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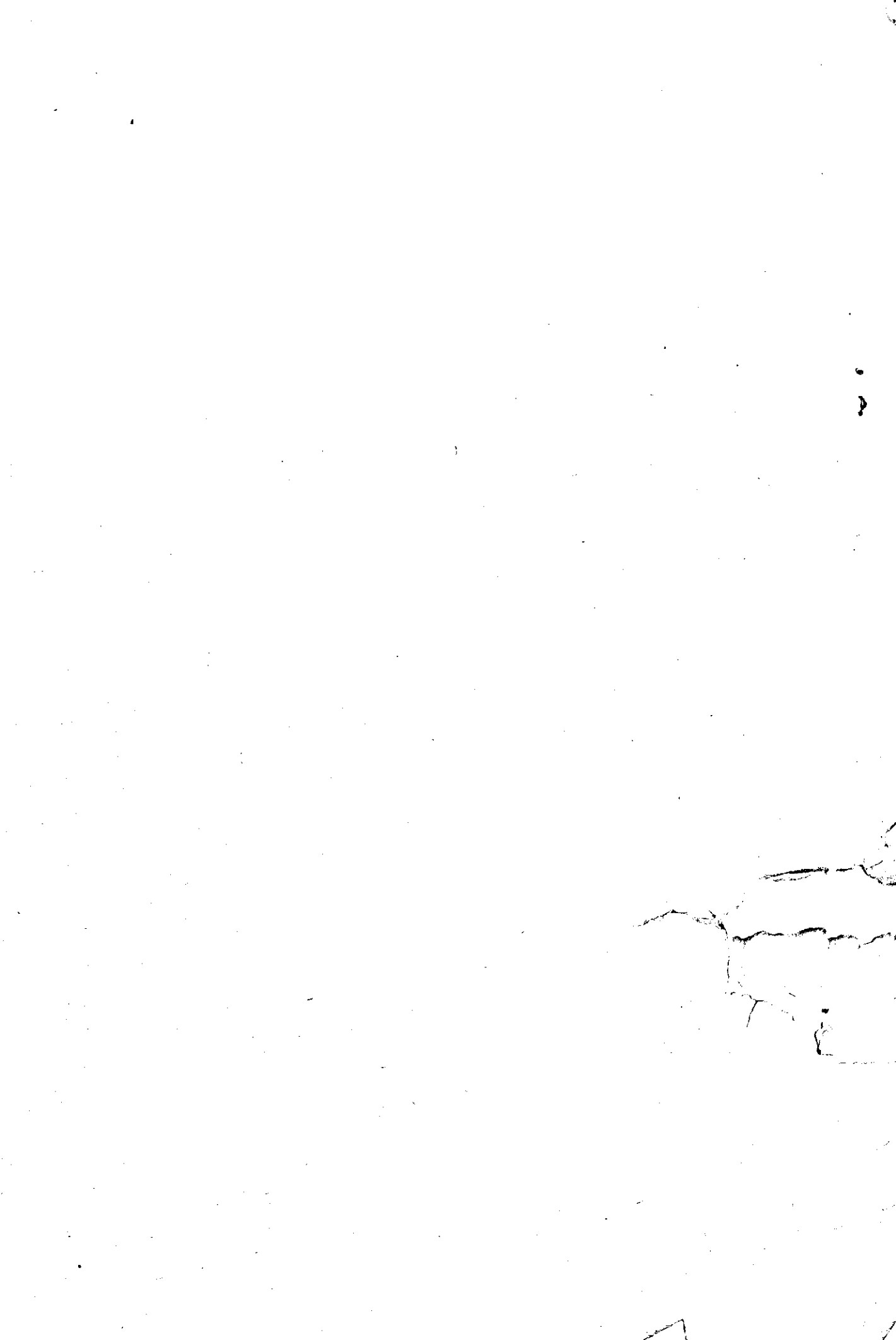
**BUREAU OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS  
KERALA STATE**

*Population Studies No. 120*

**A STUDY OF  
I. U. C. D. ACCEPTORS IN KERALA DURING 1968-69**

**NOVEMBER, 1971**

**POPULATION DIVISION  
DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTRE**



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A study of the I.U.C.D. acceptors in Kerala during 1

PREFACE

This monograph gives the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the I.U.C.D. acceptors in Kerala during 1968-69. The Demographic Research Centre of the Bureau is publishing similar studies in respect of sterilised persons also separately.

