CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

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C H A P T E R V

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this chapter, the data collected for the study is analysed and an attempt is made to interprete the data. An interview schedule was administered to the respondents of the selected villages in Ankola Taluk, Karwar district. The responses given by them are summed up in the following sections.

I. Demographic Variables

II. Living Condition

III. Occupational Aspects

IV. Attached Labour

V. Economic Aspects

VI Female as a home maker and at work

VII. Social interaction of female agriculture labour

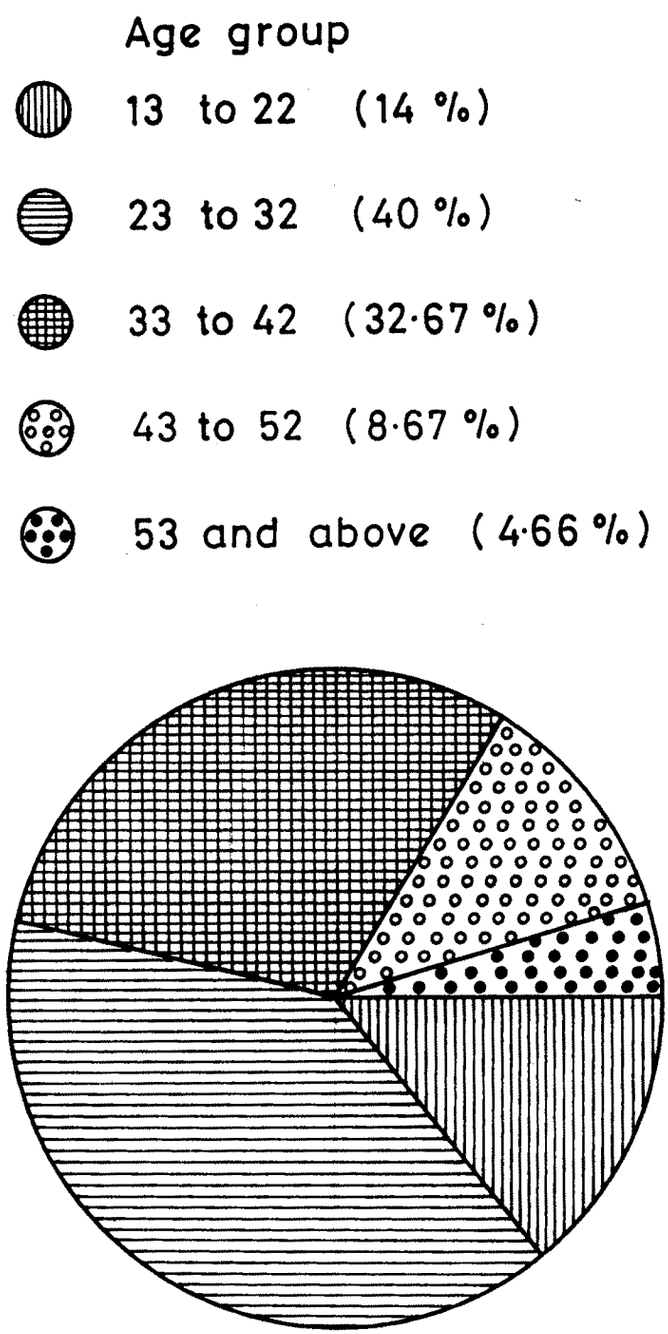
VIII. Attitude of the female agriculture workers

SECTION I

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Scrutiny of any census material shows that the tendency to participate in the labour force varies with the changes in the demographic characteristics of the population. This has given rise to the tendency to treat demographic factors as major determinants of both the size and composition of the labour force. It is indeed significant information for our purpose that, among females the tendency to participate in the labour force varies with their marital status, dependency status, age, caste, etc. Hence such information about demographic characteristics of females is undoubtedly a very data for understanding their work behaviour.

The present chapter elicits the demographic variables of the respondents included in the study. The section I essentially deals with the important variables such as the age composition of the respondents, i.e. to evaluate the most productive age group; caste composition - to determine whether caste is a decisive factor in females taking up this occupation; marital status - to ascertain if married women owing to the burden of meeting the family expenses are forced to work and help the family budget; migratory status - to assess whether women like men are capable of changing jobs and moving for better job opportu nities; educational status - to evaluate if eductaion has an impact on the choice of their work and whether they have at least the basic knowledge; family size and type; and the number of earning members and their husband's occupation and how it affects them.



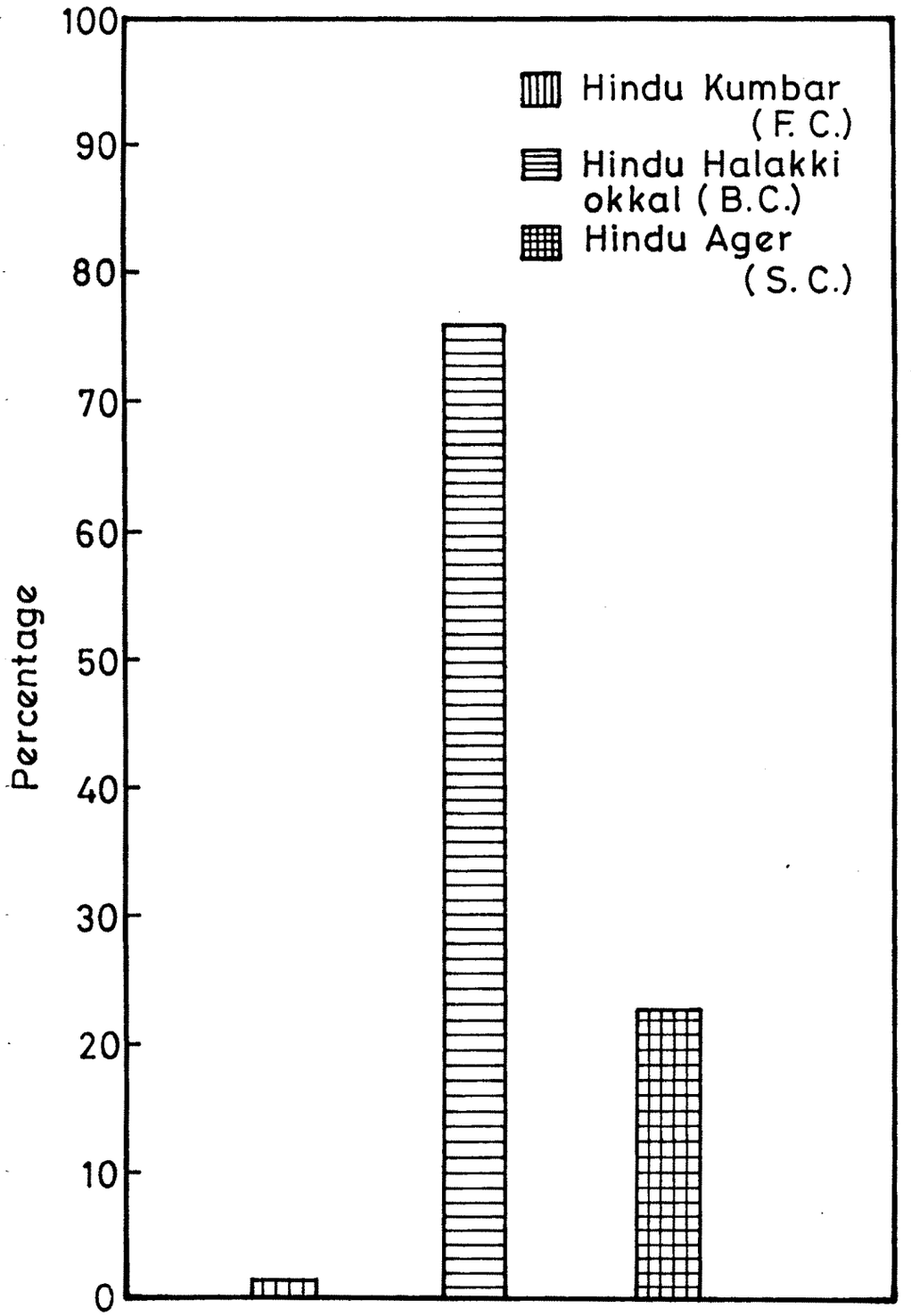
Graph - I Age composition of the respondents.

