

South India Fertility Project
Village survey

VILLAGE: <i>Hamlets:</i>	Distance from village to ...
Mandal/Taluk :	
Block:	
District:	
Nearest town:	
State:	

Name of investigators:

Survey period:

Visits by SIFP researchers:

Preliminary notes:

- Some general information about the village may be gathered from printed sources (census data), but most information will be collected during the village survey.
- The survey is *not a household survey* where the same set of questions is asked to a sample of village households. Many questions are simply descriptive (type of infrastructures, etc.).
- No exact figure need be collected when the information is not readily available. Investigators must however ascertain the plausibility of estimates given (population estimates, irrigated land, migration remittances, etc.) by crosschecking from *different sources*.
- It is mainly a *qualitative* survey, where information may be elicited from people belonging to all sections of the population. But the same questions need not be asked systematically and questions remain *open*: answers do not follow a given format and may stimulate further observations from the interviewees.
- Some village key village figures will be considered *in priority* to discuss given issues: teacher, ANM and other PHC personnel, panchayat members, religious leaders, landowners, trade unionist, shop-owners, community leaders, political figures, village accountant, etc. Women and elders are also an important source of information on tradition and change in the village.
- Many issues relate to opinions and perceptions and investigators must therefore compare answers from different people (gender- or cast-wise, for example). Data collection will be much *longer* than for descriptive questions.
- The last part includes the questionnaire for individual interviews followed by the questionnaires for FGDs.

1. General data on the population (from 1991 or 2001 census)

Present estimates of population (2002) Number of households: Population: Density: <i>Other available Census data</i>	
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(1991) Population: males: females:		% workers by occupation (1991): Cultivators	
Child-woman ratio (CWR):		Agricultural. Labourers:	
<i>rural district CWR (2001):</i>		Transport:	
		Mining:	
Male literacy rates		Fishery: forestry:	
female lit rates:		Household industry	
<i>district fem. lit rates (2001):</i>		other industry:	
		Construction	
% Tribals:		Trade/commerce	
% Dalits:		Other services:	

Land use (%): Forest:		% cultivated land irrigated	
Major irrigation type (%): Tank		Well:	
Canal/river:		Other:	

(1991 data from census)

2. Social composition of the population (2002 field survey)

(Estimated) number of households per religion in village:

Hindus Muslims Christians Others?

Main denominations/sects among Hindus, Muslims and Christians (Roman Catholics, etc.) when applicable

Households per caste community in village:

Name of the caste/jati	Main occupation	Number of households	Whether MBC/BC/SC/ST?

	In village	In the area (if different)
Numerically caste(s) in villages?		
Richest castes? (property/consumption)		
Landholding castes?		
Most educated castes?		
Upwardly mobile castes?		
Most backward castes (land, education, status?)		
Landless castes?		
Dominant caste? (power, land etc.)		

3. Accessibility

	Yes/no	If yes, year of establishment	If no, distance to the nearest
Kutcha Road			
Pucca Road			
Bus stop			
Bus stand			
National Highway			
Railway station			

Number of buses per day:

Main destinations:

Private bus service: Y/N

Town with an important bus connection closest to the village:

(a) Are people complaining about lack of transportation facilities in the village?

(b) What are the main reasons for *visits* to nearby towns?
(such as health, studies, family visits, places of worship, shopping, etc. *excluding work*)

(c) What are reasons for such *visits* by *womenfolk* to these places?

(d) What are the obstacles to visits by women outside the village?

(e) Who are the women most likely to travel outside the village?

(f) Where and how far may people go on foot, and for what purpose?

4. Communications

	Yes/no	If yes, year of establishment	If no, distance to the nearest
Newspapers (received)			
Community TV sets Television sets Cable Connection (No. of channels)			
Telephones Public Private (individual) STD booths Internet centre Accessible by cellular phone			
Radio (individual/community)			
Post office			
Cinema			

Newspaper

- (a) What are the favourite newspapers? Describe them.
- (b) Who prefers which newspapers?
- (c) Who are the people reading regularly newspapers? Do they read newspapers for others (who can't buy or can't read)?

