

Social Mobility and Family Planning Practices in Rural Bangladesh - A Case Study

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Introduction

The necessity of controlling the growth of population in Bangladesh was seriously recognized as early as 1965 when a large-scale national family planning program was initiated in erstwhile Pakistan A. The Government of Bangladesh also gave top priority to the population control program as an integral part of the development process by adopting a comprehensive population policy B. and took various steps for the efficient implementation of family planning services. Family planning was considered to be a remedy for achieving the national objective of zero population growth.

The acceptance of family planning is known to be influenced by social factors, among others. Among the different social factors, education exerts a profound effect on family planning acceptance and fertility, as has been observed in many studies C. E. both at home and abroad. It is usually maintained that education not only provides opportunities for personal advancement and awareness of social mobility but it also provides a new outlook, freedom from tradition, the willingness to analyze institutions, values and patterns of behavior and the growth of rationalism F. In a separate study, Bhuyan G. observed that a significant proportion of literate persons had acquired an upper status in society, and that substantial upward social mobility was associated with an increase in the level of education. In another study, Bhuyan and Ahmed D. observed that both literate and illiterate people were aware of family planning services, and that increasing the level of education along with the availability of family planning services can go a long way in depressing fertility and widening the practice of contraception.

Objectives

It is extremely difficult to attribute changes in fertility behavior and family planning practices to a single factor like education, there being a whole complex of factors intricately meshed together affecting the motivation of couples to adopt family planning. Therefore, it was considered worthwhile to study the family planning behavior of couples by analyzing their social mobility pattern. In

this paper, an attempt has been made to study family planning behavior of couples by their educational and occupational status by analyzing the changes in these factors among their parents.

Data and Methodology

The present study was based on data obtained from a survey on a case study of the socio-economic condition of rural people in Bangladesh. The study was conducted in Sudharam Upazila under Noakhali district, which has 87752 households in 285 villages under 18 unions. The data was collected from households, which were selected by two-stage random sampling. At the first stage, three unions were selected randomly and from among these, ten per cent villages were selected at random. The number of selected villages was four. All the households, numbering 1180, from the selected villages were covered. General information relating to the socio-economic situation was collected from the head of the households, and information on family planning practice was obtained from married couples of childbearing age that is with the wife aged below 50 years. Data was collected through a questionnaire designed for the purpose and by face-to-face conversations with the respondents. In all 1250 couples were interviewed. Thus, the present analysis is based on the information collected from 1250 observations and concerns the social mobility of female respondents (wives) and their family planning behavior.

Results and Discussion

A high rate of acceptance of family planning depends, among other factors on an awareness of the need for family planning and its knowledge. This awareness, along with social and economic pressures, would encourage couples to adopt family planning. In our sample, all the couples were aware of the necessity for planning the family. However, only about 22 per cent (Table 1) were practicing family planning. The rate of adoption was higher among educated respondents, and increased with their educational level as is evident from Table 1. The differential in the rate of adoption was highly significant [$\chi^2 > 89.6 < .01$ with d. f. =2].

Table 1: Respondent's education by husband's education and family planning practice

Respondent's education level	Adopted family planning	Husband's educational level			Total
		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	

Illiterate	Yes	38 (15.1)	18 (18.4)	11 (21.2)	67 (16.7)
	No	213 (84.9)	80 (81.6)	41 (78.8)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	251 (100.0)	98 (100.0)	52 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	62.6	24.4	13.0	32.1
Primary	Yes	7 (17.9)	76 (16.3)	61 (43.0)	144 (22.2)
	No	32 (82.1)	391 (83.7)	81 (57.0)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	39 (100.0)	467 (100.0)	142 (100.0)	648 (100.0)
	(%)	6.0	72.1	21.9	51.8
Secondary and above	Yes	4 (22.2)	21 (18.8)	33 (46.5)	58 (28.9)
	No	14 (77.8)	91 (81.2)	38 (53.5)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	18 (100.0)	112 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	9.0	55.7	35.3	16.1
Total	Yes	49 (15.9)	115 (17.0)	105 (39.6)	269 (21.5)
	No	259 (84.1)	562 (83.0)	160 (60.4)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	308 (100.0)	677 (100.0)	265 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	24.6	54.2	21.2	100.0

Figures in brackets denote percentages.

