

# RUDD ADOPTION RESEARCH PROGRAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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### ADOPTION: A KAP STUDY AMONGST INFERTILE COUPLES

Saumya Vinod Joshi<sup>1</sup>; Lt. Rupesh Prasad<sup>2</sup>; Lt Col Arvind Singh Kushwaha<sup>3</sup>; Brig R.K. Sharma<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Intern, Sawai Man Singh Medical College, Jaipur, India;

<sup>2</sup>Lt. Rupesh Prasad, Intern, 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar (Army Medical Corps), India;

<sup>3</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Maharashtra, India;

<sup>4</sup>Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Command Hospital, Pune, Maharashtra, India



#### INTRODUCTION

##### WHY THIS STUDY?

- Childlessness in India has risen by 50% since 1981[1].
- ICMR estimates the success rate of any ART procedure to be below 30% under the best of circumstances[2].
- Adoption remains a largely under researched field in India.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To find the knowledge, attitude and practice of the infertile couples about adoption as an alternate to ART.
- To bring out the difference between the opinion of the husband and wife regarding adoption.
- To make an attempt to enlist the reasons which are responsible for the low rate of adoption.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Study Design-** Descriptive Cross-Sectional
- Study Setting-** ART Center, Command Hospital, Southern Command, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Maharashtra, India
- Target Population-** Infertile Couples.
- Study Sample-** 87 couples who visited the ART center for treatment from July 2011 to December 2011

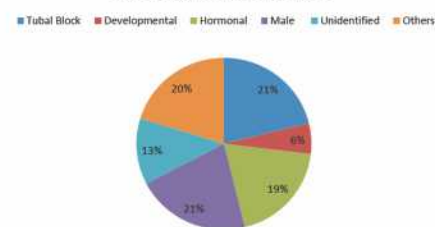
S.No.	Infertile Partner	Total Infertile Subjects
1.	Wife	65 65
2.	Both	14 14 + 14 = 28
3.	Husband	8 8
Total Infertile Couples		87
Total Sample Size		101

- Inclusion Criteria-**
- All infertile couples irrespective of duration of marriage/ infertility/ medical treatment.
- All cases of primary as well as secondary infertility.
- Exclusion Criteria-**
- Couples who were treated successfully.
- Couples who did not give consent.
- Ethical Considerations-** Informed verbal consent obtained from all subjects and their confidentiality was strictly maintained.
- Data Collection Tool-** Separate questionnaire for husband and wife having 36 and 28 questions respectively.
- Data Collection Method-** In Depth Interviews were conducted separately for husband and wife to avoid duplication of data.
- Pilot study:** Pre-testing of questionnaire on 10 infertile couples was done and suitable modifications were made.

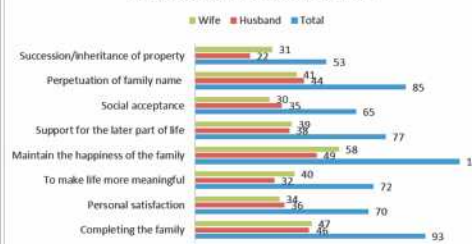
#### OBSERVATIONS

	HUSBAND	WIFE
MEAN AGE IN YEARS	32.58 sd 4.49	28.70 sd 4.35
MEAN KUPPUSWAMY SCALE SCORE (OUT OF 29)	21.49 sd 2.91	17.91 sd 3.28
HOW DISTRESSING NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD IS? (GRADE ON A SCALE OF 0 TO 10)	6.99 sd 3.11	8.46 sd 2.55
MEAN DURATION OF MARRIAGE IN YEARS	7.94 sd 3.77	
MEAN YEARS OF MARRIAGE AFTER WHICH THE COUPLE HAS ENROLLED FOR ART	4.25 sd 2.67	
MEAN DURATION SINCE THE COUPLE HAS ENROLLED FOR ART	3.72 sd 3.38	
INFERTILE PARTNER	75% WIFE	16% BOTH 9% HUSBAND

##### REASONS OF INFERTILITY

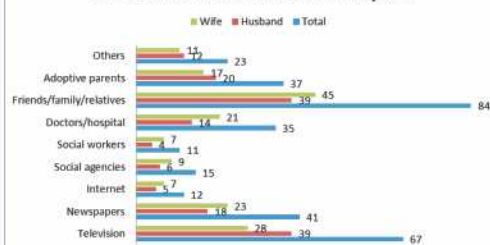


##### Reason for the need of child

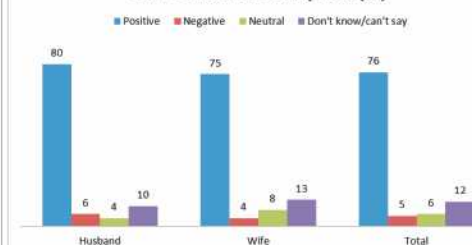


Q.NO.	QUESTION	HUSBAND Y(%)	HUSBAND N	WIFE Y(%)	WIFE N	TOTAL Y(%)	TOTAL N
1	Are you aware of the practice of adoption?	91	9	89	12	90	10
2	Did you ever think of adoption before trying ART?	19	81	18	82	19	81
3	Can the adoptive child be a substitute for a biological child?	83	17	84	16	83	17
4	Is natural parenthood superior to adoptive parenthood?	61	39	58	42	60	40
5	If your family and community go against you, would you still adopt a child?	82	18	84	16	83	17
6	Will you recommend adoption as a way of completing the family?	87	13	96	4	91	9
7	Is there a pervasive social stigma attached to illegitimate children?	66	34	64	36	65	35
8	Are you reluctant to adopt an illegitimate child?	24	76	33	67	28	72
9	Will you adopt in future?	42	58	36	64	40	60
10	Do you know of any couple adopting in your community?	55	45	47	53	51	49
11	Do you know of any agencies working in the field of adoption?	14	86	11	89	12	88