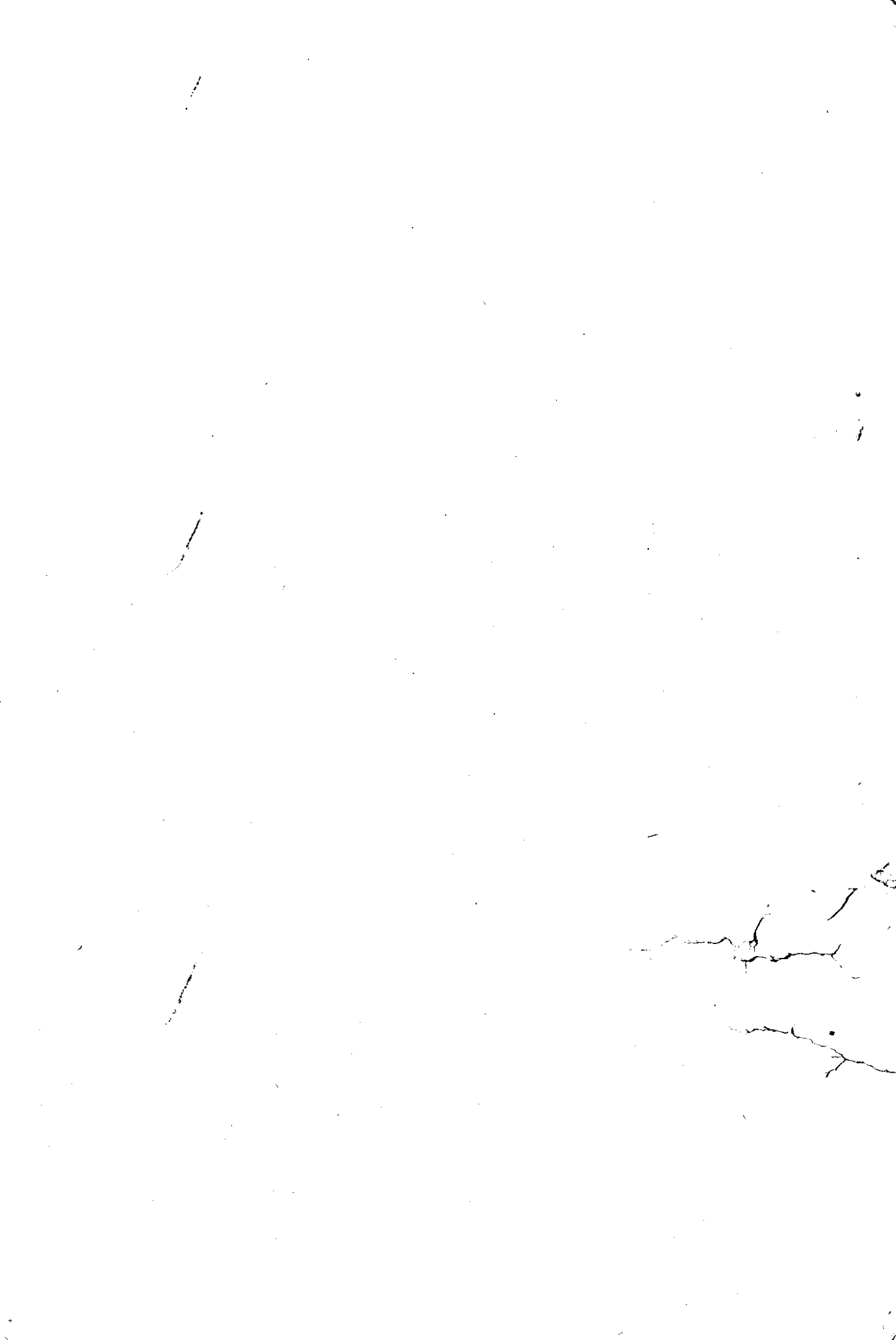
The data for this study are collected by the District Statistical Offices of the Bureau from the institutions concerned with the family planning activities. In view of the fact that the data expected to be collected by these institutions are not properly recorded by them in the prescribed registers, information on various characteristics are not available in a large number of cases covered by the study. This non-response has considerably weakened the results brought out by the study making it difficult to draw firm conclusions. In spite of these limitations it is hoped that the study will be found useful to Research Workers, Planners and Policy makers. Suggestion for improvement of the report will be greatly appreciated.

