SUMMARY

Reproduction, one of the biological instincts has lead to over whelming population growth. With rampant illiteracy, misconceptions etc. the task of curbing and controlling the population growth has become more challenging. To solve the problem of population growth and to achieve the objective of happy family, a lasting solution is needed. For this, educating people regarding this phenomenon and creating awareness, right attitude and right type of education appear to be the only solution.

Majority of the people live in rural areas. To reach them, extension functionaries who have a wide infra-structure and who have established their credibility have been selected as one agency to undertake the task of educating people.

The major objectives of the study were:

1. To find out the knowledge of all levels of extension functionaries of the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh in relation to the following selected aspects of population education:

   Meaning and scope of population education.

   Factors related to population increase.

   Problems due to increase in population.

   Methods of educating people regarding adoption of small family norm.

   Ways to limit the family size, and

   Role of extension functionaries in imparting knowledge of population education.

2. To find out the relationship between the levels of knowledge possessed by extension functionaries at all levels of the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh with personal and professional characteristics such as:

   Age

   Religion

   Size of the family

   Type of the family

   Education

   Professional training, and

   Income.

3. To find out the differences in levels of knowledge of extension functionaries of all levels among the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh regarding following aspects of population education:

   Meaning and scope of population education.

   Factors related to population increase.

   Problems due to increase in population.

   Methods of educating people regarding adoption of small family norm.

   Ways to limit the family size.

   Role of extension functionaries in imparting population education.

4. To find out the differences in levels of knowledge of extension functionaries at all levels between the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh.

5. To find out the differences between the levels of knowledge of extension functionaries of all levels of the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh with reference to selected personal and professional characteristics such as:

   Age
   Religion
   Size of the family
   Type of the family
   Education
   Professional training, and
   Income.

6. To find out the attitudes of extension functionaries of the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh towards the following selected aspects of population education:

   Meaning and scope of population education.
   Factors related to population education.
   Problems due to increase in population.
   Methods of educating people regarding adoption of small family norms.
   Way to limit the family size.
   Role of extension functionaries in imparting population education.

7. To find out the relationship between attitudes of all levels of extension functionaries of the four eastern

states of India and the country of Bangladesh and certain personal and professional characteristics such as:

Age
Religion
Size of the family
Type of the family
Education
Professional training, and
Income.

8. To find out the differences between the attitudes of extension functionaries at all levels among the four eastern states of India and between the country of Bangladesh with reference to selected aspects of population education.

9. To find out the relationship, between the knowledge and attitude of extension functionaries at all levels of the four eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh.

10. To develop a curriculum for teaching population education during the course of pre-service and in-service training of the extension functionaries of both the countries.

11. To modify, where if exists the curriculum for teaching population education during the pre-service and

in-service training of these extension functionaries of both the countries.

Population and Sample

The total population of the extension functionaries of the four eastern states of India was 10757 out of which 922 were selected for the study and 4945 from Bangladesh of which 862 were selected. At the time of actual data collection only 747 extension functionaries of India and 671 of Bangladesh could be contacted. Thus in all 1418 respondents finally constituted the sample size. The statistical technique adopted for sample selection was multi stage purposive sample method.

Findings

It was found that all the VEA's from the four eastern states of India were relatively young with majority not above 30 years of age though a few were little senior but their percentage were negligible. In the case of VEA's from Bangladesh they were little older but none were above the age of 40.

The age range of BDO from India and Bangladesh was 30 to 40 and 25 to 40; out of which a good majority of BDO of India were between 35 to 40 whereas a good majority of BDO from Bangladesh were not above 30 years.

The instructional staff and DEOs of India were relatively mature i.e. belonging to the age group of 35 to 50 but it was found that the ISs and DEOs of Bangladesh, in sizeable majority, were not above 30 to 35 years of age. The DAs of both the country were above 45 years of age.

As for religion in India all the three religions were represented though majority were Hindus; but in Bangladesh there was no functionary who was a follower of Christian religion. In Bangladesh majority of the respondents were Muslims. In India too it was only in the state of Meghalaya that majority of respondents were Christians. At higher level in India all the respondents were Hindus.

