SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The preceding sections of the study on fertility dimensions in Sagar district bring out clearly that the pressure on land surface is not very high, but the population is increasing with an accelerated growth rate, therefore this part of the country is becoming crowded continuously. The high fertility is one of the main determinants of population growth in this region. Consequently, the present study focuses on the analysis of different determinants of fertility. It is therefore concluded that the crude birth rate, general fertility rate, total fertility rate, age specific fertility rate, age specific marital fertility rate, gross reproduction rate and cumulative fertility rate is relatively high in this part of the state.

The main highlights of the study are that the primary and middle level of education has surprisingly no positive impact on the restraint of fertility. Similarly, there is no difference between general and other backward castes as regards fertility, but a significant increase has been recorded in SC/ST, and Muslim population. The age at marriage has been found to be the important determinant.

Early and child marriages have still prevalent in the rural areas of this region. Higher educated couples have been recorded to have less children than the illiterates or educated up to middle level couples. Illiteracy and ignorance among women have been identified to be responsible for higher fertility. Economically weaker sections of the society have been recorded to have higher fertility than well versed
families. Moreover, correlation coefficient between level of economy and fertility has been reported to be negative.

The following section of this study has presented a brief account of the thesis:

**THE STUDY REGION**

Sagar district has favorable physical and cultural environment for development and therefore, this region is one of the developed part of Madhya Pradesh. Sagar district is sixteenth largest district of Madhya Pradesh in terms of area (2.32 per cent) and eleventh in terms of population (2.53 per cent). Sagar district is situated in the north central part of Madhya Pradesh. The district lies at the south-eastern edge of the Malwa region. It lies to the north of the Narmada River and is actually separated from its valley by a steep escarpment towards the south. The average level of the district is about 457.2 to 533.4 meters above mean sea level but elevations range from 353.56 meters to 683.36 meters.

The drainage of the district is directed towards the north and north-east. The five big rivers of the district viz, the Bina, the Dhasan, the Bewas, the Sonar and the Bamner are all perennial rivers. They form the main streams which are joined by a number of small tributaries, most of which are only wet-weather rills coming down the intervening ridges and joining the main streams at an acute angle. It is noteworthy that although the river Narmada flows within ten kilometers of southernmost boundary of the district, most of the area is really a part of the catchments area of the Ganges.

The climate of this district is generally pleasant and salubrious. The cold season from November to February is followed by the hot season from March to the middle of June. The Monsoon season is
from mid June to the end of September. The daily range of temperature is highest, 14.4°C (59.9°F) in the month of April due to the low percentage of humidity in the atmosphere. This range decreases considerably in July, making the lowest range of temperature 6°C (42.8°F) in August in which month the humidity is recorded to be highest with the full scene of rainy season.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION**

**Distribution and Density of Population:** It is observed that 21.5 per cent villages in the study area have population less than 200 and 35.4 per cent villages have population between 200 and 499. These percentages are higher as compared to the State’s average, which is 16.5 per cent and 32.3 per cent respectively. It is observed that population density in the study area is 197 per square kilometer, which is higher than State’s population density (196). Whereas rural population density is reported approximately equal to State level, the urban population density is higher compared to State’s urban density.

**Growth of Population:** The population of Sagar district has been growing with an accelerating rate (24.53 per cent). This percentage is 2.31 per cent lower than the State average of 26.84 per cent and it is 1.03 per cent higher than the National average growth rate (23.5 per cent). The high and accelerated growth rate is a result of the relatively high fertility in connection with a rapidly declining mortality. The population was increasing at an annual rate of nearly 1.0 per cent in the first half of the 20th century but it suddenly jumped to nearly 2.5 per
cent per annum in the second half of the century. It is observed that during 1951-61, and 61-71 decades the per cent decadal variation has been more in the district compared to the State as a whole. It is recorded 1.4 per cent increase (25.21 per cent against 24.17 per cent) during 1951-61 decade and 4.69 per cent increase (33.26 per cent against 28.67) during 1961-71 decade, which is highest increase in the century in the district. These two decades of the century recorded extreme increase in population.

