

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
INDIAN POPULATION

695 Huntington Avenue
Boston 15, Massachusetts

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I am sure you will be interested in a report which I received from Dr. John B. Wyon this morning concerning progress on the population studies in India.

Dr. Carl Taylor had done a preliminary survey for a suitable headquarters before Dr. Wyon arrived which facilitated matters considerably. Wyon has settled upon Khanna as a center of activity and he and his family have found a disused bungalow in which they are now living. Khanna is a small market town on the Grand Trunk Road between Ludhiana and Delhi and is one of the many villages Taylor and I saw earlier this year. I was impressed with its possibilities as a center at that time and it is interesting to note that it is the place on which they finally settled.

Dr. Wyon has had a preliminary conference with Dr. Raja and other officials of the Ministry of Health in Delhi who were friendly and cooperative. It was suggested that he make local contact with the Punjab Government before a conference with Ministry officials in Delhi in mid-November. This he has done and again excellent relations have been established. Dr. Dutta, the Director of Health Services in the Punjab, has been succeeded by Dr. Swift who has expressed his wholehearted interest in the project. Dr. R.N. Khosla, the Chairman of the Punjab Family Planning Association, has been of much help and has a fine grasp of what a field study of this type entails.

The finding of suitable personnel was one of the first problems we had recognized. In this regard Wyon writes that they have contacted a Dr. Helen Gideon who has excellent qualifications for the medical officer of the project. She is a Punjabi and much interested in village people.

I think a mention of a few comments in Wyon's summary will give you an idea of just what kind of progress they are making. I find them most encouraging.

There is every likelihood of finding villages in the area around Khanna in which the people would respond to the suggestion of working out with them methods of family limitation and child spacing. One of the comments that greeted Carl Taylor in a conference with village elders was, "There are just too many of us around here - can you do anything to help us out on that". The Municipal Administrator of Khanna is delighted that they have decided on that town as headquarters and local relations have every prospect of being good and happy. Wyon writes that in the person of a respected retired padre they have an excellent introduction to the villagers.

Relations with the Punjab and Central Governments seem to be developing on a satisfactory basis and no opposition of a serious nature seems to be likely.

I trust this letter will bring you up to date on developments and I shall keep you informed as further reports arrive.

Sincerely yours,



John E. Gordon, M.D.