

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

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This chapter deals with the introduction to the subject i.e. "A study of Attitudes and Aspirations of youth towards family and community in Solapur City".

The term youth is implied in the study as that generation which constitutes the age group from 18-25 years, but as the researcher felt that even the people in the age group between 25-35 should be also considered as youths to cover the samples for the study. That's why the age group from 18-25 was changed into 18-35.

The Dictionary (OXFORD) meaning of Attitude and Aspiration is defined as following.

- a) Attitude : Means a settled opinion or way of thinking.
- b) Aspiration : Means a strong desire to achieve an end or an ambition.

OR

- b) The act or process of drawing breath.

As the OXFORD Dictionary meaning is very clearly stated above with this help the researcher interviewed 200 youths for her study specially on youths taking into consideration of their family and community within the time given. The researcher divided the youths into two catageries of 100 males and 100 females. Every individuals attitudes and aspirations is different from one another,

because no individual is common in his/her nature, interest and behaviour. These youths are the pillars of the building to make their own destiny and to create awareness among the people of their family and community.

The youth of the society who are the makers of the new generation will be able to shoulder this social responsibility and to carry out the inescapable social obligation with unequivocal results only if they get the quality of social consciousness as an important ingredient of their personality. Youth should take education as a life - long learning process and should exploit educational benefits for the good of the society as a whole. Youth has to learn a lot from the old values, old generations and from the developed areas of the world.

Family is also playing a very important role in supporting the youth to his moral thinking. Family is a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children.

Burgers and locks : A family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adaption constituting a single household, interacting and intercommunicating with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister creating and maintaining a common culture . The "family" may be defined as the

biological social unit composed of husband wife and children. Family and marriage are however, universal constitution and their existence and utility unquestionable both of them influence the life as well as code of behaviour of the people. A happy family life helps in making state and society happy and joyous.

- 1) Kingsley Davis says that "Family" is a group of persons whose relations to one another are based upon consanguinity and who therefore kin to one another.
- 2) Anderson and Parker defines a "Family" as a socially recognised unit of people related to each other by kinship marital and leal ties.
- 3) The community means a group of people living in a certain geographical area in such a way that they share not this or that perticular interest but the basic condition of a common life - Mac Iyer and Page.
- 4) The community is an area of social living marked by some degree of social coherence. The basis of community are then locality and community sentiments. Community exists within greater communities the town within the region, the region within the nation and the nation within the world community which perhaps is in the process of development.

Allport defines "Community" as a small aggregate of individuals who live in a common life and are governed by attitudes and mode of conduct which they recognise to be universal within the group.

Ogburn and Nimkoff has given a comparatively simple organisation of community when he says that, " A community may be thought of total organisation of social life within the limited area.

Lumby has said that a "Community" may be defined as a permanent local collection of people having diversified as well as common interest served by group of institution.

"Community" is also defined as a group of human beings settled in a fairly compact and contagious geographical area and having significant elements of common life, as shown by manners, customs, traditins and moodes of speech.

In order to clear we may accept the definition of youth as the adolescent and young adult of the age group of 14 to 30 years. Although some times while discussing the recreational problems of youth we may refer to youth below 14 years. The programme of group working and policies for the welfare of non-student youth set-up by the Planning Commission in 1968 regarded the age group 12-30 years as youth. This was divided into 3 stages : 12-17

years, 17-21 years, 21-30 years. The period of youth should stand for growth, development, perpetuation, action and leadership youth matures in an atmosphere in which there is freedom, activity, recognition and opportunity, the life of youth should not be over occupied with training and education, but there should be opportunity for self expression, comradeship community life and national service. It is through free activity, freely undertaken, that the best in the young can come out. The young therefore need be guided not pushed, need to be gently led, not prodded.

Now a days the attitudes and the aspirations of the youth are changing according to the process of change occurred in all over the world. In this particularly the attitudes and aspirations of the youth, towards family and community is being studied as it was necessary to find out the thinking of the youth towards their families and communities.

For this study was referred as while considering the attitudes towards family the following points were taken into consideration like type of family, i.e. Joint family and Nuclear family then the size of the family, the merits and demerits of Joint family and nuclear family, the awareness of the youth towards the hereditary property, the approximately annual income from all sources, then the responsibilities shouldered by the

youngsters for their families and the present atmosphere in the families.

In India the situation of type of families is still based on either joint family or nuclear family. In general it may be stated that in rural part of the country as well as in towns also the idea of joint family is still existing, but now a days the idea of nuclea families is coming up rapidly and which is being supported by the younger generations. No doubt there are certain merits and demerits for both the types of families, it is stated that in joint family the weaker sections of the family i.e. female members, widows, aged, children and handicapped members are protected as well as the unemployed youth are also protected and may be given guidance by the elder members of the family. The sorrows can be shared by the family members that's why one can get relief and cannot feel lonely and aloof in this world. Even joy and happiness is also shared by which the confidence of the youngsters strengthened and also the demerit of the joint family follow as 1) It becomes the obstacle of one's personality development. 2) It also develops the jelously feelings amongst the family members which can become the competitions to each others. 3) The family members may not get the privacy due to large size of the family members and size of the house also.