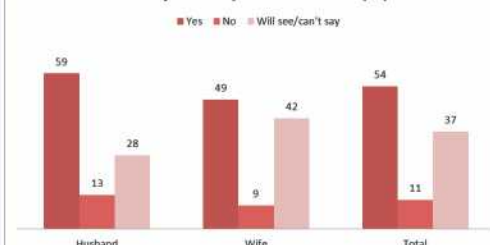
##### Mode of information about adoption



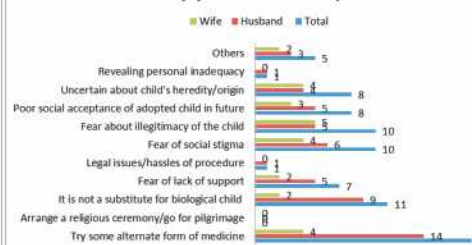
##### Your view about adoption (%)



##### Will you adopt if ART fails? (%)



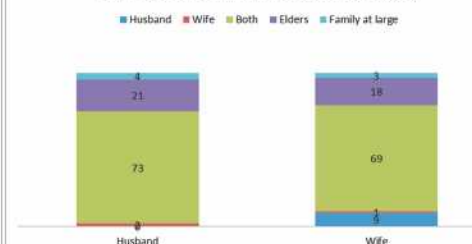
##### Why you will not adopt?



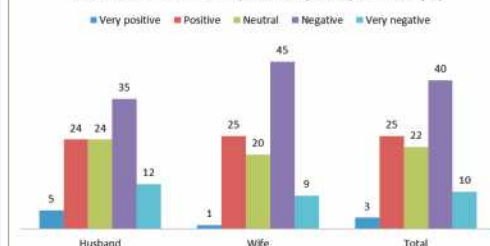
##### What will make you adopt in future?



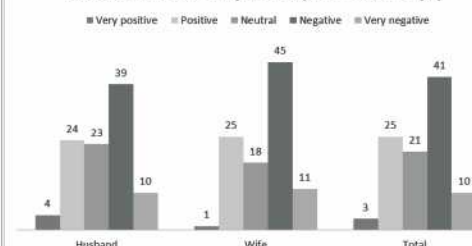
##### Who will take decision to adopt? (%)



##### Attitude in community for adoptive parents? (%)



##### Attitude in community for adopted children? (%)

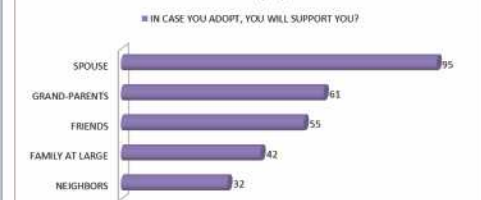


#### WHO IS A SUITABLE CHILD FOR ADOPTION?

< 6 MONTHS OLD (69%)

FROM ADOPTION CENTER (66%)	GENDER DOES NOT MATTER (61%)
APPEARANCE MATTERS (56%)	SKIN COLOR SIMILAR TO PARENTS (55%)
	BIOLOGICAL PARENTAGE DOES NOT MATTER (47%)

##### IN CASE YOU ADOPT, WHO WILL SUPPORT YOU? (%)



#### CONCLUSIONS

- Although 76% couples had a positive attitude towards adoption, only 54% were willing to adopt in case of failure of ART.
- Most (91%) recommended adoption as a good way to complete the family and most (83%) were determined to adopt against the will of the society.
- Most (65%) felt that there is a pervasive social stigma attached to illegitimate children but most (72%) had no problems with adopting one.
- For most of the couples the suitable child should be less than 6 months of age, adopted through an agency, with good looks and skin color being similar to parents. With most, gender and biological parentage didn't matter.
- Most of the couples (60%) felt that natural parenthood is better than adoptive parenthood, however when asked, most of them (83%) opined that the adopted child, if given the right surroundings, can take the place of biological offspring.
- Knowledge and awareness about social agencies and procedures of adoption is poor. (80% were not aware about process of adoption).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Infertile couples coming to ART centers should be provided with a complimentary brochure providing information about the procedure of adoption.
- A medico-social worker should be employed at ART center for resolving doubts about adoption.
- Interested couples should be directed to an adoption agency working in the field of adoption for the purpose of pre-adoption counseling.
- Social crusade and mobilization on adoption and removal of related myths and stigmas.

#### REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Information accessed at <http://indiatoday.intoday.in>
  - Information accessed at <http://icmr.nic.in> Guidelines for ART Clinics in India by ICMR/NAMS. Chapter 1. Introduction, Brief History of ART and Requirements of ART Clinics.
- We are grateful to Department of Community Medicine, AFMC, Pune and ART Center, Command Hospital, Pune for their kind guidance and support.