

THE ROLE OF THE PAEDIATRICIAN IN FAMILY PLANNING

(SUMMARY)

BY

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Population growth rate is a compound one and with a 3.0% growth as in the Sudan the population will double itself in 25 years. Many factors are at play in determining the high growth rate in this country. Amongst these are factors related to child health and infant mortality.

The department has undertaken a project in a group of rural villagers near Khartoum where it is intended to deliver comprehensive child health services with family planning as an integral component.

The initial statistics revealed an infant mortality of 113 per thousand, and a high 1-4 years mortality rate. A Nutritional Survey has also revealed an appalling incidence of nutritional deficiency in children under the age of five. To combat these problems a programme consisting of the following is being planned :

- (1) Health Education.
- (2) Care of pregnant women.
- (3) Nutrition Education and Supplementation.
- (4) Improvement of Environmental Hygiene.
- (5) Vaccination.
- (6) Provision of out-patient service for minor ailment.
- (7) Family Planning.

The objective is to lower the high infant mortality rate and later when people can see that their children can survive and be healthy, their acceptance of family planning will be increased. The important point is for the family planning to be integrated as an inseparable part of a comprehensive service rather than an independent service.