TABLE NO. I.1

AGE COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

AGE GROUP	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
13 to 22	21	14.00
23 to 32	60	40.00
33 to 42	49	32.67
43 to 52	13	8.67
53 & above	7	4.66
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The age composition profile is an important aspect while determining the working capacity of the labourers. Table I.1 shows that majority (40 percent) of the respondents fall in the age group of 23 to 32, followed by the 32.67 percent in the age group of 33 to 42. It is, therefore, clear that the most productive years are between 23 and 42 when they are young, energetic and healthy to put in hard work. However, 8.67 percent in the age group of 43 to 52 and 4.67 percent in the age group of 53 and above also work as agricultural labourers, when they should have been taking up some light work, that can be done sitting in a place instead of the hard and arduous work in the fields. Also, about 14 percent of the labourers belong to the age group of 13 to 22, the prime age which should have been devoted to education and building up one's personality.



Graph - II Caste composition of the Respondents.

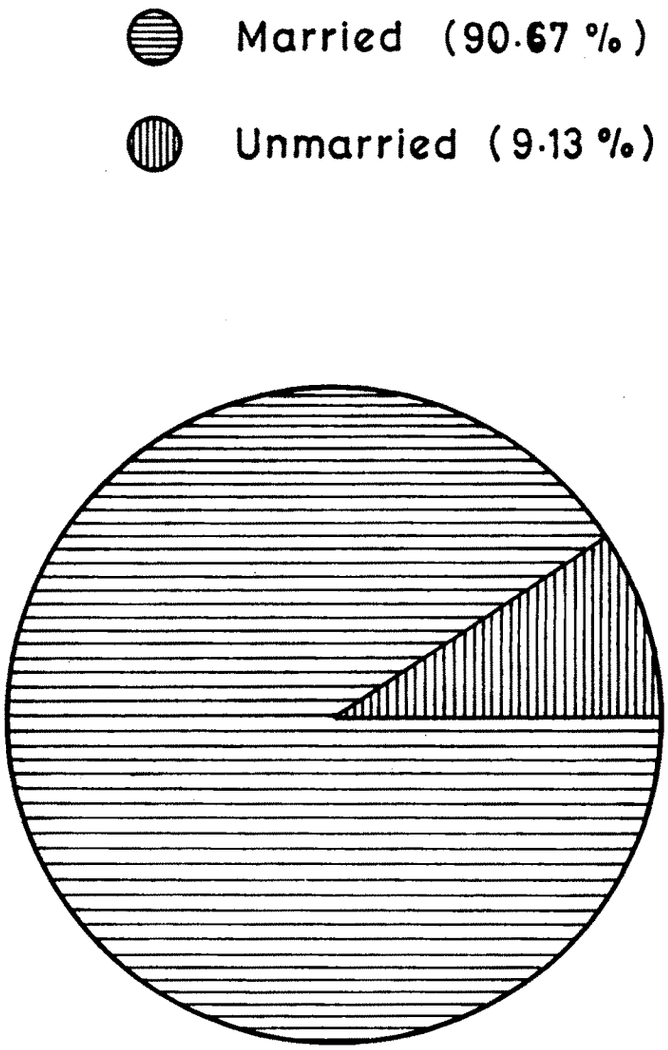
TABLE NO. I.2

CASTE COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

CASTE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Hindu Kumbar (F.C.)	2	1.33
Hindu Halakki Okkal (B.C.)	114	76.00
Hindu Ager (S.C.)	34	22.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table I.2 shows the caste composition of the female agricultural labour in Ankola taluka. It is observed that majority of these (76 percent) belong to backward caste, namely Hindu Halakki Okkal, followed by scheduled caste (22.67 percent) namely Hindu Ager. Only a small proportion (1.33 percent) come from the forward caste, namely Hindu Kumbar.

The caste institution plays an important part in defining individual's status and occupation in the Indian social structure. The above table shows that it is wrong to assume that only lower caste people are attracted to farm work. It appears that in want of jobs people, irrespective of their caste are dragged into this type of farm work.



Graph - III Marital status of the respondents

TABLE NO. I.3

MARITAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

MARITAL STATUS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Married	136	90.67
Unmarried	14	9.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Marital status of the respondents in the present study is represented in the above table. It is noted that 90.67 percent of the respondents are married, whereas, only 9.33 percent are unmarried.

It is also observed in this region that the marriages take place early age. It is usu-ally observed that married women enter into some or the other type of work due to additional family responsibility than their unmarried counterparts. The earnings of these women not only help to add to the total family income, but to improve the standard of living of the entire family. On the other hand, the unmarried respondents enter into this job due to inadequate family income and in some cases due to pressures from the elders.

