

CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIO-CULTURAL AND INTERACTIONAL ASPECTS  
OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

In this chapter an attempt will be made to discuss the various aspects like age at marriage of the parents, age at birth of mentally retarded child, marriage type of father, grand-father and also the interaction of the retarded children with their parents, friends, neighbourhood, relatives and social workers. The factors responsible for retardation is explained.

5.1 Table showing the Age of Father and Mother during the birth of Mentally Retarded Children.

Age-group	No. of Respondents			
	Fathers age	Percentage	Mothers age	Percentage
10 to 15	0	0	0	0
16 to 20	0	0	9	18
21 to 25	7	14	12	24
26 to 30	9	18	11	22
31 to 35	10	20	10	20
36 to 40	8	16	8	16
41 to 45	8	16	0	0
46 and above	8	16	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows the age of father and mother during the birth of the retarded children.

There are 9 such Mothers (18 %) whose age falls in the group of 16 to 20 years. There are no Mothers whose age

during the birth of the mentally retarded children falls in the earliest age group i.e. 10 to 15 years.

In other words, we cannot draw any significant relationship between the early age of mothers marriage, delivery and the handicapped problem. The original hypothesis tend to be disproved. There are a number of other factors associated with the retardation problem out of which early age and marriage within the blood as only one of the complex factors.

5.2. Table showing Age at Marriage of Father and Mother of the Retarded Children

Age-group	No. of Respondents				Remarks
	Fathers Age	Percentage	Mothers Age	Percentage	
10 to 15	0	0	15	30	Earliest age-group
16 to 20	9	18	26	52	Earliest age-group
21 to 25	16	32	9	18	
26 to 30	14	28	0	0	
31 to 35	8	16	0	0	
36 to 40	2	4	0	0	
41 to 45	0	0	0	0	
46 and above	1	2	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	

The above table shows the age at Marriage of the children parents. If we take 10 to 20 years age-group as the early age-group of marriage, then we find 41 (82 %) respondents mothers age at marriage falls in the above early age-group. There are 15 (30 %) respondents whose mothers age at marriage falls in the earliest age-group of 10 to 15 years.

Majority of the respondents 38 (76 %) fathers age at marriage falls in the age group of 21 to 35 years.

5.3. The table showing the Marriage Type of the Father of handicapped children.

Marriage Type	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1) Within blood relation	16	32
2) Outside blood relation	34	68
Total	50	100

The Marriage Type of the Father has been examined in terms of marriage within blood relation and outside the blood relation. Out of the fifty respondents sixteen (32 %) were found to have married within blood relations, while remaining thirtyfour (68 %) were married outside the blood relatives.

In short, we can say that in both type of marriages there is mental retardation, and slightly more so in the case of marriages outside blood relation. The above fact disproves our original hypothesis namely that mentally handicapped problem is more a result of in-group breeding.

5.4. Table showing the Marriage Relationship of the Handicapped Childs Father.

Marriage Relationship	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Elder Sisters Daughter	7	14
2) Fathers Sisters Daughter	3	6
3) Mothers Brothers Daughter	6	12
4) Outside Blood Relation	34	68
Total	50	100

The above table indicate that out of fifty respondents 34 (68 %) were married outside the blood relation, 7 (14 %) respondents married elder sisters daughter, 6 (12 %) married from mothers brothers daughter, while remaining 3 (6 %) married fathers sisters daughter.

5.5. Table showing Marriage of Grand-father of Children

Marriage Type	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Within blood	4	8
2) Outside the blood	46	92
	50	100

The marriage type of the grand-father has been examined to see the heredity. It was found that only four (8 %) were married within blood relatives, while remaining

fourtysix (92 %) had married outside the blood relatives.

In short the figures shows that majority (92 %) of the respondents were married outside the blood relatives.

5.6 Table showing the Interaction and Communication of social workers with mentally retarded children

Social Workers	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Once in a day	0	0
2) Once in a week	0	0
3) Several times in a day	0	0
4) Once in a month	0	0
5) Never	50	100
Total	50	100

The above table clearly shows that out of fifty children, 50 (100 %) respondents said that no one can visited to our home with relation to this problem.

5.7. Table showing the Interaction and Communication of Friends with Retarded Children

Friends	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Once in a day	7	14
2) Once in a week	0	0
3) Several times in a day	24	48
4) Once in a month	1	2
5) Occasionally	8	16
6) Never	0	0
Total	50	100

The above table indicate that out of 50 children 24 (48 %) children friends were visiting several times in a day, 8 (16 %) friends visiting occasionally, 7 (14 %) friends visiting once in a day while 1 (2 %) visiting once in a month.

It is understood that majority (48 %) children visiting several times in a day.

5.8. Table showing Interaction and Communication of the Parents with their handicapped children

Parents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1) Once in a day	0	0
2) Once in a week	0	0
3) Several times in a day	47	94
4) Once in a month	1	2
5) Occasionally	2	4
6) Never	0	0
Total	50	100

The above given table shows that out of fifty respondents fortyseven (94 %) were interacting and communicating several times in a day, while two (4 %) and one (2 %) were interacting and communicating one time in a month and occasionally.

5.9. Table showing the Mentally Retarded Child and Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1) Once in a day	6	12
2) Once in a week	0	0
3) Several times in a day	12	24
4) Once in a month	8	16
5) Occasionally	24	48
6) Never	0	0
Total	50	100

It is found that out of fifty respondents 24 (48 %) neighbourers visiting occasionally, 12 (24 %) visiting several times in a day, 8 (16 %) visiting once in a month while 6 (12 %) neighbourers visiting once in a day.

It is understood that majority of neighbourhood were visiting occasionally.



5.10. Table showing the Handicapped Children  
and interaction of the blood relatives

Relatives	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Once in a day	5	10
2) Once in a week	0	0
3) Several times in a day	6	12
4) Once in a month	12	24
5) Occasionally	20	40
6) Never	7	14
Total	50	100

Through this above table we can find that 20 (40 %) relatives could visiting the childrens occasionally 12 (24 %) relatives visiting once in a month, 7 (14 %) relatives could not visiting while 5 (10 %) relatives visiting one time in a day.

5.11. Table showing acceptance of the Handicapped  
by Other Children

Acceptance	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) All type of children	44	88
2) Only handicapped	6	12
3) Nobody	0	0
Total	50	100

5.12. Table showing distribution of parents according to the factors associated with mental retardation.

Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1) Faith of God	5	10
2) Past Deeds	5	10
3) Genetics	2	4
4) Poverty	3	6
5) Lack of proper food	2	4
6) Lack of love and affection, care	5	10
7) Lack of medical facility	5	10
8) Abortion and sex test	5	10
9) Marriage within blood	8	16
10) Early marriage	6	12
11) Disease at pregnancy -	4	8
Total	50	100

There were 8 parents (16 %) who said that marriage within blood was the single important factor associated with that child's problem. While 6 parents (12 %) gave early age of marriage as the reason, 10 (20 %) parents gave religious and past deed (Karma theory) reason. Other reasons associated with the problem were lack of love and affection 5 (10 %) respondents, abortion and sex test 5 (10 %), lack of medical facility 5 (10 %), Diseases at pregnancy 4 (8 %), poverty 3 (6 %), Genetics 2 (4 %) and lack of proper food 2 (4 %).