

Methodological Issues In Data Collection From The Adolescents

*B P Thiagarajan¹ and A A Jayachandran²
Population Foundation of India*

Abstract

According to 2001 census, about 22 percent of the Indian population comprises the younger age group 10-19. Thus, any *general* sample survey which addresses the issue of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is expected to elicit information from this group has significant implications.

However, much attention on this segment was not at all given in the developing countries. The problems of adolescents were further aggravated by the heterogeneity nature of adolescents. The requirements and problems of this group are greatly influenced by age, sex, gender, marital status, religion, caste, region/ state and economic milieu.

In India, the situation of this heterogeneous segment is not an encouraging one. In this paper an attempt has been made to raise some methodological issues. These issues were identified from two different surveys, which are conducted in two parts of the country, as the part of two adolescent action oriented programmes.

Data collected from these two areas have raised many issues. The emerging issues were coverage of adolescents- prone to school going population, unmarried girls, less coverage of boys, non availability of unemployed youths-, quality of responses- low level of knowledge on SRH issues, cultural barriers in contacting adolescents alone, mental block in participating in the interviews and programmes. These barriers were further aggravated by the heterogeneity of the group.

This paper tries to provide suggestions for the policy implications and intervention strategies.

¹ Joint Director (M&E), Population Foundation of India, New Delhi

² Programme Associate (M&E), Population Foundation of India, New Delhi