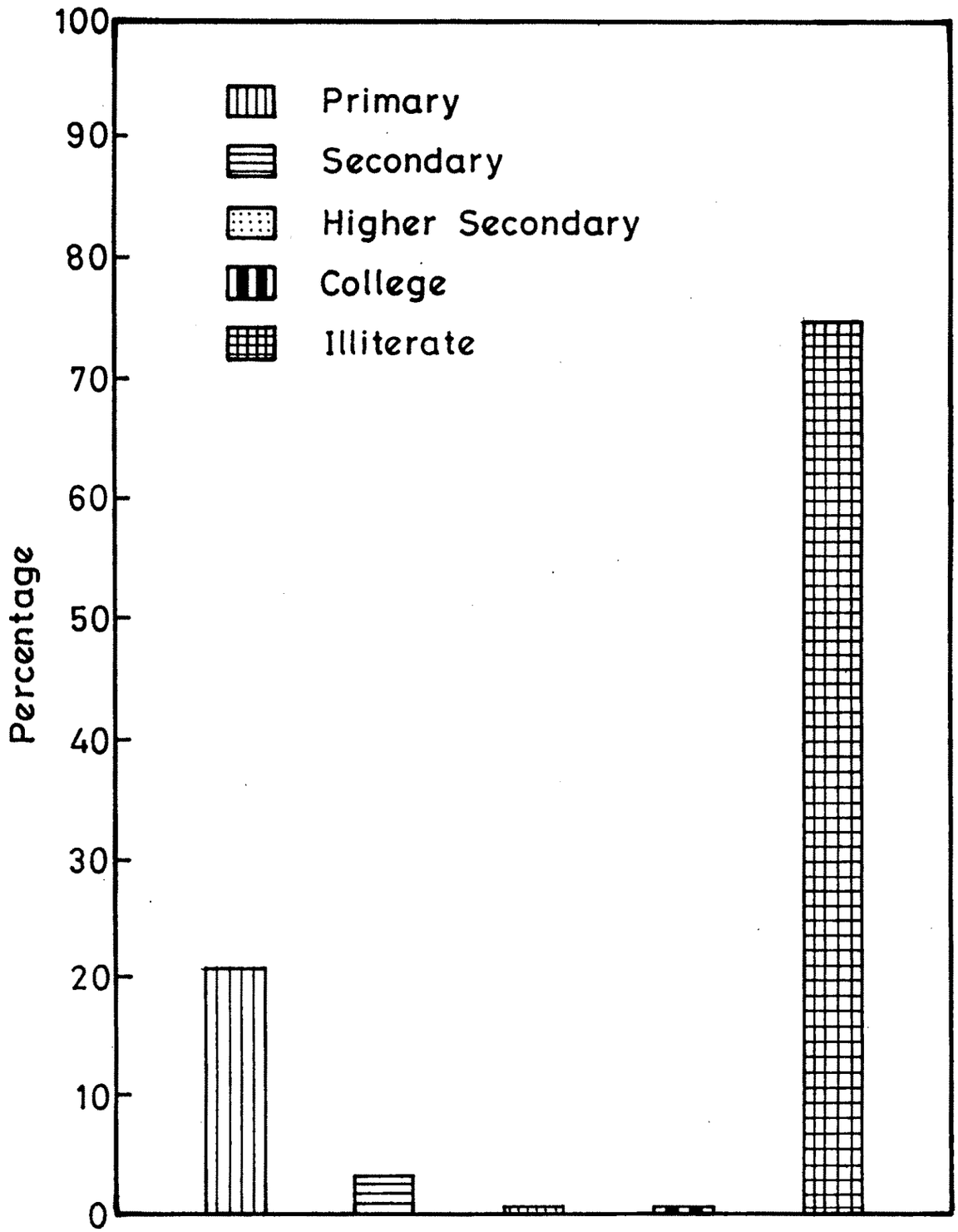
TABLE NO. I.4

MIGRATION STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

MIGRATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Migrant	18	12
Non-Migrant	132	88
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The researcher further, tried to study the migration status of the female agricultural labourers in Ankola taluka. The migration status is represented in table I.4 above. Majority of the respondents (88 percent)are non-migrant and only 12 percent have migrated.

Migration takes place among women, either due to employment or due to marriage. But as far as the present data is concerned migration is significantly low. This may be attributed to the fact that, these women are engaged in agricultural job, which is neither transferable nor changeable. Most of them have got married from within their relations, who live in and around the village. Hence, the chances of migration are rare.



Graph-IV Educational status of the Respondents.

TABLE NO. I.5

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

EDUCATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Primary	31	20.67
Secondary	5	3.33
Higher Secondary	1	0.66
College	1	0.66
Illiterate	112	74.68
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table I.5 shows the educational profile of the female respondents. The data reveals that majority (112 respondents) are illeterate, 31 have studied upto the primary level, 5 upto secondary level and 1 each upto higher secondary and college level.

In rural India educational facilities are neither available satisfactorily, nor is their supremacy accepted. This inability has encouraged the uneducated to enter into any unorganised job. However, it is heartning to note from the present data that 38 of the respondents have received some formal education, at least sufficient to prevent them from being exploited on account of their illiteracy.

TABLE NO. I.6

AGE OF RESPONDENTS AND EDUCATION

AGE (Yrs.)	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	HIGHER SECONDARY	COLLEGE (GRADUATE)	UNEDUCATED (ILLITERATE)	TOTAL
13 - 22	12 (57.14)	3 (14.29)	-	-	6 (28.57)	21 (100)
23 - 32	13 (21.66)	1 (1.67)	-	1 (1.67)	45 (75)	60 (100)
33 - 42	3 (6.13)	1 (2.04)	1 (2.04)	-	44 (89.79)	49 (100)
43 - 52	-	-	-	-	13 (100)	13 (100)
Above 53	3 (42.86)	-	-	-	4 (57.14)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**31 (20.67)**	**5 (3.33)**	**1 (0.66)**	**1 (0.66)**	**112 (74.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

From Table I.6 it is observed that in the 13 to 22 year age group 71.43 percent respondents are educated and 28. 57 percent illiterates. In the 23 to 32 age group, 25 percent are educated and as high as 75 percent are uneducated. Among 33 to 42 age group, 10.21 percent are educated and substantial proportion of 89.79 percent are uneducated. Whereas, there is not a single respondent who is literate. In the age group of 53 and above, there are 42.86 percent respondents educated upto primary level and the rest 57.14 percent are illiterate.

Thus, we observe that the majority of the educated respondents are from the younger age group of 23 to 32 years. As against, in the older age group, the illiteracy is predominant, this is due to the fact that about 40 years back, female could not take education due to social restrictions. They were forced both by the family members and the society to be all the time inside the house and no opportunity was given to them to go to school.

At the same time, even now in rural areas, after 10 years of age, a girl is not able to attend school. Marriage is the only career left for her. So she, hardly can take education upto the primary level. Therefore, majority of our (20.67 percent) respondents are educated upto primary level and 74.67 percent are illiterate.

TABLE NO. I.7

FAMILY SIZE OF THE RESPONDENTS

NO.OF FAMILY MEMBERS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1 - 3	51	34.00
4 - 6	86	57.33
7 - 9	11	7.33
10 - 12	1	0.67
Above 12	1	0.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Family size is an important socio-economic determinant. Table I.7 shows the family size distribution of female agricultural labourers in Ankola taluka. Majority of the respondents (57.33 percent) have a family size between 4 to 6 members, followed by 34 percent with 1 to 3 family members. Whereas, 11 respondents have a family size of 7 to 9 and 1 each with 10 to 12 and more than 12 members respectively.