TV

- (d) What are the favourite TV Programmes/Channels? Describe them.
- (e) Who are the first people to own a TV in the village? When was that? Profile of these families.
- (f) Are some people watching TV collectively? Describe how.

PHONE

- (g) Who is using more the phone facilities?

(h) For which purposes? (Business, family matters, etc.)

(i) Who is using less the phone facilities? (Women, poor sections...) Why?

MAIL

(j) Frequency of mail delivery in the village?

MOVIES

(k) How often do people go the movies? (for fan association, see below 8)

(l) With whom do they go there? (Alone, with family or friends from the same jati, etc.)

PILGRIMAGES

(m) Where are people going most often to for pilgrimages?

(n) With whom do they go there? (Alone, with family or friends from the same jati, etc.)

(o) What are the most important festivals celebrated in the area? By whom?

5. Educational Facilities

	How many	If yes, year of establishment	number of <i>male</i> students	number of <i>female</i> students	If no, distance to the nearest
Primary School					
Middle School Secondary School					
Private Schools					
Junior College/Higher secondary					
Technical Institutions (specify) <i>(Typing, Computer, Tailoring Institutes; Industrial, Teacher Training, Handicrafts Training</i>					
<i>Anganwadies/balwadies ICDS</i>					
Others (specify)					

Are children from outside Villages/hamlets coming to school? From where and why?

- (a) Primary :
(b) Secondary:

Are children from the Village/hamlets going to outside school/College? Where?

- (c) Primary :
(d) Secondary:
(e) College :

(f) Are primary school teachers from the same village?

(g) Observations on the functioning of the primary schools: timing, presence of teaching staff, quality of equipment, noon meals, etc.:

(h) Role of teachers in promoting new life styles and attitudes.

(i) Influence of religious/traditional education (Madrasas, etc.)?

(j) Are they educated people from the village who have "done well" outside (role models)? Who are they?

6. Medical Facilities and health issues

	How many?	If yes, year of establishment	If no, distance to the nearest	Observations on their functioning
Sub-centre (SC)				
Primary Health Centre (PHC)				
Community Health Centre (CHC)				
Govt. Dispensary				
Govt. Hospital				
Private Hospital				
Hospital by NGOs				
Private Clinic/ practitioners Allopathic Others (specify: <i>Ayurvedic, homeopathy, Unani, Traditional Healers</i>)				
Village Health Guide				
Traditional Dai				
Trained Birth Attendant				
Nurses				
Others (specify)				

(a) Observations on the functioning of the health infrastructure (if any) : timing, presence of staff, quality of equipment, etc.:

(b) Disposal of Waste Material (poor/moderate/good):

(c) Drainage facility(poor/moderate/good):

(d) Source of protected water supply: Well/ bore well/ piped water/

(e) Others (specify)

(f) Is abortion common in the village? Where is it practised? For which sections?

(g) Are government health facilities visited/preferred by villagers? Why?

(h) Preference for private health care?

(i) What kind of traditional healers are found in the village?

Main illnesses in the village (information from both PHC and from people):

(j) Adults

(k) Children

(l) Recent epidemics in the village:

(m) Are some diseases disappearing from the village? Any emerging disease?

7. Public Facilities and Amenities

	How many?	If yes, year of establishment	If no, distance to the nearest
Fair Price Shop (PDS)			
Milk Co-operative, Agricultural Co-operative, Credit Co-operative Society			
Poultry farm			
Bank			
Post Office			
Tractors			
Heavy Vehicles (own)			
Light Vehicles (own)			
Motorcycles			
Weekly market			
Drinking Water Tap connections (own)			
Public toilets			
Panchayat office			
Church			
Temples			
Mosque			
Other places of worship or pilgrimage			
Others (specify)			

(a) Who are the people using the bank facilities and for which purposes?

(b) Who are the people not using any bank facilities and why?

8. Peoples' Organization

<u>Availability</u>	membership
Yes/no	Year of est.

Political/caste/religious organizations:

Mahila Mandal, Youth Club, Sports club

Fan association/mandram

Jana Vignana Vedika, Others (specify)

Traditional caste panchayat (earlier and now)

Other important caste/religious/political organizations (specify and describe)

(a) What are the most active organizations? What are they doing?

