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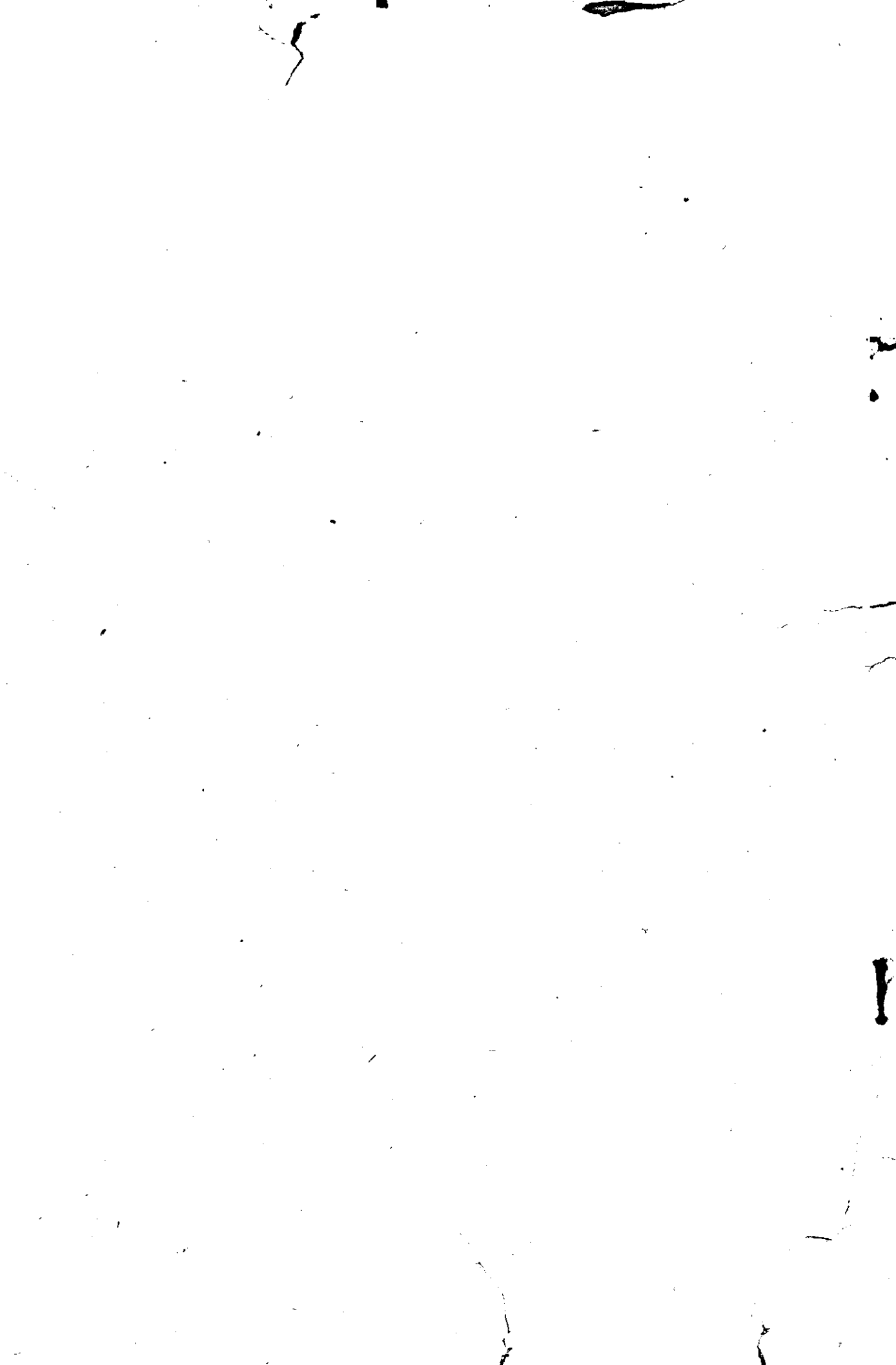
Family Planning Festival at Cannanore

