

COMPARABILITY OF WORLD FERTILITY SURVEY
AND CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE SURVEY DATA
PERTAINING TO CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN SRI LANKA

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The World Fertility Survey in 1975 and the Contraceptive Prevalence Survey in 1982 have been the major sources for recent ~~research~~ into fertility and family planning in Sri Lanka. The present study shows that although these surveys have certain distinct differences, there is a great deal in common which is reflected in various aspects of survey methodology. A comparison of the estimates of contraception, therefore, can be performed for a fairly reasonable period.

A comparative analysis, such as attempted in this present study leads to a better understanding of Sri Lanka's reproductive behaviour and its changes over time. This study also points out certain areas that should be explored in greater detail in order to provide a more scientific understanding of contraceptive use and trends.

The study has basically concluded that the observed pattern of contraception may differ from the actual trend due to the differences in the way in which the data on contraception were obtained by the two surveys. The CPS approach on contraception differed from the WFS in terms of the techniques used in interviewing the respondents. Such differences might have affected to some extent the differences in estimates of contraceptive use. Also, the validity of responses to questions on use of traditional methods should be further investigated. No attempts were made during the interviews in either survey to assess whether the respondents used the methods effectively.