The growth rate among male population has generally been found to be higher than female during last century in Sagar district. Total increase in the male population in this decade in Sagar district has been 20.1 per cent while female population recorded 19.2 per cent increase with respect to the total population of the district.

Wide differentials have been recorded in the rural urban growth rate of population in Sagar district. The decadal variation during 1971-81 has been 41.63 per cent in urban areas and 19.01 per cent in rural areas whereas during 1981-91 decade this variation has been observed to be 35.48 per cent and 22.12 per cent respectively.

The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population in the study region have been observed to be multiplying at a faster rate than that of general population.

**Age and Sex Structure:** In the study region, the proportion of females is observed to be higher than males in the age groups of children and aged persons, while it is lower than males in the adult age population. The similar situation is also observed in urban centers but in rural areas the age-groups of children and aged population of females is higher than males of the same age group. The percentage of male adolescents (0 to 14 age) ranges from 13.8 per cent to 12.9 per cent in the study area which
is a little higher than the State which vary from 13.4 per cent to 11.8 per cent. Similarly females of this age group range from 14.8 per cent to 12.4 per cent which too are higher than the State level data (13.9 per cent to 11.4 per cent). Males of old age group (above sixty) in the district have 5.5 per cent population which is slightly less than the State level (5 per cent) whereas the females have 5.8 per cent and 5.9 per cent of the population at the district and State level respectively in this age group which has approximately equivalence.

The percentage of children below fifteen in rural areas (42.3 per cent) is higher than urban centers (38.6 per cent) whereas adults in urban areas (55.4 per cent) are higher than rural areas (50.8 per cent). Aged persons in rural areas have been observed to be 0.4 per cent less than State level (6.6 per cent as against 7.0 per cent) whereas in urban centers it has been found to be 0.2 per cent higher than the State total (5.5 per cent as against 5.3 per cent). The lower proportion of adults in the rural areas is the result of age selecting migration to urban centers. This rural to urban migration has indirectly enhanced the proportion of adults in urban centers.

Relatively low sex ratio in urban centers is the result of male selective migration. Sharp spatial variations in the sex ratio have been recorded in different development blocks of the study region. All the development blocks and other towns of the district, fall within the moderate to low range of sex ratio. No part of the district has been observed to be a relatively high sex ratio area since past fifty years. Some development blocks viz. Banda, Bina, Deori and Shahgarh show a tendency from low to moderate sex ratio range.

**Literacy and Education:** The literacy rate increased by 3.3 times during the last forty years from 20.51 per cent in 1961 to 68.08 per cent in
2001. Male literacy has increased by more than two and half times from 30.52 per cent to 79.96 per cent while female literacy has increased more than five and half times from 9.64 per cent to 54.5 per cent during the same period.

The progress in both enrolment of the students and institutions has been very slow up to 1961 but its speed got accelerated in successive decades. During 1981 decade the district had 1238 primary, 227 middle, 62 higher secondary schools, six colleges and a university. The position further improved in 1991 when enrolment in the age groups below 15, below 20 and below 25 years of age reached to 81.9 per cent, 54.16 per cent and 17.65 per cent in urban areas and 59.45 per cent, 25.85 per cent and 4.49 per cent in rural areas respectively.

It is observed that 53.4 per cent persons (44 per cent rural and 75.5 per cent urban) of age group 7 to 10 years, are literate which is higher than the State 44.2 per cent (35.9 per cent rural and 70.8 per cent urban). Male female differences at this age group have also recorded higher percentage than State (67 per cent males as against 58.4 per cent and 37.8 per cent females as against 28.8 per cent). In a similar way the age group of 10-15 years the percentage of literates at the district level has recorded 53 per cent (43.4 per cent rural and 75.1 per cent urban) as against 43 per cent (35.3 per cent rural and 70.4 per cent urban) at the State level.