Village extension agents in both the countries had relatively large families and lived in a joint family. The block development officers of India had small family of 3 to 5 children and lived in a nuclear family. The BDOs of Bangladesh also had a nuclear family but the size varied between 6 to 8 children.

At the IS and DEO level the Indian functionaries had a nuclear family with a size of 3 to 5 children, whereas their counterparts in Bangladesh had a family size of 6 to 8 children although they also lived in a nuclear family. At the highest level, that is at the DAs, both the countries showed similarity in size and type of the family, having a family of less than 3 children and nuclear in nature.

As regards education, there was a large variation in the educational levels of VEAs of India ranging from high school to a post-graduate degree. But majority had only high school certificate. VEAs of Bangladesh, in good majority, had only high school certificates and none had a post-graduate degree.

Block development officers of India and Bangladesh had their basic degree in agriculture with negligible percentage of Indian BDOs having a post-graduate degree.

All (100%) the instructional staff of India had a post-graduate degree in agriculture whereas their Bangladesh counterparts had only graduate degrees (92%). The educational level of DEOs and DAs of India was relatively higher as a good percentage had a Ph.D. degree, the rest having minimum post-graduate degrees. In the case of DEOs and DAs of Bangladesh a large majority had only graduate degrees.

As for training, majority of the extension functionaries of both the countries had undergone either pre-service or in-service training.

There was an obvious difference in the income of the extension functionaries of the two countries. VEAs of India, in majority, were drawing Rs.500 per month (exclusive of all deduction). And VEAs of Bangladesh in majority were drawing Takka 600 per month. The BDOs and ISs of India were in

the salary bracket of Rs.701 to 800 per month and BDOs of Bangladesh Takka 800 to 1000 per month. The income of DEOs of India was between Rs.900 to 1000 per month while the income of DEOs of Bangladesh was almost the same as that of the ISs of their country.

The DAs of both the countries were drawing highest salary in their respective currency.

Findings related to Knowledge of Extension Functionaries of the Four Eastern States of India and the Country of Bangladesh regarding Population Education

It was found that the village extension agents of Bangladesh and VEAs of India did not differ much in their knowledge regarding the selected aspects of population education. It was on the aspect of meaning, scope, and demography where VEAs of Bangladesh scored less but their knowledge was found to be better than the VEAs of India on factors responsible for population growth, problems arising out of increase in population, and methods of limiting the family size. However the VEAs of India had better knowledge on ways to educate people regarding adoption of small family norm and the role of extension functionaries.

There was not much difference in knowledge of the BDOs of the two countries except on factors responsible for population growth and on problems due to population growth in

which BDOs of India had scored poor. In the case of knowledge of IS, the ISs of India had better knowledge of meaning and scope of population education than that of the ISs of Bangladesh whereas in other aspects the knowledge of the majority of Bangladesh IS was better.

It was in the area of factors responsible for population growth, that the DEOs of India had scored less as compared to the DEOs of Bangladesh indicating having poor knowledge whereas in all other aspects the DEOs and DAs of Bangladesh scored less thus leading to the conclusion that they had poor knowledge.

From amongst the four states, it was found that the VEAs of West Bengal had relatively poor knowledge as compared to the knowledge possessed by the VEAs of the other three aspects. But contrary was the case for the knowledge of the BDOs, IS, and DEOs where it was Bihar whose BDOs had poor knowledge. In the case of director of agriculture not much difference was found.

When tests of association between personal and professional characteristics were carried out, it was found that the level of knowledge was positively associated with age, professional status, religion, size and type of the family, income, education and training.

In the case of BDOs, IS, DEOs and DAs of India and Bangladesh, it was found that as the age advanced, the knowledge also increased, but contrary was the situation for VEAs. It was found that the VEAs who were young had better knowledge.

