

**Demographic and Health Survey 2006/07**  
**Kurunegala District Bulletin (Provisional data)**  
 Department of Census and Statistics



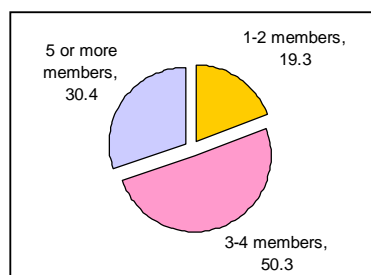
### About the DHS Survey

Demographic & Health Survey (2006/07) conducted by the Department of Census & Statistics provides important information on Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and awareness of HIV/AIDS. The survey is designed to provide National as well as district and sector wise estimates. The survey covered all parts of the country excluding Northern Province. Information was collected from 23000 housing units. Main target group of the survey was ever married women in the 15-49 age group and their children below 5 years of age at the time of the survey.

- No. of households interviewed: 1356.
- No. of eligible women (age 15-49) interviewed: 946.
- Estimated housing units: 435,394.
- Estimated population: 1,655,288.
- Household response rate: 98.9%.

### Household Size -

**Figure 1: Households by household size in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



- Average household size is 3.8 persons per household.
- About 70 percent of households are with less than 5 persons.

### About the household population -

**Table 1: Proportion of the population in selected age groups & sex in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

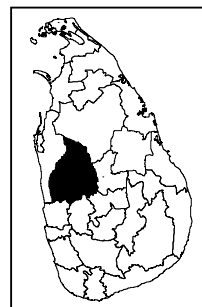
Age Group	Total	Male	Female
Below 5 yrs.	8.3	9.4	7.2
Below 15 yrs.	24.7	27.4	22.2
Below 18 yrs.	29.7	32.2	27.3
15-49 yrs.	50.7	49.1	52.3
15-64 yrs.	66.9	64.5	69.1
65 years or more	8.4	8.1	8.7

- 52 percent of females are in the reproductive age group.

**Table 2: Age dependency ratio in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

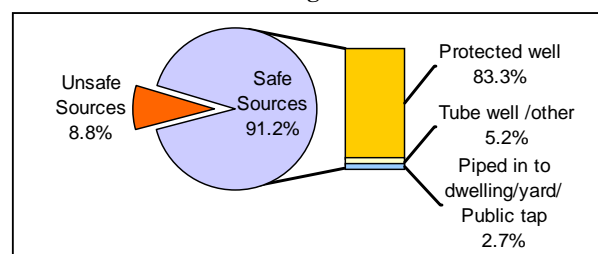
Age Dependency Ratio	Total
Below 15 yrs.	37.0
65 years or more	12.5

- Young age dependency ratio (37.0) is about 3 times greater than that of old age dependency ratio (12.5).



### Access to safe drinking water -

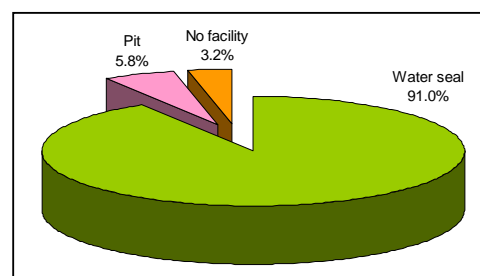
**Figure 2 : Households by availability of safe drinking water in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



- 91 percent of households have access to source of safe drinking water. Only about 1.6 percent household have piped in to dwelling yard and 1.1 household use public tap. Higher percent (83.3) have access to water from protected well.

### Sanitation Facility -

**Figure 3 : Households by availability of sanitation facility in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



- About 91 percent of households use water sealed toilets while 5.8 percent use pit toilets.
- It was observed that 3.2 percent of households do not have any toilet facility.

### Electricity

70 percent households in Kurunegala District have electricity.

## Ownership of household consumer goods -

**Table 3: Percentage of household by ownership of household equipments in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

Equipment	Percentage of Households
Television	75
Radio	79
Refrigerator	31
Mobile phones	32
Land phones	26

## Main source of cooking fuel –

- About 93 percent of households in Kurunegala District use firewood for cooking while about 4 percent use LP gas as main source of fuel for cooking.