The percentage of literates in rural area is 34.32 per cent as against 61.76 per cent in urban areas. This shows remarkable difference of 27.44 per cent between rural, urban literacy. It is still amazing that the females in rural areas lag far being than the males in literacy compared with urban females. The literacy level below middle school rural and urban percentage in Sagar district has recorded higher
than the State for both sex. As regards graduate and higher level of literacy the district is lagging behind the State data both in rural and urban centers and males and females. The differences in literacy percentage by residence are attributable to the educational facilities, occupational necessity and migration of literate persons from rural areas to urban centers. The poverty and backwardness of the people in rural areas of the district are the causes of lower proportion of literacy.

**Occupational Structure** : In Sagar district, the proportion of main and marginal workers have been recorded 39.1 per cent (50.4 per cent males, 26.2 per cent females) which is 3 per cent less than the State level (42.8 per cent including 52.3 per cent males and 32 per cent females) percentage of females is nearly half of the males. Similarly proportion of working population in rural areas is higher than urban areas (41.8 per cent as against 32.5 per cent). The proportion of female workers in urban areas is nearly half of the rural areas (16.6 per cent as against 30.2 per cent) whereas the females participation in working force recorded, one fourth of the rural area at the State level.

There is great difference between two sexes in terms of participation rate in Sagar district. It is evident from the fact that the male participation rate (50.4 per cent) is 24.2 per cent higher than the females (26.2 per cent). Sharp, rural urban differentials have been observed in Sagar district. Rural participation rate for main workers is reported to be 62.6 per cent, which is 11.2 per cent higher than urban areas. As regards marginal workers rural participation (9 per cent) is found to be 6.9 per cent higher than the urban centres (2.8 per cent).
INDICES OF FERTILITY

Some basic measures of fertility include crude birth rate, ratio of fertility, general fertility rate, age specific fertility rate, total fertility rate, gross reproduction and cumulative fertility rate. These rates have been calculated from the survey data.

Crude Birth Rate: The CBR calculated for whole district is very high (45.7 per thousand). Spatial analysis shows CBR to be minimum (38.6 per thousand) of Bamori renga in Sagar development block where as maximum (57.8 per thousand) of Bichpuri village in Banda block. In general CBR to be below 35 per thousand is treated to be low but no development block of Sagar district falls within this limit. Only three development blocks Rehli (Dararia 38.7 Per thousand), Bina (Kirood 40.4 per thousand) and Sagar (Bamori renga 38.6 per thousand) fall within middle category of CBR (i.e. 35 to 40 per thousand). The high category ranges from 40 to 45 per thousand and only one village Toomri (45.6 per thousand) of Kesli development block and Sagar city (45.5 per thousand) fall within this range, It is observed that rest of the seven development blocks Jarvans (47.9 per thousand) Khurai, Jamundhana (50.9 per thousand) Malthone, Sansan (54.8 per thousand), Shahgarh, Samos (52.6 per thousand) Rahatgarh, Chimadhana (50.80 per thousand) Deori, Khaijra-mafi (56.5 per thousand), Jaisinagar and Bichpuri (57.8 per thousand) of Banda fall within very high CBR i.e. greater than 45 per thousand.

Total Fertility Rate: The TFR of the district as whole is recorded to be 4.29 and quite variation in TFR of different villages have been observed. TFR for age group 15-19 vary from 2.5 to 5.0 which cover the middle to high range; Age group 20-24 year includes 3.0 to 4.6 which also touch the high level of TFR. Age groups 25-29 to 35-39 show the variation of
TFR between 4 to 5 indicates higher level of fertility in these age groups for all the villages.

**Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR):** The GRR for district is calculated to be 5.56 which is very high. The values of GRR for various strata range from (2.7) to 8.8 in Bichpuri (Banda) and Khejra Mafi (Jaisinagar) respectively. Jarvans (2.8) and Bichpuri (2.7) may be placed in lower category of GRR where as Samos (3.3) and Chimadhana (3.5) in low category. Toomri (4.5) may be placed in middle category and other villages viz. Kirrod (6.8) Jumundhana (7.5), Sansan(6.3), Dararia(7.9) Bamori rengua (7.4), Khejra mafi (8.8) and Sagar city (7.8) may be categorized as high and extremely high GRR.

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND FERTILITY**

The tendency of fertility can be found out on the basis of present age of women. If the percentage of the present age of women in the age group 15-19 is less the rate of fertility in that area would be less but it would tend to increase with an increase in the age range.

**Age at marriage and Fertility:** It is often felt that the enhancement of age at marriage leads to a reduction in fertility. The inverse association between the two has been reported very recently. Women marrying below 18 have approximately same fertility to those marrying within 18 to 21 but it is higher than those who marry within 22-25 range of age at marriage, except for a few villages, however a marriage age above 25, there seems to be a different effect on fertility.

**Duration of married life and fertility:** The duration of 10 to 14 years after marriage is the peak duration of fertility in this region. Women who marry early usually do have more children within each age group and they are found to say, they want no more children. The practice of early
marriages in rural areas of this region results in terminal abstinence for women who have become grand mothers.

**Interval between two births and Fertility:** The fertility has been observed to be high for the women giving birth to the children every one or two to three years. Similar pattern of fertility behaviour with respect to the interval between two births has been observed in different villages of the district.

**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND FERTILITY**

**Economic Level and Fertility:** The annual income of the respondents plays considerable role as regards fertility in the study region. The poorer groups show a higher proportion of nuclear families than the wealthier classes. The higher fertility depicted by nuclear families might have been due to their lower socio-economic status rather than more privacy and higher coital frequency.

**Occupation and fertility:** Sagar district comprises with the villages of mostly poor people. The economy of the district depends on agriculture and its production. Whereas 21.4 per cent have owning their lands 56.0 per cent are landless agricultural labourers. These people fall within very low (54.5 per cent below Rs. 10000) and low (24.9 per cent below Rs. 25000) category of income group. The fertility of these people have recorded to be higher (3.2 to 3.4) than the service and trade class people which is recorded to be 2.4 and 2.9 respectively. Service and trade class people are 13.5 per cent and 9.1 per cent and they belong to middle and high income group as discussed in forgoing sections. Since income and occupation are interlinked therefore the similar pattern of inverse relationship is observed in occupation and fertility with a little variation depending on the economic level of occupation concern.
Labourers and low income group population has been identified to contribute more children compared to other classes and income groups because they follow the concept of more children more income to meet out the fundamental needs of the every day life. The empirical estimates clearly reveal that in certain societies male become net contributors at an early age as compared to females. In traditional societies, the average cost of a male child is more than a female as infants, pre-school children and adults. Again the age at which children become benefactors to the family is positively associated with the income class of the household, and children of high wage mothers are relatively costlier. Thus the son preference attitudes of such societies become another cause of increase in the fertility of labour class.

In order to prove the inter relationship of various income groups and working fields the correlation coefficients may be reliable figures for the test of above mentioned inferences. The strong positive correlation is observed in each category. Very low and low income groups belonging to labour and agriculture class of people show very high correlation (0.99 to 0.95 and 0.93 to 0.99 respectively). These groups have the concept of more children more sources of income. Service class and trade or commerce people of these income groups have shown coefficient of correlation 0.82 to 0.73 and 0.81 to 0.72 indicating thereby that as the income and understanding of the people increases the coefficient of correlation decreases to a considerable amount than the previous value. Similar inferences have also been observed in middle and high income group for all the above said categories. Thus the fertility is found to have strong inverse correlation with the level of socio-economic attainments.
EDUCATION, RELIGION AND FERTILITY

The Illiteracy and Fertility: The economy of Sagar district is agro-based and mostly the people are illiterate dominated by very high degree of poverty. There are negligible medical facilities in rural area and the education institutions are also not in satisfactory number. Thus, the people have less opportunity to be aware to the socio-economic level of development. Fertility has been found to be much higher in illiterates and labour class of people than others. Illiteracy of women has been identified to be responsible for higher fertility.