Further, acceptance of family planning increased not only with increasing levels of education of the respondents and their husbands, but also with that of their fathers-in-law (Table 2, Panel A). The latter effect was found to be more profound than that exerted by the husband's education.

Table 2: Respondent's education by father-in-law's and mother-in-law's education and by family planning practice

Respondent's education level	Adopted family planning	Husband's educational level			Total
		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	

				and above	
A. Father-in-law's educational level					
Illiterate	Yes	20 (10.1)	26 (19.0)	21 (31.8)	67 (16.7)
	No	178 (89.9)	111 (81.0)	45 (68.2)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	198 (100.0)	137 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	49.4	34.2	16.4	32.1
Primary	Yes	26 (13.6)	34 (14.5)	84 (37.8)	144 (22.2)
	No	165 (86.4)	201 (85.5)	138 (62.2)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	191 (100.0)	235 (100.0)	222 (100.0)	648 (100.0)
	(%)	29.5	36.3	34.2	51.8
Secondary and above	Yes	20 (24.1)	19 (30.6)	11 (47.8)	58 (28.9)
	No	88 (75.9)	43 (69.4)	12 (52.2)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	116 (100.0)	62 (100.0)	23 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	57.7	30.8	11.5	51.8
Total	Yes	74 (14.7)	79 (18.2)	116 (37.3)	269 (21.5)
	No	431 (85.3)	355 (81.8)	195 (62.7)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	500 (100.0)	434 (100.0)	311 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	40.4	34.7	24.9	100.0
B. Mother-in-law's educational level					
Illiterate	Yes	57 (16.2)	7 (18.4)	3 (25.0)	67 (16.7)
	No	294 (83.8)	31 (81.6)	9 (75.0)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	351 (100.0)	38 (100.0)	12 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	87.5	9.5	3.0	32.1
Primary	Yes	111 (21.0)	17 (23.6)	16 (34.0)	144 (22.2)
	No	418 (79.0)	55 (76.4)	31 (66.0)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	529 (100.0)	72 (100.0)	47 (100.0)	648 (100.0)

	(%)	81.6	11.1	7.3	51.8
Secondary and above	Yes	15 (15.6)	19 (32.8)	24 (51.1)	58 (28.9)
	No	81 (84.4)	39 (67.2)	23 (48.9)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	96 (100.0)	58 (100.0)	47 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	47.8	28.8	23.4	16.1
Total	Yes	183 (18.8)	43 (25.6)	43 (40.6)	269 (21.5)
	No	793 (81.2)	125 (74.4)	63 (59.4)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	976 (100.0)	168 (100.0)	106 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	78.1	13.4	8.5	100.0

Figures in brackets denote percentages.

The differential family planning acceptance rate among respondents with increasing levels of education of the father-in-law was highly significant [$p(X^2 > 35.5) < .01$ with d. f. = 4]. A highly significant differential rate of adoption [$p(X^2 > 61.8) < .01$ with d. f. = 2] was also observed among respondents whose mothers-in-law had a secondary level or higher education (Table 2, Panel B). The findings support the view that the educational level of the mother-in-law is more conducive to family planning acceptance by the respondent (daughter-in-law), compared to that of her father-in-law: 51.1 percent compared to 47.8 per cent respectively. Thus, more than half of the respondents who had received secondary or higher education and had mothers-in-law who also had a similar educational status were practicing family planning.

Table 3 presents the differential rates of family planning adoption by both literate and illiterate women by the educational level of their fathers (Panel A) and mothers (Panel B).

