Deke, Reader in Physical Anthropology, Teacher during my post-graduate years, tailored the project suitably and finally offered full guidance in this venture, so I owe her a special debt of gratitude. I am also indebted to Dr. B.K. Mahapatra, Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology, Utkal University, for the encouragement I am grateful to Dr. Supriya Ghosh Mallick, Lecturer in Anthropology, Utkal University for the enormous help he has rendered. I am grateful to all those informants, who rendered hearty cooperation and wasted their valuable time, for me. Lastly I am thankful to Sri Sanjib Chakrabarty, a staff member of the Utkal University who took all the pain in going through the manuscript and neatly typing this report.