# CHANGING TRENDS IN FEMALE STERILIZATION ACCEPTORS AT ALLAHABAD

By

MANJU VERMA, D. SHARMA, G. GANGULI, K. MUKHERJEE AND R. BAVEJA

#### SUMMARY

A retrospective study analysing the changing trends in acceptors of female sterilization procedures during a six year period from 1981-87 at S.R.N. Hospital, Allahabad was done.

An increase in percentage of acceptors opting for female sterilization measures with fewer children was seen in the latter half of the study. Another trend seen was the shift in acceptors of sterilization by females in the younger age groups. Initially, a higher percentage of rural women opted for permanent sterilization but later both rural and urban women equally opted for sterilization.

The necessity of female sterilization procedures as a means for achieving population control cannot be undermined. Since the year 1966-67, with the Family Planning Programme becoming result oriented and the introduction of All India Post Partum Programme in 1970 and implementation of MTP Act in 1973, a spurt in cases of female sterilization was seen.

Since more than a decade has passed, the pattern of acceptors of sterilization procedures are changing (Dutta and Chakravorty, 1978; Pati et al, 1980; Jain et al 1985a, b). Therefore it becomes imperative to modify and adapt these programmes accordingly so as to get maximum benefit in achieving population stabilization in our country.

This study was, therefore, undertaken

to analyse the statistics of six years (1981-87) and see the changing trends at S.R.N. Hospital, Allahabad.

Material and Methods

This study was based on the observations of patients undergoing tubectomy (either laparoscopic or abdominal) during a six year period from 1981-87. The data of 11,789 tubectomy cases was analysed to highlight the changing trends.

### Observations

During the period 1981-87, 11,789 cases of tubectomy were done at S.R.N. Hospital, Allahabad.

Table I shows the yearly breakup of cases during this period. An overall decrease in the number of cases is being seen.

Accepted for publication on 26-8-88.

From: Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology M.L.N. Medical College, Allahabad.

TABLE I
Showing Yearly Figures of Sterilization Acceptors

Year	No. of cases		
1981-82	1524		
1982-83	2995		
1983-84	2297		
1984-85	1716		
1985-86	1793		
1986-87	1486		

Table II shows the breakup of cases according to the number of issues of the acceptors. A perusal of the table shows that acceptance of a permanent procedure after two children increased from 50% to 14% and a reduction from 33.76% in 1981 to 19.69% in 1987 of acceptors with five children.

Table III shows the distribution of cases according to the age. Initially, in 1981, 56% of acceptors were over 35 years

age but the percentage decreased to 22.5% in 1987. 18.8% of acceptors were in the age group of 20-29 years in 1981-82. This percentage of acceptors increased to 49.32% in 1986-87.

In 1981-82, the percentage of rural women undergoing tubectomy was 58.79% as compared to 41.21% women residing in urban areas. This pattern continued till 1984-85 with the percentage being 63.47% and 36.53% in 1982-83; 63.86% and 36.14% in 1983-84 and 52.21% and 47.79% in 1984-85 in the two groups respectively. This trend reversed in 1985-86 when the percentage was 44.78% and 55.22% in the rural and urban group. The percentage was nearly equal in 1986-87 being 50.95% and 49.05% in the two groups.

An overall 21.74% cases underwent sterilization simultaneously with MTP in

TABLE II
Showing Percentage of Female Sterilization According to the Number of Issues

Year	LAPATE THE M	THE PARTY OF THE P	المتعادر			
	2	3	4	5	N.A.	Total
1981-82	5.6	28.6	29.52	35.76	0.48	100
1982-83	6.4	25.01	28.48	37.09	4.02	100
1983-84	7.35	30.91	27.73	33.34	0.67	100
1984-85	9.44	32.05	30.18	28.33	The same of the	100
1985-86	13.2	44.0	22.92	19.88	ments and the	100
1986-87	13.8	42.34	24.11	19.69	1000	100