(11.3.72 to 10.4.72)

By

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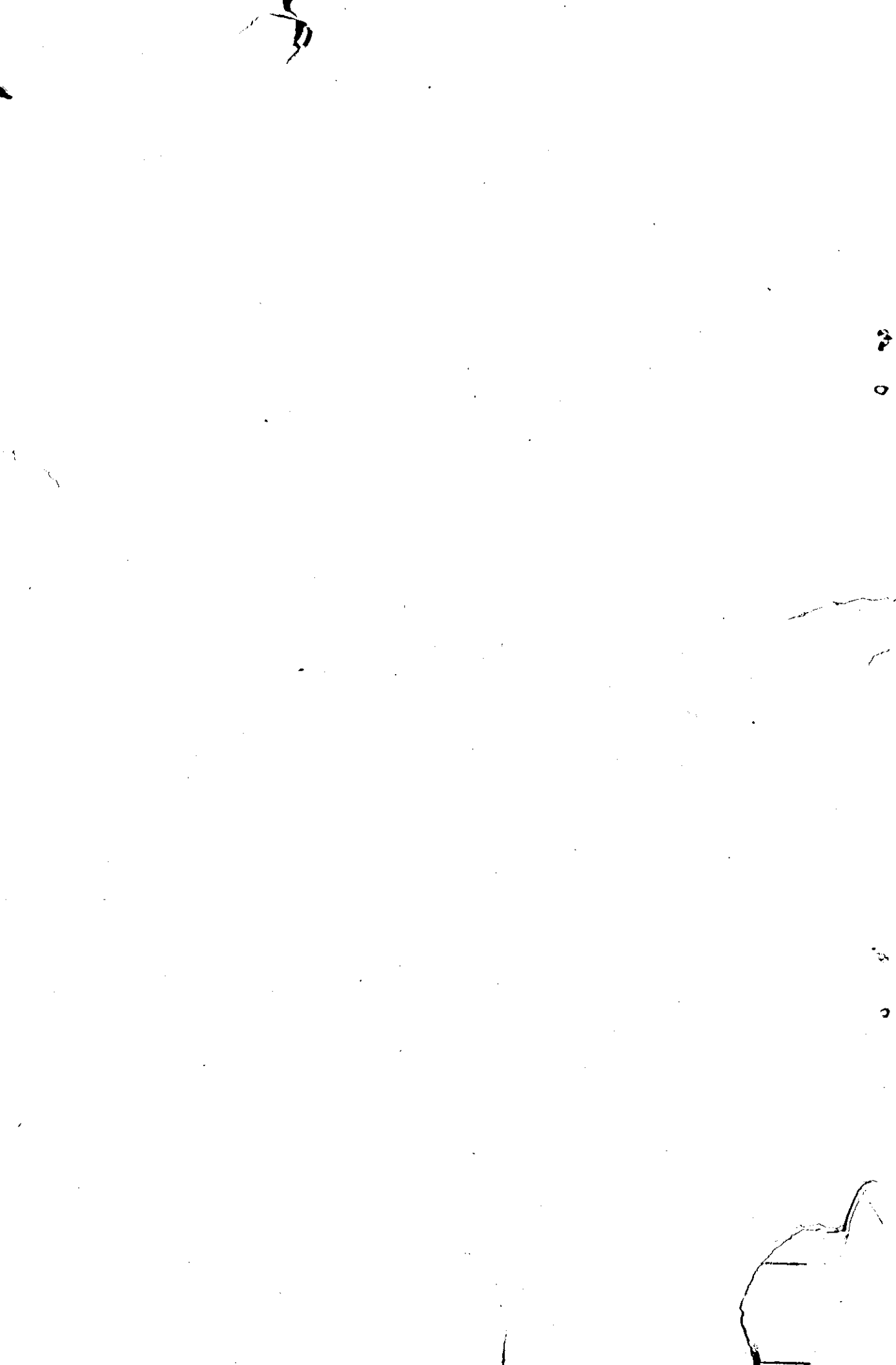
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FAMILY PLANNING FESTIVAL AT CANNANORE

(11-3-1972 to 10-4-1972)

DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTRE, TRIVANDRUM

FEBRUARY 1974



FAMILY PLANNING FESTIVAL AT CANNANORE
(11-3-1972 to 10-4-1972)

Introduction:

Family Planning Festival at Cannanore is one among the series of camps conducted in Kerala in 1972. A large number of persons accepted vasectomy as in the case of the two mass vasectomy camps held at Ernakulam. This has helped to exceed the targets fixed for the camp. The subsequent camps at Trivandrum and Trichur also showed the very same trend.