## Use of Mosquito nets -

- About 84 percent of the households in Kurunegala District currently use mosquito nets and 12 percent of households use mosquito coils.

## About Children in Kurunegala District -

- Out of the children in 5 – 15 year age group 99.3 percent have ever attended a school.
- It is reported that 10.3 percent of currently school attending children in 5-17 year age group do not have enough school books.
- Fathers of 4.8 percent of the children in 0-17 year age groups were not alive at the time of the survey.

## Child Health -

### Immunization Coverage

- It was observed that 98.2 percent of children between 12-23 months in Kurunegala District have received specified vaccines BCG, Polio, DPT and Measles by 12 months of age.

### Birth Weight

- 84 percent of children (with health development report) of 0-59 months in Kurunegala District have birth weight as equal or above 2.5kg.
- 16 percent of children have low birth weights (Less than 2.5kg).

## Mother's Health Care in Kurunegala District 2006/7-

- The Government health facilities have served 97.4 percent of deliveries which occurred during the 5 year period preceding the survey.
- The survey further reported that almost every mother has received assistance of skilled health person at their last delivery.

## Exclusive breast feeding

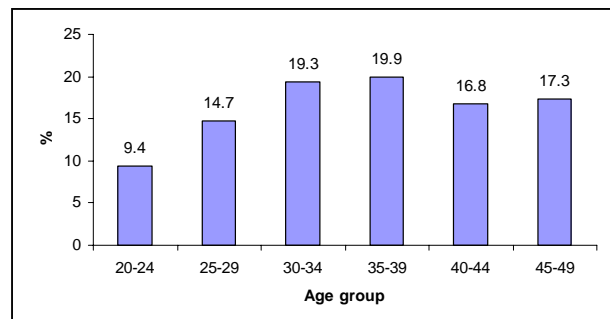
- The proportion of mothers who have exclusively breast fed during the first 4 months at their last birth in kurunegala District is 88.

## Background characteristics of ever married females of 15-49 years

### Age distribution of eligible women\* -

- Figure 4 shows that highest proportion (19.9 percent) of eligible women belong to 35-39 age category.

**Figure 4: Distribution of eligible women in Kurunegala District by age group 2006/7**



Note: Percentage of 15-19 age group is negligible

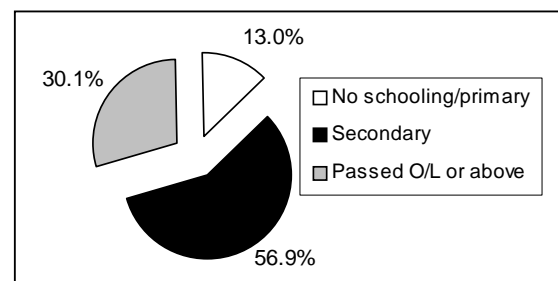
### Marital status of eligible women -

- About 93 percent of eligible women were married at the time of the survey while only 7 percent of them were not in union (widowed or separated).

### Level of education of eligible women -

- 13 percent of eligible women in Kurunegala District have primary level education or never attended school.
- Majority (57%) of them have attended up to secondary level of education.

**Figure 5: Eligible women by level of education in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



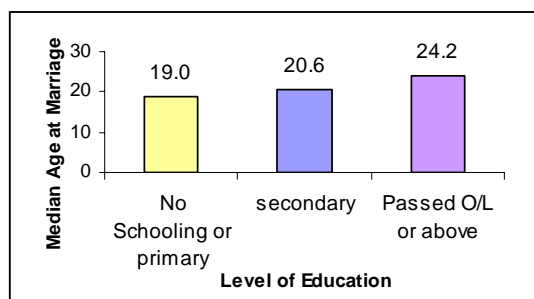
## Awareness about HIV AIDS -

About 98 percent of women in Kurunegala District have heard about HIV AIDS. Out of this about 67 percent of women know that the AIDS can be prevented by using condoms, while about 87 percent of them have knowledge about limiting sex to one uninfected partner and about 91 percent stated that abstaining from sex help to reduce HIV AIDS.