The data shows that inspite of the propogation of the small family norms, still there are people in this area who do not know the evils of big family. It is often heard from the elders in the villages that the family size should be large in order to increase the number of working hands on the farm.

TABLE NO. I.8

FAMILY TYPE OF THE RESPONDENTS

FAMILY TYPE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Nuclear	137	91.33
Joint Family	13	8.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The family type of the respondents as represented in Table I.8 above depicts the changing pattern of traditions in the country. From the times immemorial this country was known for its large joint families, however, now owing to industrial and social development and also the rising inflation, maintenance of large families is cumbersome and hence the trend is more towards nuclear family.

It is noted that 91.33 percent of the female agricultural labour come from nuclear families whereas only 8.67 percent come from joint families. The financial emergency could be a major reason forcing women to go into any kind of jobs besides the household work. On the other hand women from joint families enter into these jobs as there is distribution of household work and they are relatively free.

TABLE NO. I. 9

EARNING MEMBERS IN RESPONDENT'S FAMILY

NO. OF EARNING MEMBERS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1 - 2	67	44.67
3 - 4	68	45.33
5 - 6	12	8.00
7 - 8	3	2.00
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The researcher investigated into the number of earning members of the respondent's family. It is clear from the table above that more than 90 percent have between 1 to 4 members who are earning from one or the other kind of job. Whereas 8 percent of the respondents have 5 to 6 earning members and 2 percent with 7 to 8 members.

In the present inflationary economic situation, it is but obvious that more the income obtained, it is still inadequate to make both ends meet. The situation is further worsened in the rural folks where the amount of work is more and earning is less. Therfore, irrespective of the nuclear or joint family, there are more number of earning members to supplement the financial position of the family.

TABLE NO. I.10

OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDENT'S HUSBAND

HUSBAND'S OCCUPATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agriculture	91	66.91
Tea stall	4	2.94
Stone cutters	20	14.70
Carpenter	1	0.74
Service	1	0.74
Not working	19	13.97
TOTAL	**136**	**100**

Table No. I.10, reveals that majority of the spouses of the respondents are engaged in agriculture. While the occupations of others are tea stall (2.94 percent), stone cutters (14.70 percent), Carpenter (0.74 percent), service (0.74 percent) and 13.97 percent are not working.

The table reflects that majority of the spouses are agricultural workers, which is the chief occupation of the rural society. Also it is obvious from the above table that none of the spouses are having jobs that can generate sufficient income, hence it becomes imperative on the part of their wives that they should work and help to lessen the financial burden.

SECTION II

LIVING CONDITION

The problem of housing is unquestionably one of the most important problems for the agricultural workers in India. Lack of proper shelter breeds diseases and discontent amongst the people, brutalities and kills finer instincts of men. Houses, many without plinths, windows and adequate ventilation, usually consist of a single small room, the only opening being a doorway, often too low to enter without stooping. In order to secure some privacy, old kerosene tins and gunny bags are used to form screens which further restrict the entrance of light and air. In dwellings, such as these, human beings are born, sleep, eat, live and die. It is important to note that such deplorable conditions of housing have a definite bearing on the health, efficiency and welfare of our working population. While good houses mean, the possibility of home life, happiness and health, bad houses spell squalor, drink, diseases, immortality and crime.

Hence, until the housing conditions are improved and the industrial worker is placed in a healthier and more wholesome environment, we cannot expect her to improve her efficiency or be satisfied with her conditions. Shelter or housing is one of the three basic needs of man, the other two being food and clothing. The word "home" arouses in man's mind a feeling of affection and warmth. A worker's home is the most immediate and tangible expression of his state of wellbeing. A good house is not only a centre of his/her

family's life but, also a place where he/she can best realise a sense of dignity and happiness as an individual and can appreciate clean and healthy ways of living. The problem of housing is becoming very accute day-by-day and the present position and conditions as regards housing are highly unsatisfactory. This section deals with the living condition of the female agriculture labour.

TABLE NO. II.1

CASTE OF THE RESPONDENTS AND NATURE OF HOUSE

CASTE	PAKKA HOUSE	KACHHA HOUSE	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	1 (50)	1 (50)	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	29 (25.49)	85 (74.51)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	4 (11.88)	30 (88.12)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**34 (22.67)**	**116 (77.33)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table II.1 reveals that among forward class (FC) respondents, 50 percent have pakka and rest have kachha house. Whereas, the majority (74.51 percent) of the Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC) respondents have Kachha house and 25.49 percent have pakka house. Hindu Ager (SC) respondents on the other hand, have maximum (88.12 percent) kachha house and only 11.88 percent live in pakka house.

On the whole, it is observed that 77.33 percent respondents have kachha house and 22. 67 percent live in pakka house . This is obvious from the fact that taking into consideration the socio-economic condition of the respondents, that is agricultural labour, it is not surprising that the majority of them live in kachha houses.

TABLE II.2 CASTE OF THE RESPONDENTS AND THE NATURE OF HOUSING CONDITION

CASTE	ROOF					WALLS					FLOOR			TOTAL	NUMBER OF ROOMS			
	TILE	TATCH	GRASS	CONCRETE	TOTAL	TIN	THATCH	BRICK	MUD	TOTAL	MUD	COWDUNG	CEMENT		1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 6	TOTAL
F. C.	2	-	-		2	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	114	20	90	4	114
	(100)				(100)			(50)	(50)	(100)	(50)		(50)	(100)	(17.54)	(78.95)	(3.51)	(100)
B. C.	90	4	19	1	114	13	1	3	97	114	99	7	8	34	21	12	1	34
	(78.95)	(3.51)	(16.67)	(0.87)	(100)	(11.41)	(0.87)	(2.63)	(85.08)	(100)	(86.84)	(6.14)	(7.02)	(100)	(61.77)	(35.29)	(2.94)	(100)
S. C.	32	1	1	-	34	5	-	1	28	34	30	1	3	150	41	102	7	150
	(94.12)	(2.94)	(2.94)		(100)	(14.71)		(2.94)	(82.35)	(100)	(88.24)	(2.94)	(8.82)	(100)	(27.33)	(68)	(4.67)	(100)
TOTAL	124	5	20	1	150	18	1	5	126	150	130	8	12	150	41	102	7	150
	(82.67)	(3.33)	(13.33)	(0.67)	(100)	(12)	(0.67)	(3.33)	(84)	(100)	(86.67)	(5.33)	(8)	(100)	(27.33)	(68)	(4.67)	(100)

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage to total column)

Table II.2 depicts the nature and type of housing and the material of housing of the female agricultural workers in the three villages of Ankola taluk. From the data, it can be seen that majority of them have tiled (82.67 percent) houses with mud as walls (84 percent), floor (86.67 percent), and house with 3 to 4 rooms (68 percent). Very few possess good architectured houses. Good houses with good amenities and facilities indicate the standard of living and status of the people. Hence, the general housing condition seems to be very poor among almost all the respondents selected under present study, irrespective of their caste.