Table 3: Respondent's education by father's and mother's education and by family planning practice

Respondent's education level	Adopted family planning	Husband's educational level			Total
		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	

A. Father's educational level					
Illiterate	Yes	49 (16.0)	14 (18.4)	4 (21.1)	67 (16.7)
	No	257 (84.0)	62 (81.6)	15 (78.9)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	306 (100.0)	76 (100.0)	19 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	76.3	19.0	4.7	32.1
Primary	Yes	95 (19.8)	19 (23.5)	30 (34.9)	144 (22.2)
	No	386 (80.2)	62 (76.5)	56 (65.1)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	481 (100.0)	81 (100.0)	86 (100.0)	648 (100.0)
	(%)	74.2	12.5	13.3	51.8
Secondary and above	Yes	26 (24.1)	11 (25.6)	21 (42.0)	58 (28.9)
	No	82 (75.9)	32 (74.4)	29 (58.0)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	108 (100.0)	43 (100.0)	50 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	53.7	21.4	24.9	16.1
Total	Yes	170 (19.0)	44 (22.0)	55 (35.5)	269 (21.5)
	No	725 (81.0)	156 (78.0)	100 (64.5)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	895 (100.0)	200 (100.0)	155 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	71.6	16.0	12.4	100.0
B. Mother's educational level					
Illiterate	Yes	63 (16.8)	3 (16.7)	1 (12.5)	67 (16.7)
	No	312 (83.2)	15 (83.3)	7 (87.5)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	375 (100.0)	18 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	93.5	4.5	2.0	32.1
Primary	Yes	119 (21.8)	15 (22.4)	10 (27.8)	144 (22.2)
	No	426 (78.2)	52 (77.6)	26 (72.2)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	545 (100.0)	67 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	648 (100.0)
	(%)	84.1	10.3	5.6	51.8

Secondary and above	Yes	6 (9.2)	24 (30.8)	28 (48.3)	58 (28.9)
	No	59 (90.8)	54 (69.2)	30 (51.7)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	65 (100.0)	78 (100.0)	58 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	32.3	38.8	28.9	16.1
Total	Yes	188 (19.1)	42 (25.8)	39 (38.2)	269 (21.5)
	No	797 (80.9)	121 (74.2)	63 (61.8)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	985 (100.0)	163 (100.0)	102 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	78.8	13.0	8.2	100.0

Figures in brackets denote percentages.

The differentials in family planning adoption rates at different levels of education of both the women and their fathers were highly significant as $p [(X^2 > 11.7) < .01; d. f. = 2]$. Likewise, adoption differentials of both the women and their mothers were highly significant as $p [(X^2 > 45.7) < .01 \text{ with } d. f. = 2]$. Women with parents with secondary or higher levels of education tended to adopt family planning due to the higher educational levels of their fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law. Thus, the mother's educational level had a greater positive effect on family planning adoption than the father's. About 48.3 per cent of respondents whose mothers had received secondary or higher education had adopted family planning compared to 42.0 per cent of whose fathers had received a similar education. The findings thus support the view that education provides an appropriate environment to evaluate a situation more objectively and that educated couples from educated families are far more receptive to the idea of family planning than others.

Since family planning acceptance increased significantly with an increase in the educational levels of both the respondents themselves and their parents, it was of interest to study how many of them had been encouraged to accept family planning by their husbands and fathers-in-law who were educated, or in other words how many of them had upward social mobility in respect of education which had influenced their family planning behavior. Table 4 presents the family planning acceptance rate in relation to different educational levels of both husbands and fathers-in-law.

