



Adults' Attitude towards Small Family and Population Education in relation to Educational Qualification and Professional Status Variations in Cooch Behar

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Abstract: India's main problem is how to encounter population explosion. Population stabilizing is the national goal. Population explosion is a major obstacle in developmental efforts and affects the quality of life of people. Problems emanating from population explosion have become a matter of concern for all. Every ill of society is attributed to population growth. The objectives of the study are to study the attitude of adults towards small family and Population education in relation to educational qualification and professional status. The selection of sample was done by purposive sampling procedure. A sample of 300 adults was drawn from Cooch Behar. Standardized tool prepared by Sodhi and Sharma (2011) was employed for the study to collect information according to the need. There does not exist significant difference in attitude of adults towards small family and population education due to educational qualification variation.

Keywords: Attitude, Small Family and Population Education.

1.0. **Introduction:** Charles Darwin in his book, The Origin of Species made the following observation. "Even slow- breeding man has doubled in twenty-five years, and at this rate, in less than a thousand years, there would literally not be standing- room for his progeny" Thomas Malthus, an economist, who in his 'Theory of Population' published in 1789 explained that population, was increasing in geometric progression whereas production has increased in arithmetic progression. He gave a signal warning that the rate of growth of population is high and other essential commodities like food and clothing cannot keep -pace with population growth. His prediction seemed true as we can see now that the production, whether in India and the world has not been keeping pace with the population growth. The developing nations of the world are bent upon curbing the birth rates through national family planning programmes. Similarly, one extreme view was held by Elhrich in his book "The Population Bomb". He also warns that if growth continuous at the present rate for 900 hundred years, then there would be 60 million billion people.

The concept of population education has emerged due to limitless population growth and interaction with the social, economic and political aspects of human life. It has retarded the growth of our nation and created an imbalance between national income and expenditure. It has created many social problems. Undoubtedly, the population explosion has become a challenge for us. The gravity of problem is such that if it is not tackled on a war footing, there is a little chance of permanent peace and security in the world. This problem of unlimited numbers is a concern to the world as a whole and to individual country like India.

Population education arose under special historical circumstances and some typical contemporary issues. Family planning education was initiated with a view to conveying specific messages focussed on the need to control population growth. Sex education originally developed in response to the concern for changing sexual mores and increasing incidence of deviant sexual behaviour, venereal diseases and out of wedlock pregnancies. Family life education grew out of recognition of the growing evidence of family instability and disintegration. Population studies evolved, not as a separate discipline but as an interdisciplinary body of knowledge by bringing together facts, theories and concepts based on the research studies conducted by the specialists of different disciplines and professional fields for explaining various facets of population phenomenon. Population education emerged as an educational response to the concern for population problems emanating from the changing inter-relationship between population and development. It has now been universally accepted that education in population dynamics is quite necessary as it acts as a supplementary to the family planning programme.

2.0. Review of Literature

Jan and Tabassum (2018) conducted a study on Perceptions of Women towards Population Education with the following objectives: (i) to access the socio-economic factors affecting population education. (ii) to study the perception of women regarding population education. (iii) to examine the level of consent among women for population education.

The findings were as follows: (1) It was found that women in nuclear families possess high level of positive attitude towards population education.(ii) Urban women had more positive attitude towards population education than rural women.(iii)Working women have more positive attitudes towards population education as compared to non-working women.(iv) Similarly self-employed women have more positive attitude towards population education as compared to women working in private sectors,

Luthra (2022) studied Population awareness: in relation to sex, level of education and locality with the following objectives:

1. To study the effect of sex, education and locality on demography 2. To study the effect of sex, education and locality on socio-economic development and locality on family life education; To study the effect of sex, education and locality on health, hygiene and nutrition 5. To study the effect of sex, education and locality on quality of life

The major findings of the study were: There was insignificant difference between male and female on demographic awareness scores. There was insignificant difference on population awareness scores on the basis of levels of education. Significant difference had been found between localities on population awareness. Interaction between locality and education, locality and sex had been found significant on population awareness scores.

Singh (2022) studied attitude of women towards population explosion and with the following objectives:

To study the attitude of educated and uneducated women towards population explosion. To comparatively study the attitude of educated & uneducated women towards population explosion The findings revealed that there was significant difference in the attitude of education & uneducated women towards population explosion. Comparatively no significant difference in the attitude of educated & uneducated women towards population explosion was found.

Rani (2023) studied “attitude change on population education of IXth standard students” with the following objectives (1) To produce changes in attitude in the desired direction in sub-urban secondary school students.

