

ANNEXURE II

Interview Schedule for Women and Men: Group Seeking Treatment

The following interview schedule was prepared with a view to understanding the perceptions of women and men who are childless and who are consulting a gynecologist/urologist for the same, either on their own, or with their spouse. The schedule served as a reference during the interviews. No specific sequence of questions was followed; it depended on the mode of conversation.

Criteria for Selection

The sample for the interviews constituted women and men who were childless and married for at least one year and with a family income of more than Rs. 8000 a month.

Background information

Self

Spouse

Name:

Name:

Age:

Age:

Education:

Education:

Occupation:

Occupation:

Address:

Contact numbers:

Years of marriage:

Type of family:

Family composition:

Mother tongue:

Religion:

Day and date of the interview:

Time:

Place:

Importance of parenthood

- What is your idea of parenthood?
- What is the importance of a child for an individual?
- What is the importance of a child for you and your spouse?
- Do you feel that having one's own child makes any difference to a person or the family?
- Would a child affect one's status within the family or society?
- How do you feel society looks at childless couples? Why?
- What according to you is the difference between a couple who has a child and a couple who is childless?

Realising the problem

- Who amongst the two of you realized that there was some problem?
- What did you do next? Whom did you consult?
- If you consulted a gynecologist, why and when did you feel the need to consult the gynecologist? Who decided?

- Before consulting the gynecologist did you perceive there was a problem? What did you think about it? Who did you think was the problem with?
- Did you talk to anyone else about it (someone in the family or an outsider or a friend)?
- When and how did you realize that you are unable to conceive?
- When and how did you come to know that you or your spouse has a problem?
- If the woman has a problem: What was your reaction on learning that you had a problem? What was your husband's reaction?
- If the man has a problem: what was your reaction on learning that you had some problem? What was your wife's reaction?

Treatment-seeking behaviour

- What kind of treatment did you first try (allopathic, homeopathic, ayurvedic, home remedies, etc.)?
- What did the treatment-givers advise you to do?
- Who amongst the two of you was the first one to go in for treatment? Why?
- What are the tests that you/your spouse underwent to confirm infertility?
- What kind of treatment has the doctor suggested? What is the duration of treatment?
- What are the chances of success of the present treatment?
- What are the approximate costs to be incurred for the treatment? How much have you spent on the treatment to date? What do you feel about it?

- Who was the first amongst the two of you to go in for clinical examination? Who suggested it?
- Who accompanies you/your spouse to the clinic for the treatment?
- What do you feel about the treatment you are undergoing? What do you think about the doctor's approach and inputs? Do you feel the doctor is able to give you enough time?
- Have you been to any other doctor? How many? Why did you change the doctor?
- Have you heard about the assisted/new reproductive technologies? Are you planning to use/or are you currently using any of these? What do you feel about it?

Feelings regarding the treatment

- How did you feel when you were/your spouse was undergoing the tests?
- What was your spouse's reaction during this phase?
- What do you feel about the treatment you are undergoing (any kind of mental stress or pressure because of maintaining routines, etc.)?

Beliefs associated with childlessness

- Apart from the treatment sought, what other things are you doing to solve the problem (for example, observing some fast or doing some *puja* (prayer))?
- Is anyone else in your family or outside doing something of this kind for you?

Perceptions regarding childlessness

- What, according to you, is the reason for your/your spouse's problem?
- What, according to the gynecologist, is the cause of the present condition?
- How would you define infertility?
- How do you think others perceive this? Why?
- Who is your major support during this phase of your life (husband/wife, friend, parents, etc.)?
- Do you feel the need for any external support (e.g. a counselor)?

Family as a support network

- Who are the members of your family?
- Do your family members know that you are consulting a gynecologist/ urologist?
- What do they feel about it? What was their reaction when they first heard about it?
- Are you experiencing any problems with the family because of this specific problem? If yes, what kind of problems and what could be the reason for it?
- Do they know whom the problem lies with?
- (If the problem is with self) What was their reaction on knowing about your problem?
- (If the problem is with spouse) What was their reaction on knowing about the problem?
- If the couple has not disclosed who the problem lies with, then why not?

- Who does the family feel has the problem? What do they say?
- If no, then do you anticipate any problems in the near future? What kind of problems and why?
- What kind of family support do you require?
- Do you feel that your family is supporting you at each and every stage of the treatment? How?
- Do you feel that they will always support you?

Marital problems faced as a consequence of childlessness

- Have you faced/experienced any problems with your spouse because of childlessness?
- Have you ever had any difference of opinion regarding the treatment? What kind and how do you resolve it?
- If the problem is with the husband, is he regular with his treatment?
(If no/yes, then why and what do he/ the wife feel about it?)
- If the problem is with the wife, is she regular with your treatment?
(Yes/no, what does the husband feel about it?)

Alternatives to childlessness and coping mechanisms

- Did you think of any alternative to having a biological child?
- Have you decided till when you would like to continue the treatment?
- Have you ever considered adoption? If yes, how seriously have you thought about

it?

- How do you think that your family will react to the decision of adopting a child?

Societal attitudes

- What is the importance of a child in the Indian context?
- What do you feel is society's perception regarding childlessness?
- Have you ever had any negative experiences because of childlessness (during any family get together, or any occasions)?
- What do you feel is society's attitude towards you because of this?
- What do your friends feel about this?
- What do your neighbors feel about this?