Table 4: Respondent's education by father-in-law's and husband's education levels, and by family planning practice

Respondent's education level	Adopted family planning	Father-in-law's educational level								Total
		Illiterate			Primary			Secondary and above		
		Husband's education			Husband's education			Husband's education		
		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	Primary	Secondary and above	
Illiterate	Yes	17 (10.9)	1 (5.6)	2 (8.3)	21 (22.1)	4 (11.1)	1 (16.7)	13 (29.5)	8 (36.4)	67 (16.7)
	No	139 (89.1)	17 (94.4)	22 (91.7)	74 (77.9)	32 (88.9)	5 (83.3)	31 (70.5)	14 (63.6)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	156 (100.0)	18 (100.0)	24 (100.0)	95 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	44 (100.0)	22 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	78.8	9.1	12.1	69.3	26.3	4.4	66.7	33.3	32.1
Primary	Yes	5 (27.8)	12 (8.1)	9 (37.5)	2 (9.5)	30 (14.6)	2 (25.0)	34 (30.4)	50 (45.5)	144 (22.2)
	No	13 (72.2)	137 (91.9)	15 (62.5)	19 (90.5)	176 (85.4)	6 (75.0)	78 (69.6)	60 (54.5)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	18 (100.0)	149 (100.0)	24 (100.0)	21 (100.0)	206 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	112 (100.0)	110 (100.0)	648 (100.0)
	(%)	9.4	78.0	12.6	8.9	87.7	3.4	50.5	49.5	51.8
Secondary and above	Yes	4 (50.0)	18 (20.7)	6 (28.6)	-	2 (10.0)	17 (53.1)	1 (20.0)	10 (55.6)	58 (28.9)
	No	4 (50.0)	69 (79.3)	15 (71.4)	10 (100.0)	18 (90.0)	15 (46.9)	4 (80.0)	8 (44.4)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	8 (100.0)	87 (100.0)	21 (100.0)	10 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	32 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	18 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	6.9	75.0	18.1	16.1	32.3	51.6	21.7	78.3	16.1

Total	Yes	26 (14.3)	31 (12.2)	17 (24.6)	23 (18.3)	36 (13.7)	20 (43.5)	48 (29.8)	68 (45.3)	269 (21.5)
	No	156 (85.7)	223 (87.8)	52 (75.4)	103 (81.7)	226 (86.3)	26 (56.5)	113 (70.2)	82 (54.7)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	182 (100.0)	254 (100.0)	69 (100.0)	126 (100.0)	262 (100.0)	46 (100.0)	161 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	36.6	50.3	13.7	29.0	60.4	10.6	51.8	48.2	
	% of N = 1250	14.6	20.3	5.5	10.1	20.9	3.7	12.9	12.0	

Figures in brackets denote percentages.

About 40 per cent of the respondents had illiterate fathers-in-law. However, 60 per cent of the illiterate fathers had educated their sons at least up to the primary level. Most of the educated fathers too had provided a primary education to their sons. The proportion of illiterate sons decreased significantly as the fathers' educational level increased. Thus, upward social mobility, in respect of education of both parents and offspring was significant. Educated fathers tried to ameliorate their social status by arranging the marriage of their sons with educated girls, and so, with an increase in the father's level of education, the couple's educational level tended to move upwards. This upward trend was also observed in the case of the mother-in-law's education (Table 5). Of course, most of them were illiterate. However, those who were educated were more amenable to educating their sons and educated mothers-in-law ameliorated their social status by getting educated daughters-in-law.

Table 5: Respondent's education by mother-in-law's and husband's education levels, and by family planning practice

Respondent's education level	Adopted family planning	Father-in-law's educational level			Total
		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	
		Husband's education	Husband's education	Husband's education	