The report has been prepared by Shri N.V.George, Research Officer, Shri P.S.G.Nair, Assistant Director and Shri S.Bhagavatheeswara Iyer, Deputy Director of the population division in the Bureau.

Trivandrum,

8-11-1971.

Dr. P.K.GOPALAKRISHNAN  
DIRECTOR.



## A study of the I.U.C.D. acceptors in Kerala during 1968-69.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Facilities for I.U.C.D. insertion were provided in the hospitals of Kerala State from 1965 onwards. The method was welcomed by a large number of females from the beginning. One important reason for this is the advantage of I.U.C.D. over other temporary methods which require frequent and repeated attention. The I.U.C.D. method of contraception is free from this defect as the device once inserted remains in position until it is removed or expelled.

About 35,000 women adopted I.U.C.D. in the first year of its introduction. In the next year about 41,000 adopted IUCD. In the following year the number of adopters decreased to about 38,000 which further decreased to 36,000 in 1968-69. A study on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the females who adopted IUCD during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 was conducted by the centre. The results were published as report No. D.R.C. 64. . . . . of this Bureau. In this paper the data relating to the IUCD acceptors during the year 1968-69 are analysed with a view to studying their demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

### 2. OBJECTS OF THE STUDY:

The report tries to provide information on demographic characteristics of IUCD acceptors like age and number of children and on socio-economic characteristics such as education, income, occupation and religion. In the case of income, the income of the couple is considered. In the case of education and occupation the status of both the husband and wife are considered separately.

### 3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The main drawback of the study is the incomplete coverage of the IUCD cases of the reference year 1968-69. According to the figures of the Department of Health Services 36,062 IUCD insertions were done during the year. But, data on 30,006 cases alone could be collected. The coverage is thus only about 83%. Even among these 30,006 cases also data on all the cases on the different characteristics were not available. The non-response was seen to be highest in respect of the occupation of the I.U.C.D. acceptors. Data on this could be collected only in less than one-third of the cases. In the case of education, the data were not recorded in the case of 54% IUCD acceptors and in the case of 76% of their husbands. Regarding other items also there was non-response though to a lesser extent. The conclusions drawn from the incomplete data are thus subject to serious limitations.

### 4. AGE COMPOSITION:

The distribution of women who have adopted IUCD during 1968-69 according to their age is given in Table 1.

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Table: 1

Distribution of IUCD acceptors (1968-69) according to age.

Age group	Number	Percentage	Percentage distribution of married females 15-44 years as per 1961 Census.
15-19	571	1.97	8.53
20-24	6013	20.75	21.97
25-29	9753	33.65	23.29
30-34	7205	24.86	18.69
35-39	4550	15.70	16.50
40-44	806	2.78	11.02
45 and above	85	0.29	..
Not recorded	1023	..	..
Total	30006	100.00	100.00

From the above table it can be seen that about 58% of the women who accepted IUCD method belonged to the age group 25-34 years. The 15-34 years accounted for more than 79% of the IUCD insertions covered by the study.

