

A STUDY OF 334 MALE STERILISATIONS IN KANDY

Palitha Abeykoon

This paper reports the findings of a study conducted on 334 men who obtained vasectomies in a Kandy Clinic.

The objectives of the study were to determine:

1. the socioeconomic characteristics of the men seeking sterilisation.
2. the reasons for the decision for family limitation.
3. the sources of information and influence in the decision making process.

4. the response to the post-operative follow up advised and postoperative interview and examination.

The data was gathered by structured interview prior to the operation and a postoperative followup.

The variables considered include age distribution, levels of education and occupations, children by their ages and sex, sources and time of information, earlier contraception, reasons and persons influencing the decision making process and preferences in relation to either a male or female child prior to the vasectomy.

The complications of the operation and the results of the seminal fluid examination were also recorded.

The results indicate that;

1. a proportionately greater number of men were Sinhalese Buddhists drawing incomes higher than the national norms. Muslims are significantly less.
2. friends and earlier acceptors were the chief sources of information and influence rather than medical and paramedical personnel.
3. there is a definite preference to have a male child before deciding on a vasectomy.
4. complications were rare and minimal.
5. the response to postoperative followup was poor and that operational and delivery aspects influenced this significantly.

There emerge from the findings distinct possible, practical, inputs in communication, education and services that could be made into the sterilization programmes of the country.