

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE NATURE OF INFLUENCE
OF SON PREFERENCE ON CONTRACEPTIVE USE
AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN SELECTED AREAS OF THE KEGALLE DISTRICT

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There is considerable empirical evidence to show that both men and women of rural areas in the developing countries express strong preference for sons. A few studies have also indicated that strong sex preference influences contraceptive use. The present study was designed to find out whether there is a strong preference for sons among currently married rural women in certain selected areas of the Kegalle District, and whether such a preference has any influence on their contraceptive use. It was hypothesized that women with more surviving sons will be more highly motivated to limit the size of their families. Therefore, contraceptive acceptance and continuation among women, as well as their response to family planning were examined. The study revealed that there was a clear, direct association between the number of living sons and contraceptive use. Also, controlling for parity, women with more sons showed a more positive response to family planning. The desire to have at least two sons seems to exert a considerable influence on contraceptive behaviour. The study also revealed several socio-economic reasons for son preference.

References

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