In the Cannanore camp, 15409 persons have been sterilised. An amount of Rs.14,33,463/- has been spent on this camp which means an expenditure of Rs.93/- per sterilisation.

The present study is an analysis of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of persons who accepted vasectomy in the camp held at Cannanore during the one month period from 11-3-1972 to 10-4-1972.

Sterilisation in Cannanore District

The table below gives the progress of sterilisation in Cannanore District since 1964.

<u>Period</u>		<u>Number of sterilization</u>	
1964-65	..	2024	} 19352 sterili- zation in 7 years
1965-66	..	2012	
1966-67	..	2068	
1967-68	..	2126	
1968-69	..	2186	
1969-70	..	2247	
1970-71	..	2310	
1971-72	..	2403	

It is seen that the performance in the one month camp is about 80% of the achievement in the seven years before the camp.

Age composition:

The median age of males who have undergone vasectomy operation in Cannanore camp is 40.25 years and that of their wives comes to 30.9 years. In Trivandrum camp and Ernakulam 1st camp and 2nd camp, the median ages of acceptors stood at 37.2, 39 and 37.3 years respectively. It is obvious that the vasectomy acceptors of Cannanore camp are on an average older than the acceptors of other camps.

52% of the persons sterilised in Cannanore camp are above 40 years of age where as only 41% of the acceptors in Trivandrum Camp and 38% of the Ernakulam Camp are above 40 years of age. One noticeable feature with regard to the age of wives of persons sterilised in the Cannanore Camp is that 80% of the wives are in the age group 25-39 as against 70% in Trivandrum camp and 78% in Ernakulam 2nd

below
Primary
below Ma
Matric ar
above
TOTAL

In Trivandrum camp, a preliminary screening has been done before a person is accepted for vasectomy operation. Nearly 5% of those who have come for vasectomy operation have been rejected on the ground that they are too old for vasectomy. In Cannanore camp, no such screening is done. So, 8% of the persons sterilised in this camp are above 50 years of age. In Ernakulam camp held in July 1971 only 2.2% are reported to have passed 50 years (Table I).

TABLE I

Distribution of persons vasectomised and their wives according to age in Cannanore, Trivandrum & Ernakulam II camps

Age-group	Male				Wives of persons sterilised			
	No. of persons sterilised in Cannanore camp	%age of persons sterilised in Cannanore camp	Trivan- drum camp held in 1/72	Erna- kulam camp held in 7/71	Wives of persons sterilised in Cannanore camp	%age of persons sterilised in Cannanore camp	Trivan- drum camp held in 1/72	Erna- kulam camp held in 7/71
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15-19	..	..	..	..	82	0.53	0.51	0.3
20-24	42	0.27	0.63	1.4	2031	13.18	20.29	15.8
25-29	924	6.00	12.47	12.1	4536	29.44	29.38	27.4
30-34	2277	14.78	20.19	21.4	4108	26.66	23.84	26.2
35-39	4084	26.50	25.76	26.9	3776	24.51	21.70	24.4
40-44	3505	22.75	21.61	20.8	793	5.15	3.89	5.4
45-49	3266	21.19	17.01	15.2	83	0.53	0.39	0.5
50-54	1038	6.74	..	2.2	..	..	..	..
55-59	249	1.61	..	..	..	..	..	..
60 & above	24	0.16	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	15409	100.00	100.00	100.00	15409	100.00	100.00	100.00