TABLE III
Showing Percentage of Acceptors According to Age

Age Group in years	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87	Total
20-24	4.52	7.24	9.01	9.84	10.2	12.9	8.77
25-29	14.30	20 30	26.42	24.30	26.99	36.33	24.31
30-34	24.86	22.90	25.96	27.79	33.29	28.27	26.55
35-39	32.61	27.01	22.15	33.85	24.57	19.26	26.49
40-44	2371	22.55	17.02	4.22	4.57	3.24	13.80
Over 45	The state of the s	-	0.24	1000	0.08	100-1	0.08
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

the six year period while in 78.26% tubectomy was not in combination with MTP. The percentage of cases in combination with MTP increased from 9.97% and 5.57% in 1981-82, 1982-83 to 23.37% in 1983-84; 35.25% in 1984-85; 32.73% in 1985-86 and 34.97% in 1986-87.

#### Discussion

A gradual decrease of tubectomy cases seen at our centre in the six year period is possibly due to the training of more laparoscopic teams in the region and the frequent organisation of rural tubectomy camps. Similar trends have been observed by Dutta and Chakravorty, 1978 and Pati et al (1980) at Calcutta. Suitable counter measures to check this downward trend should be undertaken on priority basis.

In the present study, only 5-14% acceptors were having two children. The present publicity measures and incentives offered by the Government does help in motivating people to accept permanent sterilization after two children. A welcome trend seen in the present study is a decline in acceptors with five children from 35.76% to 19.6%. Simultaneously the percentage of acceptors with three issues increased from an initial 28.6% to 42.34%. Similar observations have been reported by Pati et al (1980) while other workers have not made such observations.

In the present study, in 1981-82, 32.61% of sterilization acceptors were in the age group of 35-39 years and 23.71% of acceptors were in the age group of 40-44 years. Thus in 1981-82 more than 50% of cases were those whose active reproductive life was almost over. The corres-

ponding figures, however, decreased to 22.24% in 1986-87. Sterilization procedures in this elderly age group does not significantly contribute to population control. Similar trends have been observed by Pati et al (1980). Initially, 14.3% of acceptors were in the age group of 25-29 years but it later increased to 36.33% in 1986-87. An overall increase to 49% of acceptors in the age group of 21-29 years in 1986-87 signifies a very important change since these women are in the prime of reproductive period and have more childbearing potential. Similar trends have been observed by Pati et al (1980).

In the beginning of this study, most of the cases (90.03%) accepted sterilization procedures without simultaneous MTP while only 9.97% accepted sterilization with MTP. In the later part, in 1986-87 there was a statistically significant increase in the percentage of acceptors after MTP (21.74%) though intersterilization still predominates (78.26%). Similar rising percentage has been observed in other reported series (Dutta and Chakravorty, 1978; Pati et al, 1980 and Jain et al, 1985). In the other studies, the percentage of acceptors with MTP have risen greatly and this suggests that motivation of women undergoing MTP in this region will increase the number of acceptors of sterilization.

The increase in percentage of cases of women residing in urban areas in 1984-85 and in 1986-87 belies the fact that urban females opt for spacing methods rather than opting for permanent measures. The incentives and motivation factors have helped in mobilising urban women to opt for permanent sterilization procedures.

## Conclusions

- (i) Total number of cases showed an overall decrease.
- (ii) The percentage of cases opting for permanent sterilization procedure after three issues has increased considerably.
- (iii) Percentage of cases opting for tubectomy in the younger age group of 21-29 years has increased indicating effective impact on population control.
- (iv) Only 36% cases opted for sterilization with MTP thereby indicating a vast potential for motivation in this group of patients.

(v) Target couples residing in urban areas can also be motivated to undergo permanent sterilization procedures as reflected by an increase to 55% in 1985-86.

# References

- Dutta, D. C. and Chakravorty, A. B.: Indian Prog. in Vol. Sterilization, 2: 82 1978.
- Jain, S., Kumari, S., Aranya, R., Gupta, A. and Khurana, M.: J. Obstet. Gynec. India, 35: 694, 1985.
- Jain, S., Kumari, S., Arora, U., Aranya, R., Bansal, A. and Chandra, S.: J. Obstet. Gynec. India, 35: 1178, 1985.
- 4. Pati, D., Burman, G. and Biswas, A.: Indian Prog. in Vol. Sterilization, 3: 12, 1980.