Literacy and Fertility: It is also observed that the primary level literacy has no impact on fertility as, it does not ascertain awareness and understanding in males and females. If the female literacy is increased to an understanding level as compared to illiterate males, the fertility has been found to decline by 3.5 per cent which is showing that the feminine literacy has positive impact on the fertility control.

Education and Fertility: Education of females affects the level and trends of fertility adversely and can be the best measure of fertility restraint in this area. Higher education in both husband and wives has shown remarkable decrease in fertility. The higher education especially in women leads to better understanding and autonomy in decision making. In urban areas the higher level education is available but in rural area it is still a daydream. Rural women do not get such privileges of higher education but this study suggests that the education of women at higher level have tremendous impact on conserving and controlling fertility. It is thus desirable that the higher level education for women be provided especially in rural areas where the maximum population of the district
resides. Thus this study confirms the concept of negative influence of raising education to fertility.

**Correlation coefficients between different levels of literacy and Fertility**: The correlation coefficients for literate husband only up to primary and middle level have shown equivalence (0.73 and 0.72) similarly higher secondary and college level educated husbands show equivalence (0.82 and 0.83) in correlation. This suggests that the education of only husbands up to middle level reduces 28 per cent fertility while higher and college level educated husbands could reduce only 18 per cent. This simply shows that the illiterate females even if married to higher educated males have less impact on reducing fertility compared to those who have middle level education. The correlation coefficients for literate wives only up to primary, middle, higher and college level have been found be 0.92, 0.80, 0.72 and 0.58 respectively showing reducing effect to 8.0 per cent, 20 per cent, 28 per cent and 42 per cent with respect to illiterates. The education of wives has tremendous positive impact on fertility as compared to husbands.

**The Caste - Spectrum and Fertility**: In Sagar district there are various castes of indigenous nature and people of various religious beliefs. While field survey such points have been included in the questionnaire in order to probe caste variables in fertility. Caste and religion wise analysis suggests that Muslims, scheduled caste and tribes have higher fertility than in other castes. Poverty, illiteracy, early marriages of women, superstitions, irrational illogical and unscientific religious beliefs have been identified to come in the way of educating women in Muslims and reserve caste people which consequently lead to higher fertility in Sagar city. Although some Muslims give religious reasons for not controlling fertility, their approval and participation in the family planning program
shows that religion is not expressly opposed to it. Or, possible, the dictates of religion barring abortion or sterilization are not strictly adhered to, with educational and socio-economic development. Thus the operative forces seem to be more economic and educational rather that directly religious. Other castes and religions like Christians and Sikhs have been found to be economic and educational rather that directly religious. Other castes and religions like Christians and Sikhs have been found to be literate at higher level than others; they have reported less fertility than Muslims and SC or ST.

FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAMME

The FWP in the study region has been partially successful. The most effective period of the programme has been from 1984-85 to 1990-91. During this period the percentage of target achievement has shown satisfactory results and consequently the CPR of the district attained a level either higher than the State and National level or equal to it. This fact agreed with the results of decadal growth rate and exponential growth rate of population, which remained unchanged during two decades i.e. from 1971 to 1990.

During 1991-2001 decade, the percentage of target achievement and CPR diminished continuously yet the decadal growth and exponential growth rate reduced to 22.7 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively, which may be due to the accelerating literacy rate among women during this decade. The increasing level of the education in females led them to the awareness of small family and maternal childcare. Diminishing trend in the CPR during last decade may be the consequence of the Hon’ble Supreme Court’s order which held surgeon doing sterilization responsible for the after effects, if the operation failed. In
spite of effective influence of FWP and MCH programme the TFR in the district is still higher than the national average which needs attention of the programme operators to improve their techniques to change the attitude of the common people specially of women of both the urban and rural area. If the swift measures in this regard are not observed, the explosion in population may create dangerous situation during 2001-2011 decade in this district.