Religion

People from all major religious groups have accepted vasectomy in Cannanore camp. The differential acceptance of vasectomy by religious groups brings to light that Hindus are over represented and X'ians are fully represented and Muslims under represented if we consider the population of these religious groups in the District. (Table II)

TABLE II

Distribution of persons sterilised according to religion

Religion	No. of persons sterilised	Percentage	%age of population religion-wise in Cannanore District
Hindu	12679	82.28	66.23
X'ians	1516	9.84	9.40
Muslims	1213	7.87	24.30
Others	1	0.01	0.03
TOTAL	15409	100.00	100.00

Age specific rate of acceptance of vasectomy by religion reveals that Hindu acceptors are older than X'ian and Muslim acceptors. In the case of X'ians, the largest number has come from 35-39 age group, while the largest number of Hindus and Muslims comes from 45 years and above age group. Another characteristic noticed is that only 4.7% of the Hindu acceptors are below 30 years of age while 14% of X'ian acceptors and 11% of Muslim acceptors are below 30 years of age. Table III.

TABLE III

Age-specific rate of acceptance of vasectomy operation by religions

Age-group	Religions									
	Hindus		X'ians		Muslims		Others		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	No.	%	Number	%
20-24	21	0.165	7	0.461	14	1.154	..	..	42	0.27
25-29	591	4.661	209	13.786	124	10.232	..	..	924	6.00
30-34	1772	13.975	239	19.722	206	16.982	..	..	2277	14.78
35-39	3332	26.279	427	28.166	324	26.710	1	..	4084	26.50
40-44	2383	23.566	303	20.316	209	17.230	..	..	3505	22.75
45+	3975	31.351	266	17.546	336	27.699	..	..	4577	29.70
TOTAL	12679	100	1516	100	1213	100	..	..	15409	100

Education:

Among the persons sterilised, 27% are illiterate, 69% are literate below matric standard and 3.5% are above matric standard (Table IV). Table IV reveals that literates favour vasectomy more than illiterates. An interesting point to be noted here is that the main bulk of literates is from below matric standard. On an analysis of the educational standards of the sterilised persons of the various religious groups it is seen that 27.7% of Hindus, 37.7% of Muslims and 13% of X'ians are illiterates. The predominance of literates in this camp is partly due to the high literacy rate in Kerala as a whole. If the acceptance of family planning by the literates is a conscious attempt on the part of these persons it is a favourable symptom for the future of the programme.

TABLE IV

Distribution of sterilised males according to educational status and religion

Educational status	Religion									
	Hindus		X'ians		Muslims		Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Illiterate	3521	27.77	201	13.26	459	37.84	..	..	4181	27.13
Literate but below primary	4788	37.77	731	48.22	462	38.09	..	..	5981	38.82
Primary but below Matric	3912	30.85	512	34.17	272	22.42	..	..	4702	30.51
Matric and above	458	3.61	66	4.35	20	1.65	1	100	545	3.54
TOTAL	12679	100	1516	100	1213	100	1	100	15409	100

Income:

The incentive offered per sterilization in the camp is greater than what is offered in the local hospitals. 85% of persons sterilised in Cannanore camp have a monthly income, less than Rs.100/-. In the Ernakulam camp held in 1971 and Trivandrum camp held in 1972, the percentages of persons with less than Rs.100/- are 79 and 48 respectively. Persons from the lower income group are being attracted to vasectomy camp in larger numbers. Table V reveals the distribution of persons according to monthly income in Cannanore, Ernakulam and Trivandrum camps.

TABLE V

Monthly Income	No. of persons sterilised in Cannanore camp	Percentage distribution of sterilised persons		
		Cannanore camp held in 4/72	Ernakulam camp held in 1/72	Trivandrum camp held in 7/71
Less than Rs.50	2915	18.92	9.8	2.09
Rs. 50 - 99	10118	65.66	69.1	45.70
" 100 - 149	1257	8.16	15.2	28.40
" 150 - 199	504	3.27	3.2	14.31
" 200 & above	615	3.99	2.7	9.50
TOTAL	15409	100.00	100.00	100.00

Occupation:

The occupational distribution of sterilised persons in the Cannanore Camp brings to light that agricultural labourers form 41%. The unskilled workers form 18% and cultivators 17%. This means that 3/4th of the persons sterilised in Cannanore camp are drawn from these 3 occupational groups.