Hindus had better knowledge, followed by Christians. Size of the family and the type of the family had a definite influence on the acquisition of knowledge. In the case of the VEAs of Bihar, it was positively associated with large and joint family whereas in the rest of the cases, respondents with small and nuclear family had better knowledge. Both have real life experience as its explanation. It was found that respondents with higher education had better knowledge. However, it was the type of education which had its influence too, i.e. those who had their basic degree in agriculture had better knowledge. Training had a positive impact on the increase in knowledge. The same was found to be true with regard to income. That is, those who had training and also had higher income had better knowledge.

Differences between the Knowledge of the Extension Functionaries regarding Population Education

It was found that there was a significant difference between the knowledge of extension functionaries of the four Eastern states of India and the country of Bangladesh. VEAs of all the four states differed from each other in knowledge. Whereas the difference between BDOs were significant. But the BDOs of Bihar and West Bengal and Bihar and Meghalaya and Tripura were different.

The difference in knowledge possessed by the IS in all states was not significant and so was the case of the DEOs of

West Bengal and Tripura. But the difference when computed for the ISs of Bihar, it was significant.

The difference between the two countries at all levels were not significant except for DA. The DA of Bangladesh had poor knowledge.

Findings related to the Attitudes of Extension Functionaries of the Four Eastern States of India and the Country of Bangladesh

It was found that VEAs and BDOs of India had less favourable attitudes on population education in general whereas all the rest of the extension functionaries had more positive attitudes towards population education in general.

The VEAs and BDOs scored less scores on meaning and scope, factors responsible for population growth and in some sub-aspects of consequences of population growth amongst which land and food and family and health were the ones where they scored less. However the VEAs of India had more possitive attitudes towards small family norms than VEAs of Bangladesh.

The IS of Bangladesh scored less on all most all aspects except for psychological factors role of extension functionaries indicating less favourable attitudes.

In the case of DEOs, only meaning and scope was the unit where the DEOs of India scored less but in general the DEOs and DAs of India scored high indicating more positive attitude.

Relationship between Attitude and Personal and Professional Characteristics

In the case of extension functionaries of India it was found that attitudes were related to all personal and professional characteristics of all levels of extension functionaries except that of the IS, where age and type of the family were not related.

Increasing age, income and higher education were related to more positive attitude towards the size of the family and type of family. It was in general, found that whatever the type and size of the family they lived in, they had positive attitude towards population education. All preferred small families.

Training also had its impact. It was found that all those who did not have any training at all had negative attitudes. Hence training and attitude were positively associated.

Differences in Attitudes

Within the levels of extension functionaries of different states the attitudes differed. The states which were bigger in size and were facing the problem of over population, had positive attitudes, irrespective of the level of functionaries.

The attitudes of extension functionaries of the two countries towards population education were not significantly different. Though there was difference in the mean obtained by all levels of functionaries.

Relationship between Knowledge and Attitude:

Knowledge and attitudes of all levels of functionaries regarding all aspects were highly correlated. It was found that all those who had poor knowledge on any aspect also had negative attitude.

In the present study it was found that all levels of extension functionaries had poor knowledge on some or the other aspects of population education.

The attitudes were also found to be less favourable for certain functionaries in both the countries.

On the basis of these findings a curriculum in population education is suggested for all extension functionaries of India as well as Bangladesh.

A model curriculum in population education covering the six selected aspects namely; Meaning and scope of population education, factors responsible for population increase, consequences of population increase, Methods of educating people regarding small family norms and role of extension functionaries in imparting population education was developed.

Although the curriculum in Bangladesh existed it was found to be too scanty, hence, the same curriculum was developed for both the countries.

Recommendations for Further Study

As a result of the present investigation, the investigator recommends that some of the unexplored aspects of this study could be explored further:

1. The curriculum suggested here could be tested by teaching through it.

2. Experimental study could be carried out with pre- and post-study to check the training and its impact on population education and actual gain in knowledge and change in attitude.

3. A similar study could be conducted to varify the responses and reaction of the female population, since this study has not covered female population in an optimum number.

4. The study could be carried out in other parts of India as well.