The comparison with the figures relating to the previous years shows that the pattern is similar in all these years. Among the IUCD acceptors, the percentage of women who belonged to the age group in 20-34 was 75 in 1966-67 and 77 in 1967-68 as against 79 in 68-69. The percentage of acceptors in the age groups above 34 years was higher and these below 20 years was lower in the previous years, namely 1967-68 and 1966-67. This welcome shift in favour of early adoption of IUCD is clearly manifested in the age distribution.

The modal age group of IUCD acceptors was reported as 25-29 years in all the three years 1966-69. It is worth noting that this is identical with the modal age group observed in the case of married women according to the 1961 census population as may be seen from col. (4) of table 1 above.

The median age of the acceptors IUCD works out to 28.5 years. The median age was about 30 years in the previous years.

A comparison of the percentage distribution of the acceptors by age with that of married women in 15-44 years in the general population as made available by the 1961 census population shows that comparatively few women adopt IUCD before the age of 29 or above 39 years of age (vide table 1).

It may be mentioned here that the age distribution of sterilised females also follows the same pattern except that in the early years of marriage i.e. in the age groups below 25 years, the percentage of acceptors is more in respect of IUCD than of sterilisation. For instance during the year 1968-69 about 22% of the IUCD acceptors were females below 25 years whereas only 14% of the sterilised females belonged to the age group. This indicates that women prefer IUCD to sterilisation in the early years of marriage.

5. NUMBER OF CHILDREN:

The number of children the female had at the time of IUCD insertion is an index of the timing of IUCD adoption; and of the efficacy of the acceptance in family limitation. In fact this is a better index than the age characteristic, since the age factor is dependent on the age at marriage also. In the following table the distribution of women according to the number of children born and number of children living is given.

Table: 2

Distribution of women who have adopted IUCD according to No. of children.

Number of children	B o r n		L i v i n g	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0	20	0.11	22	0.09
1	1273	7.14	1986	7.99
2	3902	21.88	6160	24.77
3	4570	25.63	6799	27.34
4	3349	18.78	4592	18.46
5	2139	11.99	2617	10.52
6	1280	7.18	1492	6.00
7	706	3.96	718	2.89
8	351	1.97	298	1.20
9	151	0.84	111	0.45
10	64	0.36	51	0.20
Above 10	28	0.16	23	0.09
Not Recorded	12173	..	5137	..
Total	30006	100.00	30006	100.00

The average number of children born to IUCD acceptors works out to 3.62 and the average number of children living is 3.39. The average number of children living to IUCD acceptors worked out to 3.39 in 1966-67 and 3.74 in 1967-68. The average number of living children for the year 1968-69 is slightly less than the corresponding number in the previous years indicating the tendency on the part of women to adopt, IUCD at slightly earlier level of parity than in the previous years.

The percentage distribution shows that about 8% of women adopted IUCD when they had only one child living. The percentage is slightly higher than that in the previous years. About 60% of the IUCD acceptors had 3 or less children living. The percentage is also slightly higher compared to the percentages in 1966-67 and 1967-68. About 11% of the acceptors had 6 or more living children at the time of insertion.

About 55% females adopted IUCD when, 3 or less children are born to them and about 14% adopted the device when 6 or more children were born.

The above figures also indicate a shift infavour of early adoption of IUCD.

## 6. RELIGION:

The differential acceptance of family planning by different religions is a matter which deserves close attention and study. The low acceptance rate by a particular religious group may serve as a disincentive to others. The religion wise analysis will be helpful to focus greater attention of the propaganda machinery, on the less motivated sections. The following table gives the distribution of IUCD acceptors according to religion.

Table: 3

Distribution of women who have adopted IUCD according to religion.