(b) Who are the members? (age, gender, economic status, education, caste)

9. Industrial/commercial establishments:

	How many?	If yes, year of establishment	If no, distance to the nearest
Mill/Small Scale Industry			
Major Industry			
Household Industry			
Motor/cycle repair shop			
Electrical Repair/shop			
Bunk/ provision shop			
Market/Kirana Shop			
Pharmacy/ Medical stop			
Cinema Hall/ Tent			
Pawn shop/money lender			

Note: Write name and nature of the major industrial sites

What are the development programmes active in the village?

Such as Development of Women and Children of Rural Areas (DWACRA), Self Help Groups (SHG), Podupu Lakshmi, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Training Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana (SGNY), CMEY, Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY), Annapoorna, National old age pension (OAP), Others (specify)

Who are beneficiaries? Who selects them?

What is the villagers' perception of the government's or the NGOs' action?

10. Agriculture and related activities

Main crops (by order of decreasing importance in area and value):

Area, whether irrigated, number of yearly crops, whether produce sold and where

Main crops	Area	Whether irrigated	Number of crops per year	Where is the crop sold (if at all sold)?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

(a) Irrigation type (canal, tank, ...), year of introduction, % of village lands

(b) Description of most common types of land tenure (ownership, tenure, landless, etc.):

(c) Main agricultural seasons and slack season.

(d) Whether any labour or produce exchange (jajmani-like)

(e) Distance to the market place for the main crops

(f) Other agro-based activities: plantations, forestry, dairy, poultry, fishing...

(g) Husbandry in the village

11. Other rural activities

- (a) Handicrafts (pottery, basketry, weaving, etc.):
Income, age and sex of workers, monthly income

- (b) Small-scale industries: (handlooms, biddies, matches, bricks, etc)
Income, age and sex of workers, monthly income

- (c) Other local activities

- (d) Illegal and clandestine activities (prostitution, distillation, smuggling, poaching, etc.)

- (e) Daily commuters and short-term mobility to near-by areas: where and who?

- (f) Child labour:
Main activities, income, age and sex

- (g) Women's work:
Main tasks in agriculture and other activities, income
Wage differentials for agricultural labour: male vs. female

- (h) What are the major recent changes in local activities (irrigation, industries, commuting, etc.)?
How are women affected by these changes?

13. Links of villagers with other localities

FAMILY LINKS:

- (a) Family links with neighbouring villages and other areas (marriage, etc.):

- (b) Any change in family links with neighbouring villages over the years?

VISITS TO TOWNS

- (c) Shopping: where do people go to buy what? (Agricultural equipment, modern commodities, cloths and materials, etc.)

- (d) Other occasions: religious or cultural events, cinemas, etc.

SUMMARY:

- (e) Who are the people with *more links* outside the village?

- (f) Who are the people who visit other localities most often?

- (g) Who are the people with *fewer links* outside the village?

- (h) Who are the people who visit other localities less often?

14. Socio-demographic features of the village

(This section refers to the village as a whole or to the major communities in it)

BIRTH

- (a) Are women returning to their native place for birth?
- (b) Are deliveries with traditional midwives (dais) common?
- (c) Proportion of births attended by trained person.
- (d) Are women secluded after birth?
- (e) Rituals and ceremonies after birth of boys and of girls.

PUBERTY:

- (f) Are puberty ceremonies common?
- (g) What do these ceremonies involve? (Expenses, functions, etc.)

MARRIAGE:

- (h) From where are brides (grooms)?
- (i) Are marriages among relatives common?
- (j) Are "love marriages" common?
- (k) Is the dowry system prevalent? Since how many generations?
- (l) Differences among communities in mean age at marriage?

DIVORCE, REMARRIAGE, POLYGAMY:

- (m) Is divorce or repudiation occurring?
- (n) Can widows remarry? What is the position of widows? Of widows with no son?
- (o) Are some villagers polygamous? Do some people have concubines?

FAMILY SUPPORT:

- (p) Are joint families (including *two married couples*) common?
- (q) What are the main sources of disputes inside families?
- (r) Are women entitled to any part of the family inheritance?
- (s) Are old people always taken care of by their children? If not, why and what do they do?

