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certainly improved if some of the obvious mistakes that have crept in the report, such as incomplete sentences, contradictory statements, repetition of tables which do not tally had been avoided.

P. R. BAICHWAL

Demographic Survey of Six Rural Communities, Kumudini Dandekar, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, 1959. Pp. xiv + 142. Rs. 8.25.

In her introductory chapter the author states the principal aims of a series of demographic investigations of which this is the third and final report as "(i) to obtain basic demographic data necessary to compute fertility rates and if possible also mortality rates for a sample of rural localities ; (ii) to collect information regarding socio-economic determinants, if any, of these rates, and (iii) to assess the present attitudes towards family planning in general and in favourable cases to assess the acceptability and suitability of different contraceptive methods and means" (p. 1). Although these objectives may seem to be ambitious for a single survey to fulfil, this project has painstakingly obtained a wealth of information on all these objectives. This is evident from the contents of the book which has been divided into twelve chapters, the important ones being, 'Marriage,' 'Fertility,' 'Factors Affecting Fertility,' and 'Attitudes towards Family Planning.' The last two chapters on Public Health and Dietary Habits are very informative and form novel features of this study.

The lay-out of this study is closely akin to that observed in the predecessor volumes by the author, though certain welcome improvements have been made in the organisation of field investigation. These are mainly the recruitment of trained nurses and health visitors as investigators, and the encouragement given to them to do midwifery practice which helped to establish good rapport with the people. The investigation was carried out in two stages. Firstly, the General Family Schedule was canvassed among the total population of both the nuclear and neighbouring selected villages. At the second stage, three *ad hoc* enquiries were conducted regarding (a) marriages that had taken place during the previous three years, (b) attitudes towards family limitation and planning among the married women between 25 to 40 years who had experienced at least one pregnancy in the last five years, and (c) a diet survey of families.

However, a difference to be noted between the first and second stage of investigation was that the general schedule was administered to all villages while the three (although independent) enquiries were restricted to the nuclear villages alone because of the time taken in trying to contact families in the surrounding villages. This had meant only partial use of a number of general schedules and consequent loss of resources in view particularly of the long and detailed nature of this schedule. Another point about coverage is that it is not convincing why the attitude schedule was filled only for married women of the first and higher order of parity aged 25 years and over. But, in the light of a prevailing notion that the younger generations are more receptive to the modern ideas including the message of family planning, the exclusion of the marriage cohort of 17 to 24 years may appear to be a serious omission in this study.

The analysis of the data has been carried out very extensively encompassing a hundred tables some of which provide for the first time information on some aspects of social demography. For example, in Chapters IV and V are contained important facts for both sociologists and demographers on matters such as age at first marriage, proportion of child marriages, percentage of remarriages, the average amount and proportion of marriages in which a dowry was paid and/or debt incurred for the bride or bridegroom, and so on. Similarly, the survey has furnished in great detail morbidity data for the rural communities.

The analyses and conclusions by the author regarding the interrelation of marital fertility and other biological and social factors are significant though somewhat controversial. Chapter VIII devoted to this presents findings that are contrary to the general opinion among the demographers. The author states that (i) age at present marriage, (ii) difference between the ages of husband and wife, (iii) order of delivery or in other words number of previous children, (iv) income, and (v) caste show 'no positive evidence that any of these factors has any influence on marital fertility' (p. 72). This inference is based upon the chi-square test of significance. What is, however, not very convincing to the reviewer is how far the chi-square test can be applied to examine phenomena of this kind some of which have important bearing in time dimension. Can the chi-square test here give conclusive evidence of relationship ?

This volume has, however, aroused (what is most essential to research) further thinking on the controversial issue of the effect of socio-economic factors on fertility, an area where too much is presumed or taken for granted from Western experience. The presumptions are sustained by the lack of comprehensive studies in India to investigate the nature of relationship between socio-economic forces and fertility. The author has made a courageous beginning in this direction while fulfilling the major objectives of providing basic demographic data for rural communities.

K. S. GNANASEKARAN

Influence of Mettur Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Project on Agriculture and Agro-Industries, S. Krishnamurthi, Research Programmes Committee, Planning Commission, New Delhi, 1959. Pp. iii + 100.

This report which embodies the findings of a Pilot Survey to assess benefits of the Mettur Project conducted under the auspices of the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission, endeavours to study the direct effects of irrigation on agricultural production and the influence of electricity on the agro-industries. The Pilot Survey was undertaken in Pattukkottai Taluka of Tanjore District of Madras State. Out of 269 villages of the taluka, 231 are covered by the irrigation facilities of the Project. Pattukkottai Taluka is divided into 7 firkas. From them, 15 villages were selected for the enquiry, the number of villages from each firka being proportionate to the total villages benefited by the scheme. Ten per cent of the total number of holders constituted the sample for detailed investigation. Three villages not covered by irrigation were selected for comparison.