Fertility and contraception behaviour seem to be inter-woven and obviously, the study of one should not be isolated from the other. Thus the extent of awareness of family planning methods, use of contraceptive methods and the period since last pregnancy are the issues which may be considered to assess the net impact of FWP in any area. The age pattern of average of family planning characteristics reveals that the extent of family planning knowledge and practice of contraceptive methods improves with age. The concerned improvement in knowledge is observed to be much faster in former age groups (15-30) whereas the extent of use in the latter age groups (30-39 years).

**Growth of Population and FWP**: Unrestricted growth of population adds a disturbing dimension to be social situations in the study region. Soaring population growth rates are unmistakably neutralizing development efforts. Not only are they eating into the much needed surplus but also they are almost constantly undermining physical quality of life of the people and population quality. This makes the plateau effect in family welfare planning all the more disquieting.

It may be restated that the children are not a matter of mere statistics and that fertility has to itself several socio-cultural dimensions. In order to alter or reduce it in any appreciable manner, a systematic understanding of social environment is essential. FWP in this region may
therefore be successful if the positive and substantial role of literacy or education in small family norms is utilized. Social norms and values have same importance as an appraisal of social environment. Fertility has social and religious overtones in this district. The religious groups in varying degrees opposed to antinatalism. FWP has been going on for five decades; fewer couples are able to restrict themselves to one or two children. Even acceptors of FWP have four or more children. Preferences of male offspring is a feature in the study region, a couple may come to have several daughters in the hope of be getting a son. The son syndrome and status of women in family are the two important features coming in the way of accepting FWP. It is observed that literate, medium or high status of wife in the family, have fewer children without any discrimination to son or daughter. Literacy and education have a direct bearing on the thought ways and work ways of individual and more importantly on the welfare of family, hence the primary school system should be standardized. The existence of school teachers and their influence over population group may be utilized.

**Characteristics of Acceptors:** Exposures to mass media and acceptor status have shown a strong relationship. More than a third of non acceptors have a low level of exposure to mass media followed by acceptors (24 per cent) and even acceptors (10 per cent). In contrast more than a third of even acceptors have a high level of exposure to mass media, followed by acceptors and non acceptors. Thus there is a strong case for strengthening mass media and for garnering public opinion for speedy and effective FWP work. Handling of after effects of various temporary and permanent methods of FWP is of more importance. Nearly two thirds of the acceptors of permanent methods facing after effects report that, their problems could not be resolved satisfactorily. Needless
to add, this type of behaviour in PHC's and Sub-centres bounds to have adverse implication of the FWP image in the public of the study region.

The Caste - Spectrum and FWP: While analysis it is observed that over three-fourth of the targeted are followers of Hindu religion, followed by those of Sikhism, Islam and Christianity. If we compare the acceptors status of the religious group the sample of Christians is too small. The FWP acceptance pattern of Sikhs closely follows that of Hindus. The proportion of Hindus in the category of non acceptors, is smaller (40 per cent) than of Muslims 58 per cent. This shows that to some extent, socio-religious ideology is acting as a barrier.

The caste affiliation of people co varies with their acceptor status is also in evidence. In this category of non-acceptors, the lowest proportion is that of those belonging to scheduled tribe followed by upper classes, backward class and scheduled castes. This indicates that FWP educational and motivational work needs to be steeped up among people belonging to scheduled caste and backward class. Those engaged in business and salaried jobs show greater inclination towards FWP in both the urban and rural areas.