A comparison with other castes, forward caste women have a better housing architecture with tiles (100 percent), brick wall (50 percent), cement flooring (50 percent), and 5 to 6 rooms (100 percent). The condition of the houses of the other two castes are similar in nature with tiled roof, mud wall, mud floor, and less rooms.

On the whole, the data indicates the deplorable housing and living condition of the agricultural women workers and indicates their inability to afford to have a comfortable living.

TABLE NO. II.3

LOCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS HOUSE

HOUSE LOCATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Separate	31	20.66
S. C. Colony	34	22.67
Mixed	85	56.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The above table shows the location of the respondent's house. It is noted that 20.66 percent female agricultural labourers stay separately, 22.67 percent stay in S. C. Colony and 56.67 percent stay in mixed form.

It is interesting to note that though people from all castes have entered into the farm work, their place of work is separate. Whereas, the scheduled caste people stay in Scheduled Caste Colony and they are not allowed to mix with other caste people. However, majority of the respondents stay in the mix locality. The data goes to prove that the rigidity of casteism still exist in rural areas.

TABLE NO. II.4

ELECTRIFICATION OF RESPONDENT'S HOUSE

ELECTRICITY	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Electrified	56	37.33
Not Electrified	94	62.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It was intended to understand the nature of various basic infrastructural facilities available to the female agricultural labourers and their family members. Table II.4 indicates that 62.67 percent of the respondent's houses are still to be electrified. Whereas, only few respondents (37.33 percent) do avail electricity facility in their houses.

We can conclude from the above data that majority of them have no electrification in their houses. This may be because of low income, housing problem or non-availability of electric supply. Though, the Government has launched "Bhagya Jyoti" Scheme, it was only possible for the 37.33 percent of the mass to get the benefit and get their houses electrified.

TABLE NO. II.5

SOURCES OF POTABLE WATER

SOURCE OF WATER	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Well	51	34.00
River	15	10.00
Tap	1	0.66
Hand Pump	4	2.67
Well and Tap	17	11.33
Hand Pump and Well	1	0.66
Tap and Hand Pump	61	40.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

As regards potable water, Table II.5 shows that 34 percent respondents draw water from well, 10 percent from nearby river, 11 percent well and tap, 0.66 percent from tap, 2.67 percent from hand water pump, 0.66 percent hand pump and well and 40.67 percent tap and hand pump.

Thus, the respondents draw drinking water from various sources mentioned above. They have to depend on one or more source due to seasonal changes. This indicates that water resource is inadequate in the area under present study.

TABLE NO. II.6

WATER AVAILABILITY IN ALL SEASONS

AVAILABILITY OF WATER	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Available	52	34.67
Not Available	98	65.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table II.6 shows the availability of water in all seasons. It is reported by majority of the female agricultural labourers (65.33 percent) that water is neither available in plenty nor continuously through one source. They have to essentially depend on different available sources. Whereas, 34.67 percent of the respondents claimed that water is easily available and accessible to them through out all seasons. Most of these respondents draw their water supply either from big well or through tap.

The table clearly reveals that there is accute water problem in Ankola taluk. Further, though the Government has extended a helping hand in providing bore wells and tap, it seems that the same are not sufficient to solve the problem throughout all the seasons.

TABLE NO. II.7

RESPONDENT'S BATHROOM CONDITION

BATHROOM	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Having Bathroom	8	5.33
No Bathroom	142	94.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table II.7 depicts the position of the respondents as regards bathroom facility is concerned. As is obvious, this area being rural area, there is no adequate bathroom facility in these villages as well. It is observed that 94.67 percent of the respondents do not have any bathroom facility. Whereas, only 5.33 percent enjoy the bathroom facility.

By and large, the respondents and their family members take bath in open air. The open air bathrooms, in most of the cases, are not covered properly. This causes especially, female members embrassment. Besides, in the winter season open bathroom poses a great difficulty to them since they have to face cold wind while bathing.

TABLE NO. II.8

TOILET FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO RESPONDENTS

TYPE OF TOILET	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Separate	3	2
Open Air	147	98
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Toilet conditions of these rural folks is no better than that of bathroom facility. Table II.8 regarding toilet conditions of the respondents discloses that most of them are using open air toilet system (98 percent). Females have to go for toilet eiher early in the morning or late in the evening, and at a distant lonely places covered with sufficient shrubs. Only 2 percent of the respondents enjoy separate toilet of their own.

The financial condition of the respondents does not entitle them to have separate toilet and bathroom facility for themselves. Further, the local authorities such as Gram Panchayat / Village Panchayat do not take any steps in this regard.

TABLE NO. II.9

POSSESSION OF LAND OF THE RESPONDENTS

POSSESSION OF LAND	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Cultivable	122	81.33
Uncultivable	28	18.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It was also intended to understand, whether the female respondents or their family possess any land of their own. Table II.9 depicts the possession of land of respondents. It is observed that majority (81.33 percent) respondents do have land which is cultivated. Whereas, 18.67 percent respondents have uncultivable land in their possession.

Further, it can be said that though the respondents have cultivable land, it appears to be inadequate for their livelihood and they have to seek work outside in one form or the other to substantiate and compensate for the maintenance of their family.

SECTION III

OCCUPATIONAL ASPECTS

Through the centuries females in India, have been responsible for a wide range of agricultural operations like sowing, weeding, harvesting, winnowing as a part of farming, animal husbandry too. The back-breaking chores begin in the wee hours and are not completed even as the poor mother goes to sleep late in to the night. For the jobs are not complete even with harvesting, threshing and winnowing. She dries the produce, stores it, dehusks it by poundering and grinding. So the daily grinding of the unsung housewife-cum-mother-cum-worker goes on and on, unrecognised by labour statistics. The working hours in this sector are longer than the statutory hours of work. The agricultural sector women workers are paid low wages and their wages are just around the subsistance level. All over India, it has been universally found that the work of women farm labourers is seasonal and that they have few avenues for employing themselves during the off-season, in other activities for income generation.

The conditions of the female workers in some of the villages in Ankola taluk are still harrowing. They may be doing almost 90 percent of the job right from the harvesting, weeding, planting, winnowing, irrigating, sowing, transplanting, threshing, grass cutting, etc.

Women in general, work both for economic or non-economic reasons. In a tradition and custom bound society, females will not enter into labour force. Even if under the pressure of a changing social climate, females are not prohibited from seeking employment, only a minority tends to be employed. In progressive society, there is wide scope for women to enter into the labour force.

This section deals with the occupational aspects of the female agriculture labour.

