

## CHAPTER XIII

### IDENTIFICATION OF THE PEAK PERIOD OF NUMBERS OF FAMILIES OF ADOPTERS OF FAMILY PLANNING DURING 1972-1980

#### 13.1 Introduction

In the present chapter, an attempt has been made to test the following hypothesis :

During 1972-1980, three different periods<sup>\*</sup> could be identified among the families adopting sterilisation (Vasectomy and Tubectomy) viz. (i) 1972 to 1974 ; (ii) 1975 to 1977 ; and (iii) 1978 to 1980. The period II (all the numbers of adopters taken together) was greater than the first period (all the numbers taken together) as well as the third period (all the numbers taken together) and that the number of family adopting sterilization ( Vasectomy and Tubectomy ) in the first period (all the numbers taken together) was greater than the third period ( all the numbers taken together).

#### 13.2 Methodology

One sample village namely Debnagar which was three kilometres from the Jalpaiguri town having 326 families and another sample village far from the town namely, Subhas Pally which was twentyeight kilometres from the Jalpaiguri town

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\* During field investigations it was found that there were differences in the application of force to popularise sterilisation and considering these differences, the division of the period was made.

having 144 families were selected. Secondly, all the heads of the sample families of these two sample villages were interviewed to gather relevant information (Total sample = 326 + 144 = 470 persons).

### 13.3 Field Results

Findings are given below in the tabular forms

Table 13.1

Number of persons adopting sterilization during 1972 to 1980.

Villages	Years										(In number)
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	Total	
Debnagar (326)	16	13	14	15	21	23	11	7	5	130	
Subhas Pally (144)	7	8	5	6	8	9	4	2	1	50	

### 13.4 Observations

The findings of table No. 13.1 reveal that the Hypothesis was true for the both the villages.

The following factors which appeared to be responsible for the result of the peak period were identified :

- (1) Application of force ;
- (2) To fill up quota system ;
- (3) The tout and their activities ;
- (4) Change of policy of the Government with regard to family planning ; and
- (5) Complications in operations and their effects.

In order to identify the above factors, all the sample families in the two villages were interviewed as well as twenty officials selected at random from different personnel of the District Family Planning Office were interviewed. The information gathered from both the sources were recorded, interpreted and analysed before finally identifying the above factors.

Regarding force, we have said already in chapter III and hence, these are not repeated here but the redeeming feature to be noted in this connection is that the application of force was less in both the first and third periods than in the second period.

Regarding quota system also, we have already discussed in chapter III and for obvious reasons, we are not repeating the same here. But the interesting factor to be noted is that the fulfilment of the quota was not so much seriously taken into account both in first and third periods, unlike the second period when it was taken seriously relatively speaking.

About touts we have already discussed in chapter III and hence, here it is not repeated. But the important thing to be noted is that engagement of touts was more found during

the period II than those of the first and third periods.

Due to alleged public reactions against use of force <sup>and</sup> touts to popularise family planning under Congress Rule at the Centre, the Janata Government changed their policies by discarding the use of force and touts in this regard.

Coming to the last factor identified, it may be said that during the second period the numbers of sterilization for both male and female reached the peak level but at the same time various complications as noted in chapter IV with regard to sterilization as one of the methods of family planning were pointed out by some of such adopters to their neighbours whose opinion for this sterilization might have been adversely affected.

The above factors taken together appeared to indicate the reasons behind attaining such peak level during the second period. The factors identified did not claim to be exhaustive. More in-depth studies needed to be undertaken to go more deeply to identify the factors responsible for the same and to explain each factor in details in a more scientific manner. Such in-depth studies for this had not been undertaken for the present study.

Attention may also be drawn to the fact that requisite data and information were not always clearly available in this regard which had also stood in the way of enriching the identification and analysis of these factors.