PREFACE

The dissertation presented here is titled "Trends in Demographic Behaviour of the Low-Income-Group in Kanpur". It would not be out of place to write here a few words about the importance of the subject. It is a well known fact that India is the most populous country in the world after China. Little effort was made in India before independence to check the population growth. After independence when the programme was launched for economic development under the five year plans, the large population of the country and its unchecked growth rate were considered to be great hurdles in raising the level of income and also the per-capita income needed for a reasonable standard of living. The economic planners and the policy-makers including administrators, require a lot of information on various aspects of demographic behaviour to prepare development plans.

A perusal of the population study in India reveals that there is a dearth of intensive demographic analysis of various socio-economic groups in the country. An intensive demographic information of even the smallest social limit is of far greater importance than a wide and extensive enumeration of the population of the whole country with less accuracy and informative details. It is because of this fact that I have been encouraged to take the study of population
behaviour in the industrial city of Kanpur only. Further, I have confined this study only to the low-income-group generally termed as poor. This section comprises the bulk of the population. It is ill-fed, ill-bred, ill-educated and lives on the verge of poverty. The poor do not realize that large families are a curse. They think that the larger the family the more numerous are the avenues to the income. The parents engage children in income producing work instead of sending them to school. A couple living in poverty without economic and social aspiration to contribute to the progress of society, find childbearing and rearing as the most rewarding experience of life. Thus, this group is most prone to multiply quantitatively and is in sore and urgent need of effective control in the rate of growth of population.

I have undertaken this study with a view to collecting detailed information on topics which are generally not covered by census operation but they do affect the pattern of population and its growth. The age when a child goes to school, differential fertility attitudes, effect of education, public health facility, rise in the age of effective marriage and its effect on fertility, etc. are some of the matters on which information has been collected, which may prove useful for launching a successful programme to stabilize the population.
The work is basically based on primary data collected, compiled and computed by the author. An attempt has been made to furnish not merely demographic data but also to reveal some of the implications of socio-economic and cultural facts which affect the household structure and family habits of the low-income-group in the urban area. The present study has been broadly divided into six chapters including conclusion.

The introductory chapter classifies the population of Kanpur city according to the economic status into four groups. Persons living in High-Income-Group Families, Middle-Income-Group Families, Low-Income-Group Families and those living below the poverty line. Particularly, investigation of persons of Low-Income-Group has been done by collecting information through the survey method.

The second chapter analyses the population growth, structure and distribution in Kanpur town in general and low-income-group in particular on the basis of census data as well as on the basis of field survey data.

The third chapter deals with migration, a social and economic phenomenon, which affects the size and structure of the population in a given area. One of the important features of the population of the metropolitan city of Kanpur is that quite a large percentage of its population consists of migrants.
The fourth chapter deals with fertility and mortality which occupy a pivotal position in the study of demographic behaviour.

The fifth chapter deals with family planning and population policy. It discusses some effective schemes to induce the persons, particularly of the low-income-group to prefer to having a smaller number of children and adopt family planning.

The six, concluding chapter sums up the findings in the thesis and suggests measures for the control of rapid population growth.

Though the survey and study has been strictly limited to the city of Kanpur, the author in all humility, claims universal applicability of the measures suggested by her. For the causes of population explosion, wherever it occurs, specially in the Third World Countries, are similar and call for similar solutions.

The present work, however, could not have been accomplished without the assistance and encouragement received from many quarters. I have pleasure in gratefully acknowledging these debts. I take pleasure in recording here my sincere and profound gratitude to Dr. K.J. Srivastava my supervisor, whose invaluable and patient guidance has been a torch of
light through the dark and mazy path of research, to Mr. B.L. Shukla, and Shri R.P. Singh Research Officer (Map) Census Directorate, U.P., whose advice, whenever I sought it has been ungrudging and fruitful.

My grateful thanks are also due to the librarians and staffs of the Library of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Phool Bagh Library, Kanpur, Jawahar Bhavan Library, Lucknow, Census Office, Lucknow, Acharya Narendra Dev Library, Lucknow.

I am also indebted to numerous scholars and authors whose work I have studied in preparation of this thesis. I am also highly grateful to authors whose opinions have been quoted in this thesis.

Last but not least, I am exceedingly indebted to my parents who often relinquished many things precious to their life to ease my research efforts.

In the end, I should like to state that I own personal responsibility for the views expressed in this thesis.


Arthi Pandey

ARTI PANDEY