		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary and above	Primary	Secondary and above	
Illiterate	Yes	37 (15.1)	15 (20.0)	5 (16.1)	1 (16.7)	3 (16.7)	3 (21.4)	-	3 (42.9)	67 (16.7)
	No	208 (84.9)	60 (80.0)	26 (83.9)	5 (83.3)	15 (83.3)	11 (78.6)	5 (100.0)	4 (57.1)	334 (83.3)
	(N)	245 (100.0)	75 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	18 (100.0)	14 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	7 (100.0)	401 (100.0)
	(%)	69.8	21.4	8.8	15.8	47.4	36.8	41.7	58.3	32.1
Primary	Yes	6 (20.0)	69 (16.2)	36 (48.6)	1 (11.1)	40 (16.0)	12 (31.6)	3 (17.7)	13 (43.3)	144 (22.2)
	No	24 (80.0)	356 (83.8)	38 (51.4)	8 (88.9)	21 (84.0)	26 (68.4)	14 (82.4)	17 (56.7)	504 (77.8)
	(N)	30 (100.0)	425 (100.0)	74 (100.0)	9 (100.0)	25 (100.0)	38 (100.0)	17 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	648 (100.0)
	(%)	5.7	80.3	14.0	12.5	34.7	52.8	36.2	63.8	51.8
Secondary and above	Yes	3 (25.0)	11 (13.8)	1 (25.0)	1 (16.7)	4 (22.2)	14 (41.2)	6 (42.9)	18 (54.5)	58 (28.9)
	No	9 (75.0)	69 (86.2)	3 (75.0)	5 (83.3)	14 (77.8)	20 (58.8)	8 (57.1)	15 (45.5)	143 (71.1)
	(N)	12 (100.0)	80 (100.0)	4 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	18 (100.0)	34 (100.0)	14 (100.0)	33 (100.0)	201 (100.0)
	(%)	12.5	83.3	4.2	10.3	31.0	58.7	29.8	70.2	16.1
Total	Yes	46 (16.0)	95 (16.4)	42 (38.5)	3 (14.3)	11 (18.0)	29 (33.7)	9 (25.0)	34 (48.6)	269 (21.5)

No	241 (84.0)	485 (83.6)	67 (61.5)	18 (85.7)	50 (82.0)	57 (66.3)	27 (75.0)	36 (51.4)	981 (78.5)
(N)	287 (100.0)	580 (100.0)	109 (100.0)	21 (100.0)	61 (100.0)	86 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
(%)	29.4	59.5	11.2	12.5	36.3	51.2	34.0	66.0	
% of N = 1250	23.0	46.4	8.7	01.7	4.9	6.9	2.9	5.6	

Figures in brackets denote percentages.

The amelioration in social status was also observed in respect of family planning adoption among educated families. As the educational level of the respondents, their husbands and fathers-in-law increased so did family planning acceptance. While family planning acceptance by educated respondents increased significantly with an increase in both the husbands' and fathers-in-law's education as $p [(X^2 > 20.6) < .01 \text{ with } 2 \text{ d. f.}]$, that of illiterate respondents also increased though not significantly. Again, acceptance rates among educated respondents increased significantly with increasing levels of education of both husbands and mothers-in-law [$p (X^2 > 39.9) < .01 \text{ with d. f. } =2$]. Thus, upward social mobility in respect of education did seem to motivate couples to practice family planning.

As educational levels of both the parents and their children rise, so also does their occupational pattern. Educated members in any family are more or less engaged in respectable professions. Traditional agricultural families also try to educate their dependents in the hope of obtaining respectable positions in society in respect of both education and occupation. Again, parents engaged in respectable professions (which require certain educational qualifications) want their children to be well placed in society like themselves. In our sample, the sons of about 57 per cent of the husbands whose fathers were businessmen were engaged in service. The differentials in the proportions of the occupations of both fathers and sons were highly significant [$p (X^2 > 484.9) < .01 \text{ with d. f. } =9$]. Thus there was upward social mobility in respect of occupation as well. Over time, most of the families changed their occupations and moved towards business or white-collar jobs.

The effect of upward occupational mobility on family planning acceptance was also studied. With a change in the occupational pattern, family planning

acceptance seemed to follow a positive direction. In families with occupations other than agriculture, the adoption rate was higher (Table 6).