TABLE VI

Distribution of sterilised persons according to occupation

Occupation	No. of persons sterilised	Percentage
Agricultural labourers	6280	40.76
Other unskilled workers	2741	17.79
Cultivators and farmers	2608	16.92
Skilled workers	2140	13.89
Professional workers	285	1.85
Traders and Business-men	696	4.52
Clerks	343	2.22
Other services	224	1.45
No occupation	92	0.60
TOTAL	15409	100.00

Number of children living

The average number of children living to a sterilised person is 4.17 at the time of sterilisation. Among the sterilised persons 6% have no male children living and 9% have no female children living at the time of sterilization as may be seen from Table VII.

TABLE VII

Distribution of sterilised males according to number of children living in each sex

No. of male children living	Number of female children living								Total	%
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+ above		
0	..	38	340	303	141	51	21	13	907	5.89
1	72	1675	1436	728	342	150	39	15	4457	28.92
2	552	1615	1297	779	359	137	42	9	4790	31.69
3	433	845	815	533	238	83	30	8	2985	19.37
4	180	383	385	254	117	47	14	4	1384	8.98
5	87	177	163	95	47	18	1	3	591	3.84
6	36	64	47	43	11	3	2	1	207	1.34
7+ above	11	31	22	17	4	3	..	..	88	0.57
TOTAL	1371	4828	4505	2752	1259	492	149	53	15409	100
%	8.90	31.33	29.24	17.86	8.17	3.19	0.97	0.34	100	

Impact of sterilisation on future births

15409 sterilization operations have been conducted in the camp at Cannanore. These sterilisations have their effect in saving future births as long as the wives of sterilised persons are alive and are in the reproductive ages. As one sterilisation in Kerala will prevent along 2.54 births in the course of 23 years, it can be seen that nearly 39139 births will be saved by the sterilizations done in the camp.

Policy implications:

Even in a District like Cannanore, where the progress of sterilisation under the normal programme has been insignificant, the concerted efforts of various Departments and higher incentives could bring in a significantly higher number of acceptors in the short span of a month. This should be an eye opener for administrators, in launching an intensified programme in Districts, which lag behind in Family Planning performance. In order, that such achievements may not be followed by periods of lull, it is worth considering whether the gap between the incentives offered under the normal programme and the camp, could not be narrowed down.

The need to eliminate acceptors of higher age groups is also obvious. Innovative methods of motivating Muslims so as to increase the rate of acceptance among them, have to be devised.

Summary and conclusions

The bulk of the sterilised persons belongs to 30-49 age group. 81% of the wives of the sterilised persons are in 25-39 age group. Considering the general population of Cannanore District, one can see that Hindus among sterilised are over represented by 16% and Muslims are under represented by 16%. X'ians among the sterilised showed the same proportion as in the general population of the District. A substantial number of Hindu and Muslim acceptors belongs to the ages 45 years and above.

27% of the acceptors of vasectomy are illiterate. 69% are literate but are below primary standard. 85% of the acceptors have a monthly income of less than Rs.100/- 75% of the sterilised persons are drawn from the three categories - Agricultural labourers, unskilled workers and cultivators.

An average of 4.17 children are living at the time of sterilisation, 6% have no male children living and 9% have no female children living at the time of sterilisation.

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Book Name Family planning

This Demographic Research Centre started in August 1958 gives top priority to

- (i) collection of information on attitude towards family planning which may be of immediate use in education programme and later help in assessing the changes in these attitudes brought about by family planning programme,
- (ii) investigation of socio-economic factors affecting fertility which may lead to appropriate social action for reducing birth rates,
and
- (iii) study of the effect of family planning programme on attitudes and birth rates in areas where it is being implemented.