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:

- (t) What is the position of minority religious groups or dalits in the village? (number, occupation, economic condition, housing segregation)
- (u) Who lends money in the village?
- (v) Which are the leading political factions in the village? Caste and party affiliation.
- (w) Are there cases of violence in the village (murder, rape, etc.)?
- (x) Is violence against women common (beatings)?
- (y) Are there serious land disputes in the village?

15. Demographic change and perceptions

Background: family size used to be much bigger in the past, with often more than 3 or 4 surviving children and at least five pregnancies (sometimes followed by infant deaths etc.). Today, villagers have usually on average far less children (from 3 down to 2 according to places). In so doing, they have been influenced by the behaviour of other people.

Methodology: The same set of questions will be asked to many different people. The investigators have to identify key informants in the village; i.e. people who are articulate in their opinion and reflect the general sentiment of their peer (age, sex, caste) group. Informants have to come from all sections of the population, in order to offer various opinions.

Contents: The questions will focus more on *perceptions and opinions* about family size than on actual facts. We are interested about the reasons given by people, but even more by their opinions about the behaviour of *other* people (in the past, in towns, in other communities). We want to know in particular how people see their behaviour in comparison with that of others, and if they may be influenced by some.

Discussion: The following sections will list the most important items to be covered, but the list is not exhaustive: investigators are welcome to collect other information on the change of family attitudes and perceptions.

All the items to be covered have to examine different domains as described in the following table.

- TODAY What people do today and why? (= The expected behaviour in the social group of the respondent). "during the last five years". Usually refers to the behaviour and opinion in the respondent's family and community
- YESTERDAY How different was it in the past and why? (especially in the respondent's family). "10 years ago or more".
- OTHER COMMUNITIES How different are the attitudes in other local communities and why? The stress here is both on forward groups, with "progressive" behaviour, and on the backward groups with "old-fashioned" behaviour. It is important to identify all groups whose behaviour is seen as different (ahead or lagging behind)
- OTHER VILLAGES Do the respondents see differences in other villages? How, why? Who is forward, who is behind?
- TOWNSPEOPLE How are different from villagers? What do people know of their behaviour? Why do people in town behave differently? Why would villagers emulate them?
- OTHERS Other people who are known to follow new ways (e.g. people as shown in movies or in TV serials).

This means that the set of questions that follow refer to different situations: first, the questions will be asked about "today's situation in the village". Then, about the respondent's parents and grandparents (in the past). Then, the question will narrow down to the respondent's own family and his community. Finally, the questions asked will refer to other people and their behaviour: other communities in the village, other village communities, townsfolk and other people vaguely known (might be movie stars, religious leaders, politicians, etc.). Some of the questions listed below are of course not applicable and may be skipped.

Some respondents may often say that they "don't know" when asked about the behaviour of other people. Here, it is important to stress that selected respondents need to be articulate people, with opinions about a wide range of issues and even when they do not actually know, they may have some opinion about how people might behave in terms of family, marriage and the like. Investigators have to find the suitable persons for interview and use the right approach to collect opinions about the demographic behaviour of other people.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

Village:

Identification of the respondent

Interview date:

Respondent

Sex:

Age:

Marital status:

Number of children with age, sex:

Education

Caste

Occupation

Economic status

Other important characteristics:

When applicable, The same questions are repeated for each domain listed previously: today, in the past, in your family, etc.

1 CHANGING CONDITIONS (*this set of questions refer only to today's situation*)

- (a) Are people generally are better off now than in the past, or worse off, or things have not changed much? Is this true of all communities in the village?

Tell me if there have been *changes* in these during the last 20-30 years? (For each item, if the answer is YES, ask: In what way?)

- (b) Economic conditions?
- (c) Agriculture?
- (d) Housing conditions?
- (e) Food and drinking water (quality, variety)?
- (f) Clothing?
- (g) Schooling?
- (h) Health facilities?
- (i) Transport facilities?
- (j) Entertainment?

2 SOCIAL ATTITUDES (*this set of questions refer only to today's situation*)

Please tell me if there have been changes in these during the last 20-30 years? (For each item, if the answer is YES, ask in what way?)