Religion	Number	Percentage
Hindu	20002	76.29
Christian	3892	14.84
Muslim	2327	8.87
Not Recorded	3785	..
Total	30006	100.00

The percentages of Hindus and Muslims have increased slightly with a corresponding decrease in the percentage of Christians compared to 1967-68. The figures are given below:

Religion	Percentage of IUCD acceptors 1967-68
Hindu	73.73
Christian	18.89
Muslim	7.38
Not Recorded	
Total	100.00

The percentages of Hindus, Christians and Muslims in the general population of Kerala as per 1961 Census are 61, 21 and 18 respectively. When the percentage distribution of IUCD acceptors by religion is compared with that in the general population, it is seen that the method was very sparingly adopted by the Muslim women. IUCD is seen to be less popular among Christians also. Over 75% of the acceptors were Hindus.

## 7. EDUCATION:

Analysis of the educational level of the IUCD acceptors will help finding out the extent of influence of education as a factor for family planning acceptance. In our society the influence of the male partner is also a strong factor to make the couple decide the acceptance of any of the family planning methods. The distribution of IUCD acceptors during 1968-69 according to, their educational status and their husband's educational status is given in table 4.



Table: 4

Distribution of IUCD acceptors according to their educational status and that of their husbands.

Educational Status	Husband		Wife	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Illiterate	1394	19.29	4300	31.14
Literate below primary	2382	32.95	5177	37.50
Above primary below middle	1996	27.61	2810	20.36
Above middle below matric	758	10.49	777	5.63
Matric and above matric	544	7.53	639	4.63
Literate educational status not specified	154	2.13	102	0.74
Not Recorded	22778	..	16201	..
Total	30006	100.00	30006	100.00

According to 1961 census, 48.03% of the women in 15-44 age group in Kerala are illiterate, 34.06% are literate without educational level, 13.75% are of primary or junior basic level and 4.16% are of matriculation level and above. A comparison of the above figures with that of IUCD acceptors shows that comparatively more literate women adopt IUCD. In the above primary level, the popularity of IUCD is comparatively very prominent. As compared to the previous year, more illiterates had accepted IUCD during the year 1968-69. Against 23% illiterate acceptors in 1967-68, the percentage of illiterate acceptors during 1968-69 was 31.

The influence of the educational level of the husband over the acceptance of the IUCD method by their wives is revealed in Table 4. This is brought out by the comparison of the distribution of husbands by their educational status with the corresponding distribution of males aged 20-59 in the general population. The age group of 20-59 among males is considered because it is assumed that this will be the age group of husbands of females aged 15-44 years. According to the 1961 population census, among the males aged 20-59 in Kerala State 29.1% are illiterate, 48.5% are literate without educational level, 14.6% have passed primary or junior basic, 7.8% have passed matriculation and above. When these figures are compared with the percentage distribution of husbands of the IUCD acceptors in table 4, it is seen that IUCD is more popular among those whose male partner is literate.

#### 8. INCOME:

The distribution of IUCD acceptors according to monthly income of the couple is given in Table-5.

Table: 5

Distribution of IUCD acceptors according to monthly income of the couple

Monthly income of couple	Number	Percentage
Below Rs. 50/-	4478	24.29
Rs. 50-99	11401	61.83
Rs. 100-149	1805	9.79
Rs. 150-199	391	2.12
Rs. 200 and above	364	1.97
Not Recorded	11567	..
Total	30006	100.00

As in the previous year about 86% of the IUCD acceptors had a monthly family income of less than Rs. 100/-. The data on income are available from only less than two-thirds of acceptors. The available data itself are collected without any probing enquiry. The data presented in table 5 are subject to these limitations.

#### 9. OCCUPATION:

The differential acceptance of IUCD among occupational groups is examined with reference to the occupation of the IUCD acceptors and their husbands. The analysis of the data on the occupation of the husbands of IUCD acceptors is attempted, this year since the husband's occupation is considered as an important influencing factor as regards family planning acceptance by the couple. The data are presented in table 6 below. It may be noted that this data also have serious limitations due to heavy non-response. The data have been made available only in the case of about 37% husbands and 33% of wives covered by the study.

Table: 6

Distribution of IUCD acceptors and their husbands according to occupation.

