

CHAPTER FOUR

BASIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS  
OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

In this present chapter an attempt will be made to present the profile of the Mentally Retarded Children in terms of Background, Caste, Income, Occupation, Education, Age, No.of Children and the Structure of Family, etc.

4.1 Table showing Background of Respondents

Background	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Rural	18	36
Urban	32	64
Total	50	100

Out of the fifty respondents 18 (36 %) were found to be born and brought up in rural areas of Kolhapur District. While the remaining 32 respondents (64 %) were found to be born and brought up in the city of Kolhapur itself.

In short it is understood that majority of the respondents (64 %) were born and brought up in Kolhapur city.

4.2 The table showing the distribution of parents by caste.

Caste groups	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Upper Caste (Vegetarian group) (includes Brahmin, Jain, Lingayat.)	17	34
2) Inter-mediate Caste (Marathas)	24	48
3) Other Castes (Muslims, Nhavi, Simpi and S.C.)	9	18
Total	50	100

In the fifty respondents seventeen (34 %) were found to belong to upper caste group which consists of Brahmin, Jain and Lingayats. There were twentyfour (48 %) respondents belonging to Inter-mediate caste consisting of Marathas whereas nine (18 %) were found to belong to Other Castes.

In short, majority of the respondents were found to belong to the Maratha Caste.

4.3 Table showing the distribution of retarded children according to their income.

Income	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Rs.500	10	20
2) Rs.501 to 2000	20	40
3) Rs.2001 to 5000	11	22
4) Rs.5001 and above.	9	18
Total	50	100

The above table indicates that out of the fifty respondents, 30 (60 %) respondents fall in the 500 to 2000 rupees income group, while 20 (40 %) respondents fall in the rupees 2001 to 5000 and above income group.

In other words the table seems to indicate that the handicapped problem has no relationship with low or high income of the family.

H.H. The table showing the Occupational Background of the Father of Retarded Children.

Occupation	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Employed	28	56
Businessman	8	16
Labourers	9	18
Retired Persons	5	10
Total	50	100

It was found that twentyeight respondents (56 %) were employed, Eight (16.%) respondents were doing Business. While remaining Nine respondents (18 %) were working as labour, and Five (10 %) were retired persons.

It was found that the problem of Mental Retarded Children rehabilitation was mostly related with occupation of the father.

4.5. The table showing the Educational Background of the Parents of Mentally Retarded Children

Level of Education	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Uneducated	8	16
2) Upto 10th Std.	22	44
3) Upto Graduate	15	30
4) Post-graduate	5	10
Total	50	100

As far as an educational level of the respondents was concerned, It was found out that eight (16 %) were totally uneducated, twentytwo (44 %) respondents had taken their education upto 10th Standard, while the fifteen (30 %) were taken education upto Graduate and remaining Five (10 %) had obtained Post-graduation.

The level of education of the respondents played an important role in determining their attitude towards the rehabilitation of retarded children.

4.6. The table showing the structure of family.

Structure of Family	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Joint Family	6	12
2) Nuclear Family	44	88
Total	50	100

The structure of the family has been examined in terms of Joint family and Nuclear family. It was found out that out of the fifty respondents only 6 (12 %) were found to belong to the Joint family, while remaining 44 (88 %) were found to belong to the Nuclear family.

In short, majority of the respondents were found to belong to the Nuclear family.

4.7, Table showing the Age composition of the Parents of Mentally Retarded Children.

Age groups	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Upto 30 years	9	18
2) 31 to 45 years	26	52
3) 46 to 50 years	14	28
4) Above 50 years	1	2
Total	50	100

Out of the fifty respondents selected for the study 18 percent were found to be below the age group of 30 years. The 52 percent were found to be in between the age group of 31 to 45 years. 28 percent were between the age group of 46 to 50, while the remaining 2 percent were found to be age above 50 years.

In short it was found that majority of them between the age i.e. 31 to 45.

4.8. The table showing the total number of children  
in the family

No.of Children	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) One child	07	14
2) Two children	12	24
3) Three children	21	42
4) Four children	07	14
5) Five children	03	6
Total	50	100

It was found that out of fifty respondents twentyone (42 %) were having three children. Twelve (24 %) respondents had two children and Seven (14 %) have one child, remaining three (6 %) had five children.

The majority (42 %) of the respondents had three children in the family.