- (a) The conditions of women? Do women have more freedom now than in the past? (If YES: In which aspects?)
- (b) Behavior of children towards parents?

- (c) Treatment of aged parents?
- (d) Has the role of community leaders changed in the society?
- (e) What about political leaders? Has their role and attitude changed?
- (f) How about people's attitude towards political leaders?
- (g) And about government officials? Has their approach to people's problems changed?

3 MARRIAGE (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*)

- (a) Age at marriage (especially for girls). Influence of puberty and/or the girl's schooling on marriage age.
- (b) How is the match found? What kind of groom and bride are looked for (caste, property, education, age, job prospects, etc.)?
- (c) How frequent are about the marriage among relatives (uncle-niece, cousins)?
- (d) What is the expected dowry? What are the other marriage expenditures and who pays for them?
- (e) How long after marriage does the couple start living together?

4 NUMBER OF CHILDREN (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*)

- (a) Actual number of children
- (b) Ideal number of children, sons and daughters.
- (c) Children's mortality and morbidity
- (d) Do you think that people should decide about the number of children or leave it to chance?
- (e) Reasons for high/low fertility.
- (f) Value of children (sons/daughters).
- (g) How are people with higher fertility and people with lower fertility considered?
- (h) What would people say if you had one or two less children? One or two more children?
- (i) If you were richer, would you have more or less children?

5 FAMILY PLANNING (*distinguish today/ in other communities*)

- (a) Main FP technique known by the respondent.
- (b) When do you think the FP started in the village/community?
- (c) How are the FP activities in the village regarded? (Availability and quality of services, cost, staff's attitude)
- (d) With whom do you discuss about FP choices? Spouse, parents, relatives, friends, etc.?
- (e) Do parents advise about the right number of kids to have? Is the advice followed?
- (f) Who is offering the best advice on matters related to FP?

- (g) Abortion: frequency (especially in the past) and reasons for abortion as against other FP methods.
- (h) What are the traditional FP techniques in this area? Are they still used today ?

6 BOYS AND GIRLS (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*)

- (a) Is the birth of a baby boy more celebrated than that of a girl? Reasons?
- (b) Frequency of sex determination of the unborn and female infanticide.
- (c) Are boys treated differently than girls (school, food, clothes, health care, etc.)? Reasons?
- (d) Who help more in the family, boys or girls? How do they help? How early do they earn?

7 CHILDREN'S FUTURE (*distinguish girls and boys !*) (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*)

- (a) How long are children supposed to study?
- (b) Are parents ready to spend money on their studies? How much and till what age?
- (c) What occupations are children supposed to have in the future?
- (d) At what age are children (sons especially) supposed to start working?
- (e) Are parents supposed to give some property to their children? Which type (consumer goods, land, house, cattle, etc.)
- (f) Are parents expecting to get support from their children? What kind of support?
- (g) Are parents expecting some of their children to live with them after marriage? Which children?
- (h) Are children expected to work with their parents (land, business, etc.)? Which children?

8 SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS AGAIN (*refer only to today's situation*)

- (a) Are you aware that people in your village (and your region) are now having less and less children than before?
- (b) Who are the people who started having fewer children? Why?
- (c) Who are the people who continue to have more children? Why?
- (d) According to you, who are people with the largest number of children in India? (Which place, occupation, caste?)
- (e) And who are the people with the fewest children in India?
- (f) Are these people influencing villagers?
- (g) Do you think having one or two children (like people in Kerala, in cities, etc.) is feasible for you?

16. Focus group discussion (FGD)

Methodology: Preliminary individual interviews (section 15) may help to specify some items for the FGDs. Transcription may take place the same evening (translation in the HQ).

Contents: Mostly the same as previous section 15. However, time limitations for the FGDs (60 to 90 minutes) mean that some questions might be skipped.

The first two sections are mainly used to initiate the discussion. However, let's keep in mind that some subsections (Number of children, Family Planning, Children's future, Some of the main points again) have **priority** and should be covered by all FGDs.

Sample: Groups should be homogeneous by age-group (younger/older), sex, and socio-economic position (caste, class, land ownership, or wealth). When applicable, items may correspond to different domains: today in your family/community, yesterday, other groups etc.