Table 6: Respondent's education by father-in-law's occupation, and family planning practice

Occupation	Adopted family planning	Father-in-law's occupation				Total
		Agriculture	Business	Service	Other	
Agriculture	Yes	20 (9.7)	1 (6.7)	1 (10.0)	30 (18.7)	82 (11.7)
	No	463 (90.3)	14 (93.3)	9 (90.0)	130 (81.3)	616 (88.3)
	(N)	513 (100.0)	15 (100.0)	10 (100.0)	160 (100.0)	698 (100.0)
	(%)	67.5	13.0	13.0	53.7	55.8
Business	Yes	5 (22.7)	24 (36.4)	3 (13.6)	6 (24.0)	38 (28.1)
	No	17 (77.3)	42 (63.6)	19 (86.4)	19 (76.0)	97 (71.9)
	(N)	22 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	22 (100.0)	25 (100.0)	135 (100.0)
	(%)	2.9	57.4	28.6	8.4	10.8
Service	Yes	67 (39.9)	12 (54.5)	24 (63.2)	14 (40.0)	117 (44.5)
	No	101 (60.1)	10 (45.5)	14 (36.8)	21 (60.0)	146 (55.5)
	(N)	168 (100.0)	22 (100.0)	38 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	263 (100.0)
	(%)	22.1	19.1	49.1	11.7	21.0
Other	Yes	8 (14.0)	5 (41.7)	4 (57.1)	15 (19.2)	32 (20.8)
	No	49 (86.0)	7 (58.3)	3 (42.9)	63 (80.8)	122 (79.2)
	(N)	57 (100.0)	12 (100.0)	7 (100.0)	78 (100.0)	154 (100.0)
	(%)	7.5	10.5	9.1	26.2	12.4

Total	Yes	130 (71.1)	42 (36.5)	32 (41.6)	65 (21.8)	269 (21.5)
	No	630 (82.9)	73 (63.5)	45 (58.4)	233 (78.2)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	760 (100.0)	115 (100.0)	77 (100.0)	298 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	68.8	9.2	6.2	23.8	

figures in brackets denote percentages.

Thus, respondents from families engaged in service (42 per cent) were more inclined to adopt family planning than those engaged in business (36 per cent), agriculture (17 per cent) or other professions (22 per cent). The differentials in adoption rates with different occupational patterns was highly significant as [$p(X^2 > 32.9) < .01$ with d. f. =3]. Thus, upward social mobility in respect of occupation was observed to exert a profound effect on family planning adoption.

As evident from Table 7, the occupation of the woman (respondents) markedly influenced family planning acceptance. Seventy per cent of the respondents engaged in service had adopted family planning compared to 19 per cent and 24 per cent of those who were housewives and engaged in other economic activities respectively. Women who worked outside the home thus showed a greater tendency to plan their families. The differentials in family planning adoption rates of the respondents due to changes in both the husband's and her own occupation were highly significant as [$p-X^2 > 72.3 < .01$ with d. f. =3].

Table 7: Respondent's occupation by husband's and father-in-law's occupation, and family planning practice

Respondent's occupation	Adopted family planning	Type of occupation				Total
		Agriculture	Business	Service	Other	
A. Husband's occupation						
Housewife	Yes	72 (12.4)	29 (53.7)	39 (37.1)	10 (14.7)	150 (18.6)
	No	509 (87.6)	25 (46.3)	66 (62.9)	58 (85.3)	658 (81.4)
	(N)	581 (100.0)	54 (100.0)	105 (100.0)	68 (100.0)	808 (100.0)