### Median age at marriage -

- Median age at marriage of women in Kurunegala District is 21.4
- Median age at marriage is higher among the educated women.

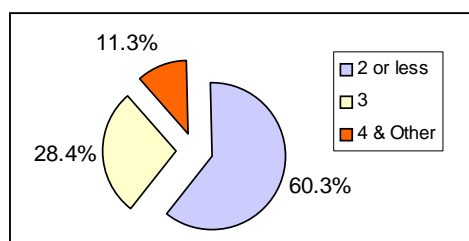
**Figure 6: Median age of women at marriage by level of education in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



### Desired family size -

Currently married women in Kurunegala District prefer small families. 60.3 percent of women would like to have 2 or less than 2 children. Further, 88.7 percent of women liked to have 3 or less than 3 children.

**Figure 7: Ever married women by desired family size in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



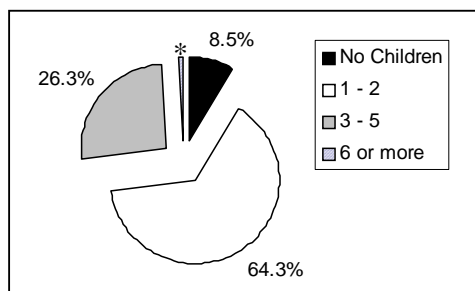
### Mean no. of children -

On an average ever married women in Kurunegala district have 1.9 children.

### Children ever born -

8.5 percent of ever married eligible women never have children while about 64.3 percent of women have only 1 or 2 children.

**Figure 8: Ever married Women by number of children ever born in Kurunegala District 2006/7.**

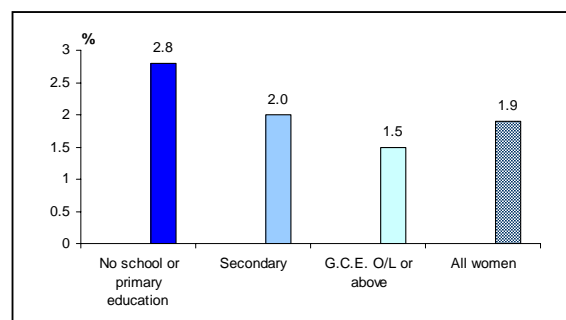


\* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

Note \*: See Definition

### Mean number of children ever born by level of education-

**Figure 9: Mean number of children ever born by level of education in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

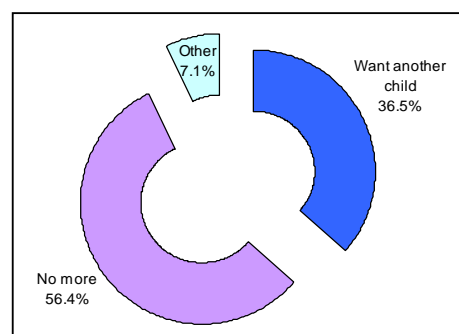


- Mean number of children ever born decreases with increasing the level of education of eligible women.

### Fertility preferences -

56.4 percent of eligible women (Excluding sterilized women) have answered that they do not want to have another child. Proportion of women like to have another child is 36.5.

**Figure 10: Ever married Women by fertility preferences in Kurunegala District 2006/7 (Excluding sterilized women)**



### Awareness of contraceptive methods -

**Table 4: Ever married women by awareness of contraceptive methods in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

Method	Percentage of know method
Female sterilization	95.7
Male sterilization	75.3
Pills	98.9
IUD	95.0
Injection	98.5
Norplant	42.7
Male Condom	87.5
Female Condom	17.5
LAM	36.8
Safe period	76.1
Withdrawal	70.7
Emergency contraception	30.8

- Pill and Injection are the widely known methods (98.9 percent and 98.5 percent respectively), followed by the Female sterilization and IUD (95.7 percent and 95.0 percent).
- Percentage who know about male condom is also high (87.5).
- Percentage of women knowing LAM, Norplant, Female Condom and Emergency contraception is relatively low.