(2) To relate the initial attitudes and the changes in the attitudes produced by the treatments to sex and family size. The major findings of the study were: The effect of the three communication strategies (verbal-visual, dramatization and combination) in changing attitude to population and family planning predicted that the three treatments would produce significant change in the desired direction.

Pareek (2024) in a study on knowledge and attitude towards population education among the teachers of Bhilwara district found that the general standard of knowledge about population education among male-female, rural- urban school teachers and there were no significant differences in knowledge and attitude towards population issues.

Saikia and Gohain (2024) made an attempt to study Population awareness of university students in a comparative perspective. The objective of the study was: To make a comparative study of the students of Guwahati University and Dibrugarh University regarding their awareness towards population education with respect to: (a) Problems of over-population (b) Sex Education (c) HIV/AIDS (d) Small Family Norms. The findings exposed that significant difference was observed between students of Guwahati University and Dibrugarh University with regard to their awareness towards sex education. Guwahati University students possess more awareness regarding sex education than the Dibrugarh University students. No significant difference is observed between the students of Guwahati University and Dibrugarh University with regard to their awareness towards problems of over-population, HIV/AIDS and Small Family Norms.

2.1. Findings of the Reviews: The major findings of the reviews related to population education revealed that:

- Majority of the adults have positive attitude towards population education.
- Most of the teachers were aware of and had positive attitude towards population problem.
- Locale poses a noteworthy role in developing attitudes and awareness towards population education. (Lutfun Rasul Saikia and Haimya Gohain; and Muzamil Jan & Mehnaz Tabassum)

2.2. Rationale of the study: Statesmen, thinkers, sociologists and others have realized the gravity of this explosion and conclude that the real solution to diffuse this explosion lies within man and not outside. So, they have realized that family planning is among the foremost factors that should be adopted to save oneself from the devastation of population explosion.

India's main problem is how to encounter population explosion. Population stabilizing is the national goal. Population explosion is a major obstacle in developmental efforts and affects the quality of life of people. Problems emanating from population explosion have become a matter of concern for all. Every ill of society is attributed to population growth.

The reviews exposed the attitude of adults towards small family and population education of different areas and found to some extent, contradictory as well as similar views regarding small family and population education. The findings might be influenced by the environment the respondents were living in and many other factors like locale, the age, the occupation surely might have contributed to the findings of the investigators. The investigation which is going to be made known might also be influenced by the similar environment the respondents are facing and as a consequence result may vary significantly.

2.3. Research Questions

- (1) Cooch Behar is a less populated area. Is it due to proper attitude among the adults about the family planning and population education or due to inclusion of population education informally?

- (2) Do the factors like educational qualifications and professional status influence the attitude of adults of Cooch Behar concerning population education?

2.4. Statement of the problem: Taking same context and in preview of above rationale, the study has been taken in the vicinity of Cooch Behar and the problem stated is “**Adults’ Attitude towards Small Family and Population Education in relation to Educational Qualification and Professional Status variations in Cooch Behar**”.

2.5. Objectives of the study: The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the attitude of adults towards small family and Population education
- To find out whether educational qualification has any role to play in defining the attitude of adults towards small family and population education.
- To study the attitude of adults pursuing different professions towards small family and population education.

2.6. Hypotheses of the Study

Ho₁ There would be no significant difference in attitude adults towards small family and population education due to their educational qualification variation.

Ho₂ There would be no significant difference in attitude adults towards small family and population education due to their professional status variation.

2.7. Operational Definitions

Attitude: Attitude is a mental set to respond to a situation with a prepared reaction. Attitude denotes bias, perceptions, convictions, feelings and emotions, hopes and fears. It plays a dominant role in determining our thoughts, memory and learning process. It not only determines the conclusions we make, but also influences the very fact we are willing to accept (Sodhi and Sharma, 2011).

Adult: In this study adult refers to the individuals who have reached and crossed the age of 18 years as this age has been bench marked by the Indian constitution as the age of being legally adult.

Small family: A fundamental social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and not more than two children.

Population education: Population education is an educational programme which provides for a study of the population situation in a family, community, nation and the world with a purpose of developing rational and responsible attitudes and behaviors towards that situation (Asian regional Seminar, organized by UNESCO at Bangkok, 1970).

2.8. Scope and delimitation of the study: The scope of the study is limited to study only the attitude of adults towards small family and population education. Many variables falling under personal, social and environmental factors play a role in defining the attitude of adults towards small family and population education but due to time and economical constraints the investigator has taken only the personal variables of educational qualifications and professional status for the study.

The study was delimited to 300 adults from the Cooch Behar. Care was taken to include equal number of male and female adults working in different professions. Hence purposive sampling procedure was undertaken.