TABLE NO. III.1

NATURE OF WORK OF THE RESPONDENTS

NATURE OF WORK	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Planting / Weeding / Harrowing / Grass Cutting	126	84
Sowing / Winnowing	24	16
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table III.1 displays the nature of work, the female respondents do in the field. Majority of the respondents (84 percent) do planting, weeding, harowwing and grass cutting. Whereas, only 16 percent do the job of sowing and winnowing.

The female agricultural workers do not know the use of scientific methods and equipment in the agricultural fields. They only carry out the traditional manner of work. Further, it also indicates that the farm work consists of different activities and do not require any specialists and can be done by any layman.

TABLE NO. III.2

DURATION OF WORK HOURS IN DIFFERENT SEASONS

SEASON	1 - 5	6 - 10	TOTAL
Busy Season	-	150 (100)	150 (100)
Slack Season	118 (78.67)	32 (21.33)	150 (100)

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

In the agriculture occupation there are two seasons, namely busy season and slack season. Table III.2 shows that all the respondents do work for 6 to 10 hours a day in the busy season. Whereas, 78.67 percent of the total respondents get some or the other kind of part-time job varying from 1 to 5 hours duration. On the other hand, some workers (21.33 percent) do get a job of 6 to 10 hours duration even in the slack season.

The above Table reflects that the duration of work varies considerably. This shows that there is no fixed time schedule for the agricultural farm workers and they have to carry out the work depending upon the type of the work, its availibity, and urgency of work, unlike the industrial work. Another important reason could be that these workers also have to work on their own farms in addition to this work.

TABLE NO. III.3

ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT DURING SLACK SEASON

ALTERNATE EMPLOYMENT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
For Collecting Fuel	127	84.67
House Work	23	15.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The researcher tried to understand the avenues available to the female workers during the slack season. Table III.3 depicts that majority of the agricultural female workers (84.67 percent) collect fuel wood and sell this in the market. Whereas, 15 .33 percent females do house work due to non-availibility of alternate employment or due to personal problems such as jobs being available at a distance, nobody to look after their children, etc.

Thus, it is clear that in the absence of the regular job in the slack season, the respondent are forced to take up simple jobs like collection of fuel to generate income or just go without any job till the next busy agricultural season.

TABLE NO. III.4

AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN WHOLE YEAR

EMPLOYMENT IN YEAR	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Employed	25	16.67
Unemployed	125	83.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table III.4 shows the availibility of employment during the whole year to the female agricultural labourers. Majority of the respondents (83.33 percent) remain without a continuous job during the whole year. Whereas, only 16.67 percent are employed on a regular basis.

The data represents that, since the agricultural employment is seasonal, most of the respondents only get the work for a limited period of time. Whereas, those who are skilled, loyal, have contacts, or are lucky get employment over the entire period in a year.

TABLE NO. III.5

TOTAL DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT IN A WHOLE YEAR

NO. OF WORKING DAYS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1 - 100	32	21.33
101 - 200	20	13.33
201 - 300	26	17.33
301 & More	72	48.01
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The researcher has further probed into the exact number of working days the respondents work in a year. Table III.5 shows that the respondents get work right from a few days to continuous work for the whole year. 48.01 percent female workers get employment for more than 300 days. Whereas, 21.33 percent females get employment for less than 100 days. Further, it is noted that 13.33 percent are employed over a period of 101 to 200 days and 17.33 percent get work between 201 to 300 days.

From the above table it is obvious that a majority of the female labourers have employment for more than 6 to 7 months in a year. But about one-fourth the respondents have jobs only for about three months and have to look for alternate employment.

TABLE NO. III.6

DAILY WAGES OF THE RESPONDENTS

WAGES (in Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
8 - 10	17	11.33
11 - 12	76	50.67
13 - 15	54	36.00
16 & above	3	2.00
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table III.6 shows that majority of the respondents earn wages between 11 to 12 Rs. per day. Only 36 percent earn between Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 and only a mere 3 percent earn more than 16 Rs. or more per day. As many as 11.33 percent of the respondents earn only between Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per day.

The above data shows that there is no uniform wage structure in the area under study. The majority of the respondents being paid less than 12 Rs. per day are underpaid, the amount being insufficient to lead a comfortable life according to the cost of living in the present set-up. The variations in the payment also reveals that the payment is not made as per the Govt. rule and are dependent upon the will and wish of the employer.

TABLE NO. III.7

METHOD OF WAGE PAYMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS

METHOD OF PAYMENT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
According to working time	108	72
According to work	42	28
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

There are two modes of payment, time wage payment and piece wage payment. From the Table III.7 it is seen that majority (72 percent) of the respondents receive wages according to the time of work they put in. Time wages are regular wages paid on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. This method is suitable for agricultural labour as they need not worry about their daily expenditure on a day to day basis.

However, 28 percent of the respondents get wages on a piece rate. This has the advantage that if they are able to finish the specified job quickly the payment is received earlier, but has the disadvantage that when the job is over they are left with no employment and have to go without pay till the next job work is obtained.

TABLE NO. III.8

USAGE OF IMPLEMENTS FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT

USING OWN IMPLEMENTS FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Yes	60	40
No	90	60
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

When inquired whether the respondents use their own implements to work in the fields, it was found that majority (60 percent) did not use their own implements. Whereas, 40 percent of the respondents made use of their own implements to work in the fields.

The obvious reason for non-usage of their own implements may be that they are just not in a position to purchase their own implemnts or alternatively as the employer provides them with the necessary tools they do not feel the need to purchase their own implements and use them in their jobs.

TABLE NO. III.9

AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS AND EMPLOYMENT AVAILABILITY IN A YEAR

AGE (Yrs.)	EMPLOYED IN YEAR	UNEMPLOYED IN YEAR	TOTAL
13 - 22	6 (28.57)	15 (71.43)	21 (100)
23 - 32	7 (11.67)	53 (88.33)	60 (100)
33 - 42	10 (20.27)	39 (79.74)	49 (100)
43 - 52	1 (7.92)	12 (92.08)	13 (100)
Above 52	1 (14.29)	6 (85.71)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**25**	**125**	**150**

(Figures in parenthese indicate row percentage)

From the above Table it is seen that among the 13 - 22 age group 28.57 percent are employed in the whole year and 71.43 percent are not employed. While, in the 23 - 32 age group 11.67 percent have employment for the whole year and 88.33 percent are without continuous employment. In the 33 - 42 age group 20.27 percent have regular employment and 79.74 percent unemployed and in the last group i.e. 52 and above 14.29 percent are employed in the whole year, while 85.71 percent have no continuous employment in the whole year.

Employment in agriculture, due to the nature of the job and the type of activities are not generally continuously available during

the whole year. This fact is reflected in the Table III.9 where majority of the respondents in all the age groups do not have regular employment during the whole year. However, the analysis shows that the group that constitutes a majority to get employment for the whole year is the 13 - 22 age group. This may be due to the fact that the landlords prefer to take the help of the young and energetic to work on a regular basis, also the other reason would be that due to their age they may be satisfied with lower wages and work harder.