Impact of Family Welfare Programme on Fertility: The effective couple protection rate (ECPR) shows increasing trend up to 86-87 (19.8 per cent in 80-81 to 61.1 per cent in 86-87) which was 1.69 times more than the state and National level values (36.1 and 37.5 per cent respectively in 1987), but from 1987-88 to 1990-91 it showed decreasing trend and remained approximately constant between 45 to 57 per cent i.e. nearly equal to the state level values. After 1991-92, the ECPR shows continuously decreasing trend whereas state and National values show constant rate. The ECPR in 2001 has reached the value 5.1 per cent which
was 49.8 per cent during 1991 (i.e. the ECPR has surprisingly reduced during the 1991-2001 decade).

The diminishing trend shown (during the 1991-2001 decade) by the CPR may be due to the judgment passed by the hon'ble Supreme Court, which holds doctors doing sterilisation responsible if it fails in future. Thus, even if the FWP got retardation due to above order, the awareness about it in the females increased due to increase in their literacy. This fact is further confirmed during 1991-2001 decade when the ECPR reduced to 5.1 per cent the exponential growth rate attained the value of 2.15 as against 2.2 per cent during 1991.

It is thus concluded that CPR may be increased if at least one acceptor of sterilisation, contraceptive user and OP user be perfectly formed in one village and constant follow up be maintained. Thus, the others may get encouragement towards FWP methods.

THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

The study of the sample villages shows that most of the villages are lagging far behind from the present socio-economic development. More than 70 per cent male and female are still illiterate. Tribal, scheduled castes and other back-ward class people have their residences in huts and kachcha houses in the villages with several scarcities. The agro-based economy of these villages have either agricultural labourers which are also utilized by upper castes to collect forest produce (if any) such as, Gum, Lac, wood, Tendu leaves, stones and sand.

Production of more children is treated to be the God gift and preferences for son are dominant as they are treated to be the shelters of the old age and earning members with the family in these villages. The
total fertility rate of almost all the surveyed villages varied between 3 to 4 children per woman, which is very high. The awareness to family planning programme is also negligible. It is therefore terribly needed that the education and FWP propagation at a large scale be undertaken in rural areas of the district to develop consciousness about the harmful impacts of more children in the minds of poor village people. School- teachers, village Panchayat, and NGOs may launch their combine time bound programmes during summer season and in other holidays.

SUGGESTIONS

In view of the above facts the following points may be suggested for the improvement of present situation:

1. Deprivation, poverty and degradation are the prime factors which accelerate population growth therefore the investments should be diverted to enhance health and education of the women in order to control fertility in the study region.

2. Age specific fertility rate is the highest within 18-21 years of age which is the result of early marriages in the study area. It is therefore suggested that if the early marriages be stopped and gap between the marrying couple be increased to at least 3 years, Total Fertility Rate (TFR) may be reduced to 9.3 per cent in the study region.

3. The women need to play more decisive role in maintaining the development of their families. This is possible when they have the ownership rights and are coupled with education and skill to preserve and conserve their resources. Hence it is necessary to improve their social and economic status through education and employment and through propriety rights. The improved status will
also accelerate the process of population control. Women’s status has been considered as a very important variable affecting the contraceptive use and the over all fertility behaviour. All round improvement in status of women creates scope for speedy socio-economic development, better control of fertility and mortality which leads to a large scale acceptance of family planning programmes and ultimately, a general improvement in the quality of life of the society.

4. If the female literacy is increased to an understanding level as compared to illiterate males, the fertility has been found to decline by 3.5 per cent which shows that the female literacy has positive impact on the fertility control. Education of females affects the level and trends of fertility adversely and can be the best measure of fertility restraint in this area.

5. It is needed that the education and family welfare programme propagation at a large scale be undertaken particularly in rural areas to develop conscious ness about the harmful impacts of more children in the mind of the poor village people. School- teachers, village Panchayats and NGO'o may launch their combine time bound programmes during summer season and in other holidays.

6. In order to control ever rising fertility in some sections of the society (SC, ST and Muslims), women be educated against early marriages, illiteracy, superstitions, irrational beliefs.

7. To achieve strong motivation of reducing fertility improved human resources and quality of life as well as the higher education especially for women be assured in this area.