PREFACE

The rapid growth of population has been the cause of discussion for academic and planning personnel alike in India. Being a developing country, it has become a matter of utmost importance for us, to keep the growth of population at the level of growth of subsistence and to promote this, Indian Government took official measures to control population growth, which made it the first Government to proclaim official population policy in the world. Since the promotion of family planning has been an essential aspect of Indian planning and programmes.

Despite five decades of voluntary effort and three decades of public effort in the field of family planning, still it is observed that the population is growing at a rate of 2.6 per annum. The innumerable incentives and extensive use of mass media could not achieve the targeted results. Here many social scientists tried to find out the reasons for not achieving the expected results in the field of family planning. The KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) studies conducted in different parts of the country have, to some extent, highlighted the reasons behind this slow adoption of family planning programmes in India.

Social structure in India, chiefly characterised as a traditional system, organised on the lines of caste, based on deep-rooted religious values, associated with illiteracy and ignorance and predominantly dogmatic in outlook, is responsible for slow adoption of not only family planning programmes but various other innovations and improved practices. Thus the
relevance of social structure to family planning adoption has a lot of bearing on achieving the targeted objectives. Still, it is observed that very few studies have been conducted in this direction.

The present study, thus is an attempt to draw the impact of social structure on family planning adoption in rural communities. The social structural variables like caste, family, occupation, land ownership, economy and individual variables like sex, age, education, number of children, etc., have been considered in studying family planning acceptance in village communities. By doing so, it is possible for us to identify those sections of population who are lagging behind in accepting family planning measures. The identification of these groups in society will help us to concentrate on these groups for further spread of family planning programs in India.

In this present study, the fifty and sixth chapters thus deal with the relationship between family planning adopters and their socio-economic background, pointing out the areas of high and low adoption. The findings are thus of use to promote academic insight in the field of family planning and also of use to enhance the scope of family planning adoption by identifying low adoption areas. However, since the study is conducted in only one community, further research in the same lines will enable us to locate the lag groups and to concentrate on these groups
for further extension education to promote family planning acceptance in large scale, to achieve the objective of keeping birth rates at the level of subsistence growth rate is envisaged in the population policy of India.