3.0. Methodology of the study: This section has given the brief outline of the design, the population, the sample, tools for the study, techniques for analyzing the data and the procedure.

3.1. The design: The purpose of the study is to find out the Attitude of Adults towards Small Family and Population Education in relation to some personal variables. Hence, a descriptive survey method was adopted to obtain precise information for a study. The study was done in respect of attitude of adult in relation to educational qualifications and professional status. Therefore, a descriptive study was used to collect information based what existed, what we want and how to achieve the predetermined goals. The present study is related to gathering of evidences in the existing situations.

3.2. The Population: Adults of Cooch Behar were constituting the population of the study.

3.3. The sample: The selection of sample was done by purposive sampling procedure. A sample of 300 adults was drawn from Cooch Behar.

3.4. The tool used in the study: Standardized tool prepared by Sodhi and Sharma (2011) was employed for the study to collect information according to the need.

3.4.1. Description of the tool: The tool (ASTSFPE) which was developed by T.S. Sodhi and G.D. Sharma consisting of 34 items was used for the study. The tool is divided into two sections (a) Section I- Attitude towards family size (b) Attitude towards population education. Responses are to be give on a three-point scale. Scoring was done according to the manual. Every positive item was scored 2, 1 and 0 and negative items was scored 0, 1 and 2 respectively.

3.5. Techniques of Data-Analysis: As the study is a normative survey, questionnaire technique was adopted for collection of data. Scoring was done according to the manual; interpretation was done in relation to the objectives and hypotheses formulated. In order to test the hypotheses formulated for the study, ANOVA was adopted.

3.6. Results and Discussions

3.6.1. Test of significance difference between sub-samples through ANOVA on attitude of adult towards small family and population education in educational qualification variation.

In order to find out the difference in scores on attitude of adults towards population education in relation to educational qualification variation, the test of significance of difference between two means of sub samples was calculated and tested for significance. The result has been presented in table below.

Table 1: Test of significance difference between sub-samples through ANOVA on attitude of adult towards small family and population education in educational qualification variation

Component	Sub-sample	N	SS _t	SS _b	SS _w	F	Remarks
Educational qualification	< Graduates	100	12879	676	12203	3.25	Not Significant
	Graduates	100					
	Post Graduates	100					

From the above table it is quite evident that the calculated value of F is less than the tabular value at 0.05 (3.09) and at 0.01(4.78). This indicates that the null hypothesis stating that there would be no significant

difference in attitude adults towards small family and population education due to their educational qualification variation has been accepted.

3.6.2. Test of significance difference between sub-samples through ANOVA on attitude of adult towards small family and population education in relation to Professional status variation.

In order to find out the difference in scores on attitude of adults towards population education in relation to professional status variation, the test of significance of difference between two means of sub samples was calculated and tested for significance. The result has been presented in table below.

Table 2: Test of significance difference between sub-samples through ANOVA on attitude of adult towards small family and population education in relation to Professional status variation

Component	Sub-sample	N	SS _t	SS _b	SS _w	F	Remarks
Professional Status	Student	100	1680	374	1306	3.19	Not Significant
	Government Employee	100					
	Private Employee	100					

From the above table it is quite evident that the calculated value of F is less than the tabular value at 0.05 (3.09) and at 0.01(4.78). This indicates that the null hypothesis stating that there would be no significant difference in attitude adults towards small family and population education due to their professional status variation has been accepted.

3.7. Major findings of the study: The Major findings of the study are as follows

1. There does not exist significant difference in attitude of adults towards small family and population education due to educational qualification variation.
2. There does not exist significant difference in attitude of adults towards small family and population education due to their professional status variation.
3. There does not exist significant difference in attitude of adults towards small family and population education.

3.8. Scope for further research: In this study the focus was more ‘Attitude of Adults towards Small family and Population Education in relation to educational qualification and professional status variations’ the researcher would like to make few recommendations for future research. These include the following.

- First, this study could be replicated using same methodology taking more samples and can include the other districts of West Bengal.
- Population education covers a vast area of research and it includes areas like family planning, sex education and family life education. Therefore, studies may be conducted taking these dimensions into consideration.
- Studies can be conducted on large and more representative sample, so that the result obtained may have clear picture of generalizability and reliability.
- Quantitative method was applied for the research; further research could be done by using qualitative method by conducting interviews and observations to gain in-depth information that could enrich the

findings of this study and create a better understanding of the attitude towards small family and population education.

- The Variables taken for the study were educational qualification and professional status. Further research could be conducted adding more variables like socio-economic status, religion cast and so on.

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