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Family Planning Communication between Spouses in Sri Lanka

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During recent years there has been an increasing recognition of the importance of communication between spouses in successful family planning behavior (Severy 1982; Polit-O'Hare and Kahn 1985). Some recent studies have also examined the inconsistencies in husband-wife fertility attitudes and reporting of contracep-

tive use (Card 1978; Coombs and Chang 1981; Koenig et al. 1984).

Other studies have examined the role of wives and husbands in contraceptive decision making (Hollerbach 1980; Severy 1984; Bean et al. 1984; Sayed et al. 1985; Cook and Maine 1987; Alcantara 1988; Nag and Duza 1988; Warren et al. 1988). Germain (1987) calls attention to the need for greater male responsibility and participation in contraceptive communication and behavior.

The results of these studies have policy implications for family planning programs and efforts to improve the status of women around the world because they demonstrate the important roles played by both sexes in the adoption and effective use of family planning and suggest ways that family planning information and education might be more effectively delivered to couples wishing to practice contraception.

Drawing upon data from a national follow-up survey conducted in Sri Lanka in 1985, this study examines

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