Conclusion
CONCLUSION

The Aligarh Fertility Survey, the findings of which are presented in this thesis, explain some notable characteristics on the basis of which, certain conclusion are drawn. The theme of the investigation is centred on fertility differentials in Aligarh district, according to some socio-economic characteristics. During the course of investigation, it was thought to be wise to examine nature of fertility differences by cultural and religious groups and to find out the most important determinants of fertility in the district.

The fertility differentials and determinants are not merely a biological outcome of sexual relations between man and woman, it is a social phenomenon as well. The theory that fertility is just an expression of sex desire simply does not apply to human population as it applies to animals. Man is a social animal who actively creates the society in which he lives. Fertility is determined, to a large extent, by social factors, beliefs and attitudes, the structure of the family, economic and political considerations. Fertility, therefore should be treated primarily a social artefact. Taking in view the complex phenomenon, as the fertility is, a comprehensive survey of Aligarh district, both urban
and rural, was designed, in consultation with the supervisor and some demographers in the University. The objective was to reach every knock and corner of the district. The whole district was divided into Rural and Urban, two stratum. Urban sample frame was again divided into three stratum, consisting of Aligarh city, the second stratum included north-eastern urban areas and the third stratum included south-western areas. Similarly the Rural sampling frame was also stratified into three strata according to population size of the villages, one with population of more than 750 households, the second with population between 350-750 households and the third with population less than 350 households. Then a random sample of 1422 households was selected, representing 547 from Urban areas and 875 households from rural areas. Further classification according to religion, education and income was done likewise.

In the first place, the average number of children per family by religion were compared and it was found that on the average, Muslims had higher mean number of children per family than Hindus. The result is commensurate with all other surveys, such as NFHS-1, NFHS-2 and SRS, which has also revealed that fertility among Muslim is higher than Hindus. Sometimes simple averages...
mislead people. It was further decided to apply statistical test, the normal test of significance for difference of means, which showed that the apparent difference in the averages is really due to the religious beliefs, and not due to sampling fluctuation only. This test established that Islam does not suppress fertility, as compared to Hinduism. Similarly, the urban-rural differential was tested. Our result that rural fertility is higher than urban fertility in Aligarh district was in league with the results of all other surveys which claim likewise. But this difference in average number of children per family in Rural and Urban areas, was again put to test, using the normal test of significance of difference of means. The test proved that there is real difference in the rural and urban fertility and not due to sampling fluctuation alone. The test proved that people in rural areas tend to promote big families due to various socio-economic causes, which do not play important role in urban settings. In both these cases the fertility in Aligarh district was found to slightly lower than NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 results, but on the higher side of SRS results.

The age specific fertility rate has been considered to be a more effective tool of comparing fertility between populations. The ASFR’s for the Aligarh district were first compared within
various population strata (according to religion and residence) itself. Then they were compared with the over all Uttar Pradesh results as obtained by NFHS-1, NFHS-2 and SRS. The Urban-Rural differentials were found to be quite significant. Similarly the Hindu-Muslim differentials were quite significant. Proving that both the characteristics, Residence and Religion play an important role in determining fertility. These rates were further compared with the corresponding results for the entire state as obtained in NFHS-1, NFHS-2 and SRS. The differentials were presented in form of ASFR curves according to 5 year age groups. These curves show quite clearly, in what age group fertility is higher/lower in the district in comparison with the entire state. The urban differentials, that is the state level urban fertility and the district level urban fertility was also compared. Similarly the Rural differentials, that is the rural fertility in the state was compared with the rural fertility in the district. These differentials were also presented in the form of ASFR curves. The total ASFR for Aligarh district on religion basis were also compared. Hindu-Muslim ASFR results also gave the same picture, i.e. of higher fertility among Muslims than Hindus in all age groups.
Alongside the fertility survey, a family planning survey was also conducted. The questionnaire for fertility, consisted of second part in which sixteen different questions were asked from the respondents, which presented their attitude regarding various aspects, socio-economic, cultural and religious. It was sought to estimate what effect the family planning programme of the government has made on the attitude of the people regarding limitation of family size. Measuring attitude is a separate science in psychometry. A very important test of testing the attitude of people, the Likert method, was applied, to test whether the characteristic education, has made any impact on the attitude of people regarding family planning. After allocating numbers to the answers of the respondents, the $\chi^2$-test was applied to test the difference in the attitude of people, due to education. It was found that indeed education has made a tremendous effect on the attitude of people in favour of limiting their family size. The impact is so powerful even the religious barrier has been broken. The religion Islam which was considered to be anti-family planning, has failed to keep people adhering to the old nations, and even Muslims have favourable attitude to limiting the family size.
A lot of work is needed to be done in the field. First, a comprehensive survey to further penetrate into the minds of people is necessary. People are not that easy to open their real feelings and aspirations. Thus a bigger survey of the district, must be planned and executed. For this purpose, a lot of funds and teams of experts in different fields like statistics, psychology and sociology, a part from population geographer, must be formed. The teams should work under one supervisor and they should be given sufficient time and facilities, to reach every village and every strata of the population, even the remotest of the area, to find out the ground realities of fertility levels.