

## Attitude towards child adoption among infertile couples attending infertility clinics

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### Abstract

For many couples, infertility is an invisible loss- one that is very personal and oftentimes is not understood by friends and family. Adoption can be a wonderful avenue for couples facing infertility to make their dreams of parenthood come true, it is important that they first process their emotions regarding their infertility. Couples need to make a conscious move from their first choice of raising a biological child, to their next choice, of growing a family through adoption. The aim of the study is to assess the attitude towards child adoption among infertile couples attending infertility clinics in Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh. A descriptive survey was used as the study design to assess attitude of infertile couples regarding child adoption and also to associate demographic variables like age, sex socio-economic status and habitat. This study was conducted on 60 infertile couples in selected infertility clinics of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The data were collected through socio demographic data and standardized Adoption Belief Scale. (ABS). The scale consists of 10 items where participants respond to a 4 point scale ranging from 1 "strongly agree" to 4 "strongly disagree". Higher score indicates greater acceptance of adoption. Data was analyzed by using SPSS 20.0 Version.

The finding of the study shows that majority 25(41.6%) samples were between 31-35 years of age, 19(31.67%) were between 36-40, 12(20%) were between 25-30 years of age and 4(6.67%) were between 41-45 years of age. In the category gender, there were females in majority 35(58.66%) and 25(41.67%) male. In years of married life majority 28(46.67%) were between 4-6 yrs. The commonest category in the socio-economic status was 33(55%) in the Upper middle class category. Majority 42(70%) of people were from urban area who attended the IVF clinic at the time of study.

Based on the objectives and hypothesis the data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics i.e. mean, percentage and standard deviation. Chi square test was applied to test the hypothesis. There was a significant association of selected demographic variable i.e. age with the attitude score at  $p < 0.05$ .

**Keywords:** Child adoption, Infertility, Attitude, Infertility clinic, Infertile couples.

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### Introduction

Adoption is the process whereby a person assumes the parenting for another, permanently transfers all rights and responsibilities from the original parent or parents.<sup>1</sup>

The family is the nucleus of civilization and is considered incomplete without a child. A child is the future of mankind whose birth brings hope and dreams into the life. WHO defines "Infertility as the inability of a couple to achieve conception or to bring a pregnancy to term after a year or more of regular unprotected inter-course. The prevalence of infertility has not changed greatly, although more couples are now seeking help than previously."<sup>2</sup>

Huge numbers of destitute children in India are just waiting to be adopted. According to Indian non-governmental organization, statistical Number of destitute children is 44 million and Number of orphan children is 12.44 million all over the world.<sup>3</sup>

Adoption is still a concept that is un-encouraged by the society. Adoptions within the family are preferable. Most of the infertile couples do not have adequate knowledge regarding child adoption. To strengthen adoption rules and facilitate adoption, the Government of India established Central Adoption Resource Authority under Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India which

recommended guidelines on adoption of Indian children without parental care. The codified law governing adoption in India is the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) 1956. The law applies to all Hindus including Buddhists, Jainis, Sikhs and all those who are governed by Hindu laws. Muslims and Christians do not have a codified law for adoption. Therefore, till 2001 they could only adopt under the Guardianship and Wards Act of 1890 which gives limited rights to both the adopted child as well as adoptive parents. However the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Act(JJA) in 2000 by the Government of India, every person who is otherwise eligible, no matter what is his/her religion is free to adopt an orphan child. The infertile couple's attitude and acceptance regarding child adoption is different that depends on the couple's interest as well as family support.<sup>4</sup>

### Objectives

1. To assess the attitude towards child adoption among infertile couples.
2. To determine the association between child adoption and their socio-demographic variables.

### Hypothesis

- i. **H<sub>0</sub>**- There is no significant association between attitude towards child adoption and their socio-demographic variables.

- ii. **H<sub>1</sub>**. There is a significant association between attitude towards child adoption and their socio-demographic variables.

**Material and Methods**

A descriptive survey was used as the study design to assess attitude of infertile couples regarding child adoption and also to associate demographic variables like age, sex socio-economic status and habitat. This study was conducted on 60 infertile couples in selected infertility clinics of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The data were collected through socio demographic data and standardized Adoption Belief Scale. (ABS). The scale consists of 10 items where participants respond to a 4 point scale ranging from 1 “strongly agree” to 4 “strongly disagree”. Higher score indicates greater acceptance of adoption.