The merits of the nuclear family follows as 1) Which develops the the mutual understanding between the life .

partners 2) As the size of the family is small, the family members can share their thoughts and exchange thier views more freely and they feel comfortable which removes the introvertive complex and develops the confidence and the personality of the individual. The small size of the family leads to control of extra - expenditure which naturally helps to save the money. As well as the demerits of the families can be generalised as 1) There may not be control over the children as the father and mother may be outside the home for thier employment and the children will not get the love and affection from their parents which may lead to arrogance, carelessness, timidity, cowardness and even juvenile delinquency.

If the earning of the both husband and wife is more than sufficeint the expenses on the luxuries items can be made unnecessarily. The family members sometime feel unsecured when one of the spouses is outside the headquarters.

Accordingly the youth have shown their attitudes towards the above mentioned merits and demerits of the joint family and nuclear families.

It is noted that the younger generation is always reluctant and negligent regarding their hearditary property which includes moveable and immovable or both. A standing House Agricultural land is considered as

immovable property, while the ornaments, Gold or cash is supposed to be a moveable property. Unless the elders insist upon to look after their ancestral property and unless the younger generation feel it profitable for them, they do not take any interest in such types of property. Even it is observed that attitudes of the younger generation is to avoid the household responsibilities, the feeling of the younger generation towards the family is most of the time negative because they are not going to consider the financial problems and the other crises met by the parents or head of the families, Sometimes the parents or the head of the families may be held responsible for such type of attitude developing in younger generation as they want to safeguard their children and to protect them not to expose the family worries and tensions.

Attitude towards the female members: In our Indian culture still the attitude towards the female members is not that much changed because it is practice of the Indian female members to carry on the responsibility of cooking at home though she may be either illiterate, poor, or highly qualified, employed and rich as well as to look after household activities, social duties assigned to her, she has to control the family. On the contrary it can be stated that the steering of the family is in the hands of the female members and she has to take care of not only her husband but also her children. Then the

family members like, both in-laws, relatives, friends, neighbours etc. etc. Even for every simple reason she has to depend upon either her parents or husband . In case of taking decision regarding employment, right in property, marriages, etc. as well as the marital problems and the problem of status, it occurs even though it is stated that women can work shoulder to shoulder with the male members practically it is not feasible and the society doesn't accept such type of behaviour and spread the rumours due to which the females can be defamed.

It is also very interesting to know about the leisure time spend by the female members of the family and the attitude of the younger generation towards this. Nowadays in the family the audio-visual aids are made available the majority of the housewife spend their time either observing the T.V. or sleeping at home. The particular class of female take interest in reading, and spending time in developing their hobbies while the females from poor class spend their time for their money making business like bidi-making, handicrafts and even chitchatting also. The attitudes of the younger generation towards this issue is follows :

The female members should develop their knowledge and skills with the help of audio-visual aids which will help to increase the economical status of the family as well as to raise the social and cultural status

of the family by various means of bringing change in the conduct of the childrens, aged members, handicapped members, widows, destitutes of the family.

Attitudes Towards Marriage :

According to Indian culture marriage is sacred, holy and religious function, which plays an important role in keeping relationship between the spouses. Though the types of marriages may be different, types of religious and caste in India. The function of marriage has to be respected and regarded by all the types of people right from poor to rich, or lower class to upper class, Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs, Jain, Boudha, Christians etc. etc. The Indians are very much interested to spend much more money and time on marriages.

It is the opinion of the public in general that the marriage is the wedlock of husband and wife which brings them together, compel to live together and gives them the lawful recognition. Very exceptionally the people of Saint category only can live without the marriage.

Even today in this fast changing world the attitude of the public in general of Indian has not that much changed as still it is the tradition to pay the respect and regards to the party of bridegroom and some marriages do not take place just because of balanced amount of Dowary, Golden ornaments or some any other demand

or sometimes the insult of the party of the bridegaroom so and so. Though the prevention of Dowary Act, 1961 has been enacted, it is not implimented properly, Educated people accept the Dowary, in the name of "Vardakshina" or in the form of Flat, Land, Vehicle, Freeze, T.V., etc.

The opinion regarding family planning is also now a days changing the younger generation in supporting to the idea of family planing but it is noted and observed that in the case of family planning operations the female members are compelled, and the male member takes the least interest in the Vasectomy operations . The educated people and the people having understanding have accepted the spacing pattern, now a days even the age of the bride is also taken into consideration. The use of contraceptives are also applied but the females are compelled, and to take the tablets also. Anyhow the idea of birth control and family planning is accepted by the younger generations, but female member has to suffer a lot and they are pressuried by the family members and they are held responsible for the uncontrol number of children.