## Current use of contraception -

- Total number of estimated currently married women in Kurunegala District is 284,777.
- 76 percent of women are currently using contraception.

**Table 5: Currently married women by use of contraceptive method in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

Method	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>284777</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Not using *</b>	<b>69397</b>	<b>24.4</b>
<b>Any method</b>	<b>215380</b>	<b>75.6</b>
<b>Any modern method</b>	<b>165132</b>	<b>58.0</b>
<b>Modern Permanent</b>		
Sterilization	48971	17.2
<b>Modern Temporary</b>		
Pills	26890	9.4
IUD	21277	7.5
Injection	50219	17.6
Condom	17098	6.0
Norplant	**	**
LAM	**	**
<b>Any traditional method</b>	<b>50248</b>	<b>17.6</b>
Safe period	35104	12.3
Withdrawal	15144	5.3

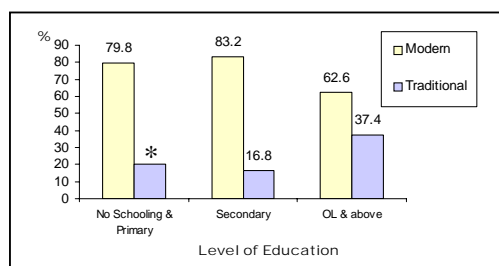
\* Including pregnant women.

\*\* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- Survey reveals that 58 percent of currently married women currently using modern contraceptive methods while another 17.6 percent use traditional methods.
- 24.4 percent of currently married women are not currently using any contraceptive method. (Including pregnant women) Data shows that the most commonly used modern temporary method is injection (17.6 percent) followed by pills (9.4 percent).
- Further, 17.1 percent of eligible women use sterilization (Mostly Female sterilization).
- Higher proportion of women (12.3) used safe period as traditional family planning methods.

## Level of education and use of contraception -

**Figure 11: Currently married and non pregnant women who use family planning by level of education in Kurunegala District 2006/07**



\* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- Figure 11 indicate that females in all education levels inclined towards to modern methods.
- Percentage using traditional methods is higher among those who have qualified O/L and above.

## Contraceptive use by age -

**Table 6: Current use of family planning by age groups in Kurunegala District 2006/7**

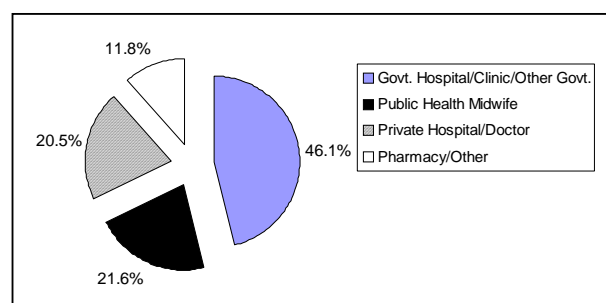
Methods	15 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	Total
<b>Any method</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>75.6</b>
<b>Modern method</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>58.0</b>
<b>Traditional method</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>17.6</b>
<b>Not using</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>24.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size

- Percentage using traditional methods is higher among the older age groups while modern methods popular among the other age groups.

## Source of supply -

**Figure 12: Current users of contraceptive by most recent source of supply in Kurunegala District 2006/7**



- Government facilities (Including public health midwife) have catered to the needs of more than 67 percent of current users of modern temporary methods (Excluding sterilization)

## Definitions used:

### Safe sources of drinking water:

Protected well, tube well, main water line, and Spring protected.

### Unsafe sources of drinking water:

Unprotected well, bowser, river/tank/stream and other sources such as rain water and unprotected spring water.

**Eligible woman:** Women who were ever married and who were in the age group of 15-49 at the time of the survey.

### Level of Education:

No schooling - Never attended school

Primary level- Passed grade 1,2,3,4, or up to grade 5

Secondary level - Passed grade 6,7,8,9 or up to grade 10

O/L and above - Passed GCE O/L or above