Village:

FGD place and date:

Identification of the group (age, sex, social stratum, education, caste)

FGD personnel (moderator, secretary, etc.):

General observations on the FGD

1 CHANGING CONDITIONS (*this set of questions refer only to today's situation*)

- (a) Are people generally better off now than in the past, or worse off, or things have not changed much? Is this true of all communities in the village?

Tell me if there have been *changes* in these during the last 20-30 years? (For each item, if the answer is YES, ask: In what way?)

- (b) Economic conditions?
- (c) Agriculture?
- (d) Housing conditions?
- (e) Food and drinking water (quality, variety)?
- (f) Schooling?
- (g) Health facilities?
- (h) Transport facilities?
- (i) Entertainment?

2 SOCIAL ATTITUDES (*this set of questions refer only to today's situation*)

Please tell me if there have been changes in these during the last 20-30 years? (For each item, if the answer is YES, ask in what way?)

- (a) The conditions of women? Do women have more freedom now than in the past? (If YES: In which aspects?)
- (b) Behavior of children towards parents?
- (c) Treatment of aged parents?
- (d) And about government officials? Has their approach to people's problems changed?

3 MARRIAGE (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*)

- (a) Age at marriage (especially for girls). Influence of puberty and/or the girl's schooling on marriage age.
- (b) How is the match found? What kind of groom and bride are looked for (caste, property, education, age, job prospects, etc.)?
- (c) How frequent are about the marriage among relatives (uncle-niece, cousins)?
- (d) What is the expected dowry? What are the other marriage expenditures and who pays for them?

4 NUMBER OF CHILDREN (priority) (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*)

- (a) Actual number of children
- (b) Ideal number of children, sons and daughters.
- (c) Children's mortality and morbidity
- (d) Do you think that people should decide about the number of children or leave it to chance?
- (e) Reasons for high/low fertility.
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- (g) How are people with higher fertility and people with lower fertility considered?
- (h) What would people say if you had one or two less children? One or two more children?
- (i) If you were richer, would you have more or less children?

5 FAMILY PLANNING (priority) (*distinguish today/in other communities*)

- (a) Main FP technique known by the respondent.
- (b) When do you think the FP started in the village/community?
- (c) How are the FP activities in the village regarded? (Availability and quality of services, cost, staff's attitude)
- (d) With whom do you discuss about FP choices? Spouse, parents, relatives, friends, etc.?
- (e) Do parents advise about the right number of kids to have? Is the advice followed?
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- (g) Abortion: frequency (especially in the past) and reasons for abortion as against other FP methods.

(h) What are the traditional FP techniques in this area? Are they still used today ?

6 BOYS AND GIRLS (*distinguish today/earlier/in other communities*) (if time permits)

(a) Is the birth of a baby boy more celebrated than that of a girl? Reasons?

(b) Frequency of sex determination of the unborn and female infanticide.

(c) Are boys treated differently than girls (school, food, clothes, health care, etc.)? Reasons?

(d) Who help more in the family, boys or girls? How do they help? How early do they earn?

**7 CHILDREN'S FUTURE (*distinguish girls/boys, today/earlier/in other communities*)
(priority)**

(a) How long are children supposed to study?

(b) Are parents ready to spend money on their studies? How much and till what age?

(c) What occupations are children supposed to have in the future?

(d) At what age are children (sons especially) supposed to start working?

(e) Are parents supposed to give some property to their children? Which type (consumer goods, land, house, cattle, etc.)

(f) Are parents expecting to get support from their children? What kind of support?

(g) Are parents expecting some of their children to live with them after marriage? Which children?

(h) Are children expected to work with their parents (land, business, etc.)? Which children?

8 SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS AGAIN (*refer only to today's situation*) (priority)

(a) Are you aware that people in your village (and your region) are now having less and less children than before?

(b) Who are the people who started having fewer children? Why?

(c) Who are the people who continue to have more children? Why?

(d) According to you, who are people with the largest number of children in India? (Which place, occupation, caste?)

(e) And who are the people with the fewest children in India?

(f) Are these people influencing villagers?

(g) Do you think having one or two children (like people in Kerala, in cities, etc.) is feasible for you?