Further, though among the total number of respondents majority of the respondents lie in the age group of 23 - 32, it is found that only 11.67 percent among them are employed on a continuous basis. The main reason for this may be that though at this age the work output would be maximum, owing to the problems faced by women in this age group namely, child bearing, looking after and rearing of the little ones and others they may perhaps prefer to work on short time basis.

TABLE NO. III.10

RESPONDENT OPINION ABOUT LAND OWNERS

RESPONDENT OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Sympathetic	136	90.67
Expoitative	14	9.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is clear from the Table No. III.10 that 90.67 percent of the respondents are fortunate to have sympathetic employers. Majority of them have stated that the land owners are co-operative and do not feel exploited. Further, they feel that they receive correct wages, limited hours of work and other facilities. Only 9.33 percent of the respondents feel that they are being exploited and are dissatified with their employers.

The above analysis reveals that in the area under study there exists cordial relations between the employer and the employees. Further, it may also be possible that the respondents feel satified with the working conditions as they may not be aware of the right wage structure and norms owing to the illiteracy or they have been habituated over decades to the type of poor living conditions and have learnt not to complain about them.

TABLE NO. III.11

SATISFACTION OF THE RESPONDENTS WITH THEIR WORK

SATISFACTION WITH WORK	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Satisfied	96	64
Not Satisfied	54	36
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table No. III.11 reveals that 64 percent of the respondents are satisfied with their work and about 36 percent of them are not satisfied.

Those that have expressed satisfaction are mainly having a strong agricultural background. They are well adjusted to the type of work and hence feel satisfied. Among those who are not satisfied the reasons are the low wages, hard work and the nature of the agricultural activities which are seasonal leaving them with no employment for days together.

TABLE NO. III.12

PRESENT POSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

PRESENT POSITION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Employed	125	83.33
Unemployed	25	16.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table III.12 depicts the present position of the female agricultural labourers in Ankola taluka. A large majority (83.33 percent) are employed while 16.67 percent have no immediate employment.

This reflects that in this area enough work is available and the respondents avail of the opportunity presented to them. Further, since the survey was carried out during the busy season, probably a large number of them are employed.

TABLE III.13

WILLINGNESS OF RESPONDENTS TO DO OTHER JOB THAN AGRICULTURE

WILLINGNESS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Willing	116	77.33
Not willing	34	22.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The respondents in the present study though having expressed their satisfaction with their jobs (as seen from Table III.11), a majority of them (77.33 percent) have expressed their willingness to do other job than agriculture for their livelihood. Only 22.67 percent of them have expressed their unwillingness to change their jobs.

The willingness to change the job mainly arises from the wish to take up lighter work, jobs fetching more wages and afford regular employment for the whole year. Those that have expressed their unwillingness mainly come from a agricultural background, who love their work inspite of its fallacies and also may be among those who have been fortunate to get continuous employment.

TABLE NO. III.14

REASONS FOR WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW OTHER JOB BESIDES AGRICULTURE

REASONS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Dislike for farm work	6	5.17
Higher wages in non-agriculture work	62	53.45
Larger scope in non-agricultural work	48	41.38
TOTAL	**116**	**100**

Table III.14 reveals that 5.17 percent respondents dislike farm work. That is why they wish to follow other job besides agriculture. 53.45 percent of them wish to follow other job besides agriculture because of higher wages in non-agricultural work. Whereas, 41.38 percent of the respondents find wide scope in non-agricultural work.

Majority of the respondents are willing to follow some other occupation and they find wide scope in non-agricultural work. Some of them feel that agriculture work is monotonous and they have to work hard. It also is low paying and hence have interest in other type of job other than agriculture.

SECTION IV

ATTACHED LABOUR

Attached labourers generally work on annual or seasonal basis and they work on some sort of contract. Their wages are determined according to the customs or traditions prevailing. They are generally lodged on the farms during the period of contract. Further, they are to work only for their employers and are ordinarily free to seek employment elsewhere. It is stated in the terms of their contract initially, the period of employment, whether or not he receives daily wages or not and other conditions. Mostly attached labourers are paid on a monthly basis or annually.

On the other hand, temporary or casual labourers are engaged only during the peak season of work. These are employed temporarily and their payment is as per the existing market rate. They are not attached to any particular landlord and are free to seek work elsewhere if they wish.

In some states 'attached' workers were engaged for the whole year or for a period of three to six months. In case of some of the attached labour, they were employed for even longer periods or somtimes on monthly agreement basis. Some of the attached labourers got daily wages even though the contract of employment was casual.

According to the First Agricultural Enquiry (1950 - 51), 90 percent of the total agricultural labour families, only 10 percent were attached while 90 percent were casual labourers. The corresponding figures for the Second Enquiry (1956 - 57) are 27 and 73 respectively. In most of the cases, the difference between the two classes is that in case of attached labour the terms and period for which a labourer is engaged and whether or not she recieves daily wages or not.

The present section elicits information regarding attached labour. It deals with the duration of the contract, its nature, reasons for accepting to be attached labour, their freedom to work elsewhere, and other issues.

TABLE NO. IV.1

CATEGORISATION OF FEMALE AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

CATEGORY	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Attached	12	8
Not Attached	138	92
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The Table No. IV.1 discloses that only 8 percent of the respondents are falling under the category of attached labour, while 92 percent are casual workers.

Though an overwhelming percent of the respondents are not attached, it still remains that a small segment is attached and that the system of attached labour is still prevalent in this area. Further, the fate of these labourers entirely rests with the landlords or employer as they are bound by the contract.

TABLE NO. IV.2

DURATION OF JOB WITH PRESENT EMPLOYER

DURATION OF JOB (Years)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
0 - 2	3	25.00
3 - 5	5	41.67
More than 5	4	33.33
TOTAL	12	**100**

Table No. IV.2 depicts that majority of the respondents i.e. 41.67 percent are working with the present employer for a period between 3 to 5 years. 33.33 percent have been working for more than 5 years and 25 percent are working for less than 2 years.

The system of employment here is on the basis of contract. The contract depends upon the money borrowed. These people are supposed to work with the same landlord till the contract ends. The analysis shows that nobody has any lengthy contract as the amount may not be huge. The length of their work in case of more than 70 percent is not more than 5 years.

TABLE NO. IV.3

DURATION OF JOB CONTRACT WITH PRESENT EMPLOYER

DURATION OF JOB (Years)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Upto 1	3	25.00
2 - 3	5	41.68
4 - 5	2	16.67
Above 5	2	16.67
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

Table IV.3 reveals that 25 percent of the total respondents have worked upto one year, 41.67 percent for a period of 2 to 3 year, and 16.67 percent for a period of 4 to 5 years and above 5 years respectively.

