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Research Paper...

## **KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH INFERTILITY TOWARDS IVF, SURROGACY AND ADOPTION**

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### **Abstract**

Infertility is a worldwide problem. Globally at any point of time about 50-80 million people suffer from infertility. Therefore, a study was conducted to explore the knowledge and attitude of women diagnosed with infertility towards In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), surrogacy and adoption. Survey method was adopted and non-probability convenience sampling technique was used to select the sample. The study population consisted of 275 women diagnosed with infertility, who were attending the infertility clinics in one of the suburbs of Mumbai. Assessment of the knowledge was performed by means of a specifically designed structured questionnaire, which apart from the demographic data included questions concerning the treatment modalities of infertility i.e. IVF, surrogacy and adoption. 5-point Likert scale was used to gather the data regarding their attitude towards IVF, adoption and surrogacy. Data revealed that nearly half i.e. 52% (143) of the sample had very good knowledge regarding the treatment modalities, while 34.55% (95) had good knowledge, whereas 9.81% (27) of them had poor knowledge. Only 3.64% (10) had excellent knowledge regarding the above. The score has been arbitrarily graded by the investigator. It was also revealed that the samples obtained the highest score regarding their attitude towards surrogacy which was about 69%, the second highest attitude score was obtained by the samples towards infertility (66.47%), followed by attitude towards IVF which was about 62% and attitude towards adoption secured the least score (60.95%). There was poor positive correlation 'r' which was 0.39 between the knowledge and the attitude of women diagnosed with infertility towards IVF, Surrogacy and Adoption. Findings of the study revealed that even though women's had little knowledge about the treatment modalities, still they had favorable attitude towards the same. The study also brought about the need for further teaching, guidance and counseling of the women or couples diagnosed with infertility.

**Key words:** Infertility, Surrogacy, Adoption, In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), Knowledge and attitude.

### **Background**

Infertility is estimated to affect more than 80 million people worldwide, and while developments in reproductive technologies have evolved rapidly, so have the ethical, social and political controversies which surround nearly all aspects of their use (Vayena et al,1997)<sup>1</sup>. It is estimated that one in seven couples have problems of fertility worldwide, with the incidence similar in most of the countries<sup>(1)</sup>. Infertility is a worldwide problem. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 8-10% of couples experience some form of infertility problem. Globally at any point of time about 50-80 million

people suffer from infertility (World Health Organization, 1991)<sup>2</sup>.

Infertility in India is on the rise because of increased urbanization, stress, a competitive work environment, a fast-paced lifestyle, late marriage, more women opting to work outside their homes, increased incidence of diabetes, pelvic inflammatory diseases etc. Infertility affects about 15 per cent of all married couples, which means it is the commonest medical problem in the reproductive age group. In addition, given the fact that India has over one billion people, a conservative estimate would show that there are about 20 million infertile