

3rd. September 1909.

Professor Lhai Balmukand,
Agricultural College,
LYALLPUR,
Punjab,
India.

Dear Professor Balmukand,

I am very much obliged for your interesting letter of August 8th. and for all the trouble you have taken in the village enquiry. It is really exceedingly good of you, and I only wish I could see my way to plan in this material a joint research which would be free from serious error.

From the new data it appears that the prosperous cultivators have slightly fewer children than those classed as embarrassed, and slightly more land. At first sight this might, apart from the startling errors inherent in a small sample, point to a very important fact. The circumstance, however, that in at least one case the embarrassment was due to the expense incurred upon the marriage of a son, suggests that in some cases the cultivators are embarrassed because they have children, and this will obscure the more important effect, if it exists, of the effect of prosperity itself and its causes, upon fertility.

With respect to fertility I have two doubts which perhaps you will see your way to resolve.

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- (1) In England a certain number of foundlings, predominantly children of the poorest class, are possessed by benevolent persons, or religious institutions. Does this occur in India, to an extent capable of influencing the apparently low fertility of the poorest class?
 - (2) The number of sons ascribed to the farmers greatly

exceeds the number of daughters; there is no excess under 10 years of age; the average number of children is less than 3. From these three facts I infer that many of the older daughters who have left home are unrecorded. This may be serious for since the age of leaving home, for marriage or perhaps for domestic service (?) may depend on the prosperity of the parents. Do you think it does? If so I suppose that the only test of fertility remaining lies in births registered, and these will be very difficult to apply.

Why not publish a note in India from time to time on the principles of field experimentation. The subject is arousing attention, and your name ought to be associated with it.

Yours sincerely,