**Results**

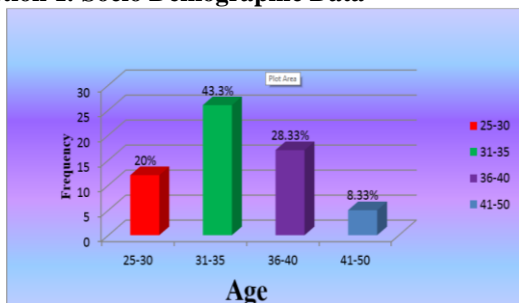
The analysis is described in following three sections:

**Section I** –It deals with the frequency and percentage of socio- demographic data of the subjects.

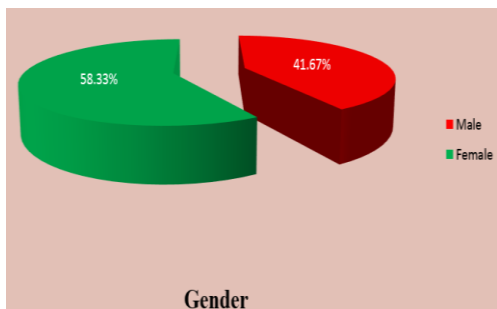
**Section ii** – it deals with the analysis of data related to attitude score.

**Section III-** It deals with the association of attitude score of infertile couples with selected demographic variables.

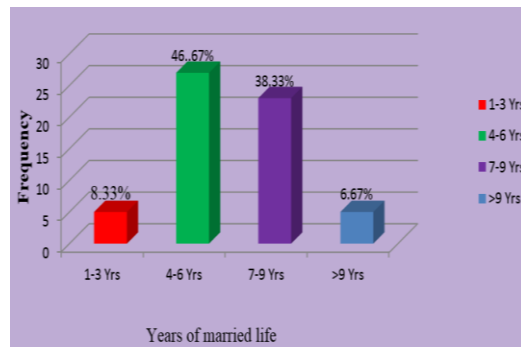
**Section-I: Socio Demographic Data**



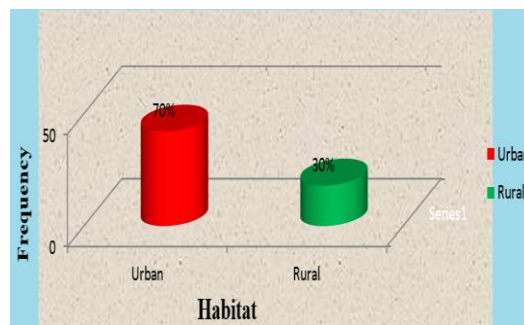
**Fig. 1:** Bar diagram showing distribution of subjects according to age



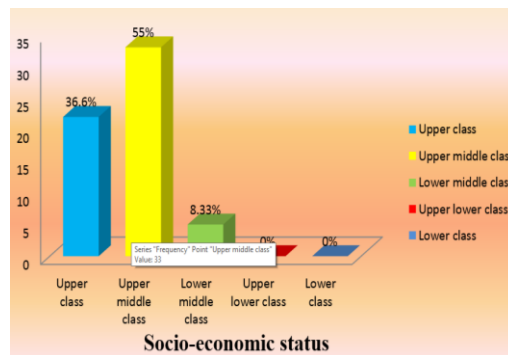
**Fig. 2:** Pie diagram showing distribution of samples according to gender of infertile couples



**Fig. 3:** Bar diagram showing distribution of samples according to years of marriage



**Fig. 4:** Cylindrical bar diagram showing distribution of samples according to their habitat



**Fig. 5:** Bar diagram showing distribution of samples according to socio-economic status

**Section II****Table 1: Assessment of attitude score of infertile couples**

S.No	Scoring	Attitude	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)	Mean	SD
1.	11-21	Unfavourable Attitude	02	3.33%	29.81	3.1968
2.	22	Neutral	03	5%		
3.	23-40	Favourable Attitude	55	91.67%		

**Section III****Table 2: Association of attitude of couples with selected Socio-demographic variables (n=60)**

S. No	Variables	Unfavourable	Neutral	Favourable	Total	df	Chi-value	P-value	Inference
1	Age(Years)								
	25-30	1	2	9	12				
	31-35	1	1	24	26	8	120	0.05	MS
	36-40	0	0	17	17				
	41-50	0	0	5	5				
2	Gender								
	Male	2	3	20	25				
	Female	0	1	34	35	2	3.55	0.05	NS
3	Year of married life								
	1-3 Yrs	2	1	2	5				
	4-6 Yrs	0	1	26	27	8	6.0053	0.05	NS
	7-9 Yrs	0	1	22	23				
	>9 Yrs	0	0	5	5				
4	Socioeconomic status								
	Upper	2	3	28	33				
	Upper Middle	0	0	27	27				
	Lower Middle	0	0	0	0	8	1.42	0.05	NS
	Upper Lower	0	0	0	0				
	Lower	0	0	0	0				
5	Habitat								
	Urban	1	2	39	42	2	5.036	0.05	NS
	Rural	1	1	16	18				

**Conclusion**

After the detailed analysis of this study revealed that positive attitude of infertile couples regarding child adoption. From all the above findings it was concluded that there was a favourable attitude towards child adoption among infertile couples who attended infertility clinics of Jabalpur (M.P). According to most of the respondents of this study the process of coming to terms with infertility and its consequences was an important factor in establishing healthy family relationships and the child's identity within the adoptive family.

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