Attitude Towards Children:

The younger generations of our community has changed its outlook towards thier children, they want their children should be in the world of competition and from that point of view the parents want their children to join good schools and colleges, social clubs, social

associations and also cultural clubs, sports club, and develop the personality through the audio-visual aids like T.V., Tape, Radio, as well as news-papers, books, Novels, journals, Magazines, Periodicals, etc.etc. Even the co-education system is highly accepted and appreciated.

Attitude towards health and hygiene:

The Indians particularly the urban youth now a days are more attentive towards the health and hygiene while in rural area the situation is not that much changed. In the Indian weather condition the vegetarian type of food is most suitable but as the India was under the control of British rule, there is an impact of British standard of living and that's why now a days many more people have changed into non-vegetarian, as every day non-veg food is not acceptable due to its high rates and not advisable by the doctors, the percentage of consuming non-veg. is in limit but many more people have the mixed diet i.e. veg. and non-veg. but still some people maintain their diet as a pure vegetarian, but nobody can be pure non-vegetarian. Even people they insist upon to take the food for three times in a day prepared by the family members of their own in urban and rural part of our country. Very exceptional people those who are living below poverty level are not getting the fresh food prepared at their home.

Now a days it is a fashion to pay the visit to Hotels as a change in food and which may affect the health due to stale food, oilish, and spicy and that's why the people have to suffer from various types of diseases like, Gastros, Jaundice, Diarrhoea.

In urban areas the style of housing construction is changing and people prefer to live in R.C.C. Bungalows, and though it is not possible to change the housing construction, people they are modifying their housing structure and emphasizing upon free air and free light and a good kitchen with kitchen katta and designed tiles. Even they take care about seperate bath-rooms, latrin, etc. and providing the underground drainage system. Only the people living in Zopad Patti area and the common chawl have to go for common latrine, common bath-rooms and to the common water taps.

Generally it is observed that in the present condition the fashion of visiting to dispensaries or to specialized doctors have been increased for the physical check-up. The people from rural and urban area have come to know the importance of medical profession and at least they have started to get the medical treatment in case of their sickness. The type of treatment may differ according to standard and life, way of thinking and the economic conditions of the people it may be either domestic, Allopathatic, Homeopathatic, Ayurvedic or Unami. Even the

awareness about the immunization in the society is increased and the people right from the very poor category to very rich category apply the immunization like B.C.G., Polio-tripples, to their children to avoid the further complications in the physic of their children.

Attitude towards Religious, Faiths and Beliefs:

Though the world is changing and new technologies are taking places the attitude of the Indian people towards the religious faiths and beliefs are as it is, still they believe on Fasting, Navas, Shakun, Astrology and Luck, Palmistry, Utra, Baba-Maharaj, Mantrik/Tantrik and Karni. The educated people may not be supporting this but they are not going to raise the strong agitations against such types of faiths and beliefs. On the contrary sometimes they also practice it. particularly the female members compel the family to follow all such types of religious faiths and beliefs.

Aspirations of Youth:

As the literacy has been increased in India the youth have started to think regarding the various issues like educational system, employment, life style, life partner, family life, and the culture. The aspiration of the youth regarding their above mentioned issues are very high and it is aspired by them that the present educational system is not good and based upon proper footings, it is also not helpful to provide jobs according

to qualification and merit. Even regarding employment the youth are having very revolutionary opinion and they say that the employment opportunities are given to the people who have the recommendation of the higher authorities or on the basis of corruption. A highly qualified, meritorious, knowledgeable and really deserving candidate do not get the job.

The youth believe on the Indian culture, but they have ambitions regarding their life style, life partners and family life. Everybody desires a universally fair, good looking, smart and intelligent, life partner having high status as a Govt.Officer, Businessmen or having the property/estate. But now a days they are not going to consider the adjustive life-partner, on the contrary marriage life stands upon the faiths and beliefs between the spouse which requires mutal understanding and adjustment in the life.

The youth are dreamy towards life style and family life, but how many of them make the efforts to achieve this goal is a question.

Aspiration towards community:

Generally the feeling of casteism and religiousness has been increased in India since 1981 and the formation of the various organisation based on religious and caste have taken place and that's why the aspiration towards the community was supposed to raise up,

but unfortunately the youth became communal at the time of riots, while they are reluctant regarding the community activities, development of their own community and they do not spare time voluntarily for the social development of their community.

Aspiration of youth towards National Problems:

India is a over populated country having the population of approximately 90 crores, compare to the geographical area of the country the percentage of population is more, which has created the various problems like land, industrialization, air and water pollution as well as the other co-related problems like poverty, illiteracy, un-employment, beggary, dowary, prostitution, gambling, pick-pocketing etc. etc.

The youth are supposed to be the main pillar of the nation on which the footing of Nation is to be built up and youth are suppose to think and study such type of National crises and find out the solutions to get rid upon such problems. This idea and principles where existing in the youth before the Independance period of India. Unfortunately after the Independance the youth have lost the positive thinking and many more have become ideal, effortless and developed negative thinking towards such types of National problems. Everybody is self-centred, egoestic and trying to avoid such responsibilities, and that's why the National problems cannot be controlled and the Government policies become failure.