

### **ANNEXURE III**

#### **Interview Schedule For Women And Men: Group Not Seeking Treatment**

The following interview schedule was prepared with a view to understanding the perceptions of women and men who are childless and who may or may not have reconciled with their states. 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 participants for the interviews constituted women and men who were childless (or did not have a biological child), were married for at least eight years, and whose family income was more than Rs. 8000 per 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 you and your spouse?
- Do you feel that having one's own child makes any difference to an individual or the family?
- Would it 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 they 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 the problem was 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 were unable to conceive?
- When and how did you come to know that you or your spouse had a problem?
- (If the woman has a problem) What was your reaction on learning that you had some problem? What was your husband's reaction?
- (If the husband 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 the treatment? Why?
- What were the tests that you/your spouse underwent to confirm infertility?
- What kind of treatment did the doctor suggest? What was the duration of the treatment?
- Were you informed about the success rate of the treatment that you were

undergoing? If yes, then who informed you, when?

- What were the approximate costs incurred on the treatment? 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 accompanied you/your spouse to the clinic for the treatment?
- What did you feel about the treatment you/your spouse was undergoing? What do you think about the doctor's approach and inputs? Do you feel the doctor was able to give you enough time?
- How many doctors did you approach? (If they have approached more than one doctor) Why did you change the doctor?
- Have you heard about the assisted/new reproductive technologies? Did you use any of these? What do you feel about these?

#### Feelings regarding the treatment

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

#### Beliefs associated with childlessness

- Apart from the treatment sought, what other things did you do to solve the problem (for example, observing some fast or doing some *puja* (prayer))?

- Did anyone else in your family or outside do something of this kind for you?

#### Perceptions regarding childlessness

- What, according to you, was the reason for your/your spouse's problem?
- What, according to the gynecologist/urologist, was the cause?
- As a person, how would you define infertility?
- How do you think others perceive this? Why?
- Who was your major support during your treatment and who is it today (husband/wife, friend, parents, etc.)?
- Did you feel the need for any external support (e.g. a counselor)?

#### Family as a support network

- Who are the members of your family?
- Did your family (in-laws as well as parents) know when you were consulting a gynecologist (or about any other kind of treatment)?
- If yes, what did they feel about it? What was their reaction when they first heard about it? When were they informed about it?
- If no, then why were they not informed? Whom did they feel the problem was with, what did they have to say?
- Did you experience any problems with the family because of this specific problem? If yes, what kind of problem and what was the reason for it?
- Did they know whom the problem was 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 they have not disclosed who the problem lies with, then why not?
- Who does the family feel has the problem? What do they say?
- What kind of family support did you require?
- Do you feel that your family was supporting you at each and every stage of the treatment and even afterwards? 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 this?
- Have you ever had any difference of opinion regarding the treatment? What kind and how did you resolve it?
- (If the problem is with the husband) Was he regular with his treatment?
- (If no/yes, then why and what did the wife feel about it?) What did he have to say about it?
- (If the problem is with the wife) Was she you regular with your treatment? (Yes/no, what did the husband feel about it?).

### 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?
- What do your relatives feel about this?

### Alternatives to childlessness and coping mechanisms

- Did you think of any other alternative to having a biological child?
- Till when did you continue the treatment? Why did you stop it? Who decided?
- 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?

If they have already adopted a child:

1. What motivated you to take this decision?
2. When did you decide to adopt a child?
3. Who decided?
4. What was your family's reaction to this?
5. Do you feel that adopting a child has made any difference to your life?