Occupation	Husband		Wife	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Per. r 75% of
Agricultural labour	822	7.49	341	3.86
Other unskilled work	6582	59.99	3813	38.11
Skilled work	517	4.71	186	1.86
Cultivator	1333	12.15	170	1.70
Professional work	195	1.78	263	2.63
Traders and business men	589	5.37	132	1.32
Clerical workers	160	1.46	32	0.32
Others	548	4.99	1035	10.35
No occupation	226	2.06	4032	40.30
Not Recorded	19034	..	20002	..
Total	30006	100.00	30006	100.00

Of the reported cases, only about 60% females reported any occupation. 38% reported unskilled work which included coolies etc. The trend of the previous year holds good for this year also. But the percentage of those reporting no occupation rose from 24% in 1967-68 to 40% in 1968-69.

Among the husbands considered, only 2% reported as having no occupation. Among those reporting occupation, 60% were unskilled workers, 12% were cultivators and 7% were agricultural labourers. The income distribution and occupational distribution reveals that the lower groups accept IUCD more than the other groups. The reason may be xx that the monetary incentives awarded for the IUCD insertion has attracted larger number of persons to accept the method.

#### 10. EFFECT OF IUCD INSERTION ON BIRTH RATE:

The effect of IUCD in reducing birth rate depends on not only on the rate of IUCD insertion but also on the rates of expulsion, removal, re-insertion of IUCDs and the rate of accidental pregnancies among IUCD acceptors. For a study of these factors follow up study of the IUCD cases is essential. In the absence of information on the number of IUCDs removed or expelled we cannot make any assessment of the active cases of IUCDs each year. The Department of Family Planning, Government of India has estimated an average saving of 0.7 births over 5 years per IUCD insertion. At this rate, the 36062 IUCD insertions in 1968-69 will result in saving 25243 births over next five years.

#### 11. SUMMARY:

The study of the characteristics of IUCD acceptors has revealed the following important findings:-

- (1) Out of the general population a much larger percentage of acceptors came from the age group of 25-34 than from any other age group.
- (2) The median age of IUCD acceptors of 1968-69 was 28.5 years.
- (3) Females are seen to adopt IUCD at slightly earlier level than observed in the previous years.

90% IUCD acceptors had 3 or less children living. Majority of the IUCD acceptors were Hindus. The IUCD acceptance among Muslims was found to be very poor as in the previous years.

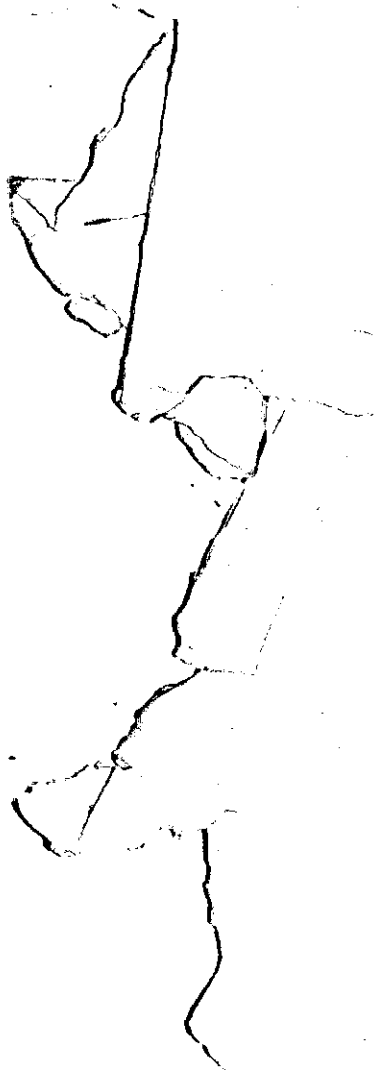
IUCD method was comparatively less popular among illiterates.

Majority of the acceptors belonged to the low income group of having less than Rs.100/- as monthly family income.

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