

**Patterns of Fertility Control by the Urban Couples:
A Socio-Cultural Study in Madras City**

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ABSTRACT In the present study the researcher has tried to ascertain the different patterns of fertility methods adopted by the urban couples. The study was conducted in Madras city during 1990 among 100 households. Women were the sole respondents but information was also collected about their husbands. The female sterilization method has ranked the highest in the present population with 34 women adopting this method of birth control. Female sterilization is found more prevalent compared to that of male sterilization where only four men have undergone sterilization. The birth control pills for women are less prevalent in this population as only nine women have been found to have adopted this method. The marital communication and use of contraceptives has been dealt with in this study which shows that the educational level of the respondent has played a vital role in the decision making. Fifty percent of positive correlation and fifty percent of negative correlation can be shown between the desired and actual family size.