

CHAPTER IX  
ADOPTION OF FAMILY PLANNING

is their quality and acceptability, to be considered in that light in the limited sense. But this limitation may not thereby prejudice our observations and judgement. Therefore, the importance of the inferences drawn as to the nature of change and factors responsible for such changes does not, however, lose much of the essence of this study.

#### 9.4 Terms Used

The adoption of family planning manifests itself through the decision process of the sample families. Therefore, ultimately an analysis of the adoption of family planning tantamounts to analysing how the sample persons take decision about the process and act accordingly. The decision of adoption depends on the whole process of the sample persons :

- 1) To observe the methods of family planning ;
- 2) To analyse with more observations ;
- 3) To take decision on the basis of analysis of the observations ;
- 4) To adopt or to take actions about decision ; and
- 5) To submit to the consequence of the action i.e. to accept the entire responsibility of adoption of the decision.

For our purpose of study, we broadly put these five processes into three categories namely :

1. Awareness ;
2. Acquaintance ; and
3. Adoption.

The process of adoption is distinguished into three stages on the ground of convenience of identification. Secondly, from the point of view of reference to a case to which the respondent can recollect from his memory, the sequences and dates of various stages leading to the ultimate decision relating to the family planning, have been noted.

#### 9.4.1 Awareness

This may be considered as a starting point of the process. This process is used to occur when the family gets in touch of family planning. He only comes to understand the presence of it and has no detailed knowledge about it. The attitude of the family towards the family planning is plain and simple. He may not have reasonable inquisitiveness for it, that is to say, motivation forces may not sufficiently have aroused in his mind which may prompt him to enquire and gather information about it.

#### 9.4.2 Acquaintance

This seems to <sup>be</sup> a second step and, a step forward towards adoption. Now, the family gets himself in the process psychologically. A mental preparedness <sup>and</sup> some inquisitiveness about it, <sup>are</sup> grown in him. As a result, he prefers himself to enquire different information about the method. He is ready to live further with the technique to attempt to get himself acquainted with the detailed of the method. Then, he compares the newly acquired knowledge with his previous knowledge i.e. a past

experience if any. A process of evaluation sets in, he begins to foresee the possible problems and hindrances that may crop up while introducing the new technique with the available knowledge. He tries to chalk out the problems in all details and evaluates the possible gain and loss of the whole scheme.

#### 9.4.3 Adoption

This is the culmination of the two previous stages. At the final stage, the family's realisation with regard to the new technique is over. He gets the firm decision. He is now ready to act and apply his newly acquired knowledge for the sake of experimentation. At this stage, before the family goes for the technique, he decides once for all, considering the possible eventualities that may fall on him. The decision is positive i.e. the family decides in favour of adopting family planning without any break. This is known as the adoption stage. If the decision is otherwise, he may decide not to take the technique. We may say adoption does not take place. The adoption process includes all these stages that had to be passed through before final decision. In fine, it may be said that at the first instance, a family becomes aware of any method of family planning, then he gets acquainted with the technique intensely so as to resort to adopt a particular method of family planning and this is known as the adoption process.

9.5 Table 9.1

Table 9.1 is presented below.

Table 9.1

Distribution of families at the awareness, acquaintance and adoption stages of family planning.

Year	Number	Cumulative Number	Year	Number	Cumulative Number	Year	Number	Cumulative Number
1968	60	60	1968	48	48	1968	40	40
1969	64	124	1969	60	108	1969	50	90
1970	68	192	1970	72	180	1970	66	156
1971	76	268	1971	100	280	1971	90	246
1972	110	378	1972	130	410	1972	114	360
1973	146	524	1973	64	474	1973	80	440
1974	24	548	1974	46	520	1974	46	486
1975	08	556	1975	20	540	1975	38	524
1976	04	560	1976	12	552	1976	24	548
1977	0	560	1977	08	560	1977	12	560

9.6 Interpretations of Table 9.1

The Table 9.1 shows the number of persons among the sample families who passed through the stages of awareness, acquaintance and adoption in applying the family planning methods

every year. In the initial stages, just a few persons got aware of, acquainted with and tried to adopt family planning, then, gradually, many more persons went through the above stages step by step every year, until preferably all the persons adopted the family planning. It takes less time for awareness to grow than the other stages involved namely, acquaintance and adoption. In the same way, in comparison to the final stage, it takes less time for acquaintance to grow than the adoption stage. To make it more clear, it may be said that judged through the time taken by the three different stages of adoption to materialize the awareness, a least time which is followed by acquaintance stage, takes less time than adoption. From this it may be said that in the process of adoption all these stages do not occur at a time.

### 9.7 Table 9.2

Table 9.2 is presented below.

Table 9.2  
Adoption Process

Period	Family Planning
1. Awareness Acquaintance period	1.64
2. Acquaintance Adoption period	5.80
3. Adoption period (1 + 2)	7.40

### 9.3 Interpretations of Table 9.2

The above Table 9.2 presents the average time period taken by the person to go through all the three stages in family planning. The concept of awareness - acquaintance period included in the above Table is defined as the time taken by a person to proceed through awareness to acquaintance. In the same way, the acquaintance - adoption period is marked by the time lapses between acquaintance and adoption. Then the aggregate of the time period taken together by the awareness - acquaintance and the acquaintance - awareness period, gives the adoption period. The length of the adoption period fluctuates enormously among the different persons. Some persons informed that there was a time gap of one year between the time of awareness and period of adoption. A few others replied that it took them eight to eleven years to adopt the family planning after being aware of it.