	(%)	83.2	40.0	39.9	44.2	64.6
Service	Yes	-	2 (66.7)	15 (75.0)	2 (50.0)	8 (29.6)
	No	-	1 (33.3)	5 (25.0)	2 (50.0)	8 (29.6)
	(N)	-	3 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	4 (100.0)	27 (100.0)
	(%)	-	2.2	7.6	2.6	2.2
Other	Yes	10 (8.5)	7 (9.0)	63 (45.6)	20 (24.4)	100 (24.1)
	No	107 (91.5)	71 (91.0)	75 (54.4)	62 (75.5)	315 (75.9)
	(N)	117 (100.0)	78 (100.0)	138 (100.0)	82 (100.0)	415 (100.0)
	(%)	16.8	57.8	52.5	53.2	33.2
Total	Yes	82 (11.7)	38 (28.1)	117 (44.5)	32 (20.8)	269 (21.5)
	No	616 (88.3)	97 (71.9)	146 (55.5)	122 (79.2)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	698 (100.0)	135 (100.0)	263 (100.0)	154 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	55.8	10.8	21.0	12.4	
B. Father-in-law's occupation						
Housewife	Yes	111 (19.1)	20 (30.8)	6 (18.7)	13 (10.1)	150 (18.6)
	No	471 (80.9)	45 (69.2)	26 (81.3)	116 (89.9)	658 (81.4)
	(N)	582 (100.0)	65 (100.0)	32 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	808 (100.0)
	(%)	72.0 (76.6)	8.0 (56.5)	4.0 (41.5)	16.0 (43.3)	64.6
Service	Yes	2 (66.7)	3 (60.0)	12 (80.0)	2 (50.0)	19 (70.1)
	No	1 (33.3)	2 (40.0)	3 (20.0)	2 (50.0)	8 (29.6)
	(N)	3 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	15 (100.0)	4 (100.0)	27 (100.0)
	(%)	11.1 (0.4)	18.5 (4.3)	55.6 (19.5)	14.8 (1.3)	2.2
Other	Yes	17 (9.7)	19 (42.2)	14 (46.7)	50 (30.3)	100 (24.1)
	No	158 (90.3)	26 (57.8)	16 (53.3)	115 (69.7)	315 (75.9)
	(N)	175 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	165 (100.0)	415 (100.0)
	(%)	42.2 (23.0)	10.8 (39.2)	7.2 (39.8)	55.4 (32.2)	

Total	Yes	130 (71.1)	42 (36.5)	32 (41.6)	65 (21.8)	269 (21.5)
	No	630 (82.9)	73 (63.50)	45 (58.4)	233 (78.2)	981 (78.5)
	(N)	760 (100.0)	115 (100.0)	77 (100.0)	298 (100.0)	1250 (100.0)
	(%)	68.8	9.2	6.2	23.8	

Figures in brackets denote percentages.

Table 7 further indicates that the differentials in family planning adoption by the father-in-law's occupational pattern were also highly significant [$p (X^2 > 98.8) < .01$ with d. f.=3]. Fathers-in-law who were engaged in business and service acquired a new outlook and were free from traditional concepts of family life. As a result, their daughters-in-law were more inclined to adopt family planning. The mothers-in-law of all the respondents were housewives, and therefore the impact of their occupation of mothers'-in-law on family planning adoption by the daughter-in-law could not be studied. Nevertheless, the findings do reveal that a socially well placed female more likely to adopt family planning.

Conclusion

The achievement of the desired level of fertility may be best judged by the extent to which family planning has found its place as a way of life in society. Of course, family planning involves both a decisions about the desired family size and the effective limitation of fertility once that size has been reached. In both these matters, social factors play a significant role. Among the social factors, education provides opportunities to a person to be well placed in society. This study throws some light on the acceptance of family planning by couples who are educated and well -placed in society.

It concludes that every, couple in the rural area is a, aware of family planning, but very few practice it. Most adopter couples were socially well placed. The rate of adoption was higher among couples from higher (secondary or higher educated females. An upward trend in the educational levels of both fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law had a profound effect upon family planning adoption by their daughters-in-law. Thus, upward social mobility in respect of education of both parents and offspring was significant and family; planning practice was significantly positively correlated with it. The acceptance of family planning among illiterate respondents also increased with an increase in the educational levels of both their husbands and fathers-in-law.

Education provides opportunities to be well placed in the society, as educated families tend to be engaged in more socially respected occupations or professions. Thus, with a change in the educational levels of the parents, the occupational pattern of the offspring also changes. It was observed from that over time, most of the families have made substantial changes in society in respect of their profession. This upward social mobility in respect of occupations, had a significant positive effect upon family planning adoptions which was observed to be significantly higher among couples who were engaged in service or business as opposed to those engaged in agriculture or other occupations. Also, upward social mobility of the woman made her more inclined to adopt family planning.

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