Thus, it can be concluded that no one has life long contract and most of the contracts are for a limited short period. This further, discloses that the system of attached labour and the nature of contract is undergoing change in the rural areas.

TABLE NO. IV.4

NATURE OF CONTRACT OF THE RESPONDENTS

NATURE OF CONTRACT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Written Agreement	5	41.67
Oral Agreement	7	58.33
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

The agriculture labourers are observed to be under two types of contracts namely, written agreement and oral agreement. Table IV.4 shows that 58.33 percent of the female agricultural wokers are working under oral agreement. Whereas, 41.67 percent labourers work under written agreement.

The data in the table makes it conspicuous that in most of the cases, the contract is only oral. This means that the employers are flexible in their approach and do keep faith on the workers. The workers are permanant inhabitants of that area and hence, it is obvious that they cannot escape from the contract.

TABLE NO. IV.5

REASONS FOR REMAINING ATTACHED

CAUSE FOR ATTACHMENT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Need for Money	10	83.33
Traditional Commitment	2	16.67
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

Concerning Table No. IV.5, it is evident that most (83.33 percent) of the respondents are attached because they have borrowed money from the landlords and 16.67 percent due to their traditinal commitment. It is quite clear that poverty is the main reason for such commitment.

TABLE NO. IV.6

EMPLOYER'S PERMISSION TO RESPONDENT TO WORK ELSEWHERE

ALLOWED TO SEEK OTHER JOB	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Allowed	6	50
Not Allowed	6	50
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

From Table IV.6 it is observed that one half of the respondents can go for other job according to their desire. At the same time another half of them cannot go for other job according to their desire.

From the analysis we can conclude that one half of the respondents are allowed to seek work elsewhere. This indicates that the contract is not very rigid. However, the other half are not allowed to deviate from work, perhaps may be due to their busy work.

TABLE NO. IV.7

WHETHER RESPONDENT CAN LEAVE PRESENT JOB AS PER HIS WISH ?

CAN LEAVE JOB	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Can Leave	5	41.67
Cannot leave	7	58.33
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

From Table IV.7, it is obvious that 41.67 percent of the respondents can leave the present job and have obligations whatsoever. On the other hand, 58.33 percent female workers cannot leave the present job due to their contract or force from the employer.

It can be concluded from the above table that the majority of the respondents are forced to continue their present job as they have mutually agreed to remain on job till the termination of contract period. On the other hand, the remaining respondents have liberty to giveup their job at any time, i.e. they are allowed by the employer to leave job without any reason.

TABLE NO. IV.8

CONDITION OF REPAYMENT OF LOAN TAKEN BY THE RESPONDENT

MODE OF REPAYMENT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
With Condition	5	41.67
Without Condition	7	58.33
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

The above table depicts the mode of repayment of loan taken by the respondents. It is noted that 41.67 percent of the respondents repay their loan with some or the other condition. Whereas, 58.33 percent respondents repay the loan without any condition.

The workers who enjoy no condition in repaying their loan may be due to the fact that they may be having intimate relationship and direct interaction made by the mediator. The employers have good faith on these female agriculture labourers. Only few of them are having some condition of repayment of loan. It seems that the contract is on the basis of mutual understanding and reciprocity.

TABLE NO. IV.9

POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING AFTER REPAYMENT OF LOAN

POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING PRESENT JOB	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Possible	7	58.33
Not Possible	5	41.67
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

Table IV.9 discloses that the majority of the respondents i.e. 58.33 percent cannot leave the job even after the repayment of their loan. Many feel that they are well adjusted with their work and they have faith on their employers as well. Rest 41.67 percent said that they may leave the present job in the event if they get a better one after the repayment of their loan.

It is obvious that these respondents are not satisfied with present job and they wish to join for some other lucrative job, which is independent.

TABLE NO. IV.10

PERFORMANCE OF HOUSEHOLD DUTIES IN EMPLOYER'S HOUSE

PERFORMANCE OF HOUSEHOLD DUTIES	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Performing	7	58.33
Not performing	5	41.67
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

It is observed that the female agricultural labourers in addition to their job in the fields, have also to look after the household duties in the employer's house. Table IV.10 shows that the majority (58.33 percent) of the attached female labourers perform household duties in the employer's house. Whereas, 41.67 percent of the workers are not bound to perform household work in their master's house.

Since the contract is to work with the landlord, it is but obvious that they have to perform the household duties as and when these are necessary.

TABLE NO. IV.11

WHETHER THE CONTRACT TO WORK IS BINDING ON FAMILY MEMBERS

BINDING ON FAMILY MEMBERS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Binding	6	50
Not Binding	6	50
TOTAL	**12**	**100**

Further the researcher has probed into whether the contract to work is binding on the family members of the respondents. Table IV.11 reveals that fifty percent of the attached labourers' family members are bound by the employer to work on the fields. Whereas, the rest 50 percent respondents disclosed that their family members are not at all bound by their present employer.

Thus, the data from the table concludes that apart from the women agriculture workers, other family members are also dragged to work as and when required by their employers.

SECTION V

ECONOMIC ASPECT

The level of economic equality and independance are the real indicators to measure the status of female in any society. In a complex and highly stratified society like ours, the status of female naturally differs from region to region, class to class, caste to caste, religion to religion and from occupation to occupation. Economic need has been repeatedly cited as one of the most important factor impelling female to join the labour force. Female, teenagers, and aged people are most elastic to the changing labour market conditions. They usually work as the secondary bread earners in the family. If the wages are sufficiently high they need not augment the family income, but if the wages are low, one man's earnings may not be enough for the whole family.

Low incomes of female agricultural labourers have led to heavy indebtedness. The most important feature is that poverty striken workers are not only under debt, but the burden debt has been on the increase. This has adversely affected the economic living and social conditions of the agricultural labourers. In majority of the cases, indebtedness has persisted for generations and along with it existed the serfdom with incomes of less than Rs. 30 (at 1970-71 prices) per month, majority live below the poverty line. Under-employment, very low wage, combined with social oppression make the life of the agricultural worker miserable. In many cases, the son inherits the

debt of his father. But the most important cause of indebtedness is occasional expenditure on marriages, funerals, festivals and anniversaries. Poverty sometimes is the cause and some times the effect of indebtedness and often it is both. It is true that one of the main causes of indebtedness is expenditure on social ceremonies and there is a tendancy to regard such expenditure as mere extravagance, but it has to be remembered that the worker is a part of social organisation and has perforce to conform to certain customary social standards, even when he is not in a position to do so.

An attempt has been made in this section to understand the economic standing of the respondents in terms of distribution of respondents by income, total family income, percapita income, sources of income from farm, agricultural work, non-agricultural work, expenditure per month, saving habits, regularity and reason for saving, loan from the bank and rate of interest and information regarding indebtedness.

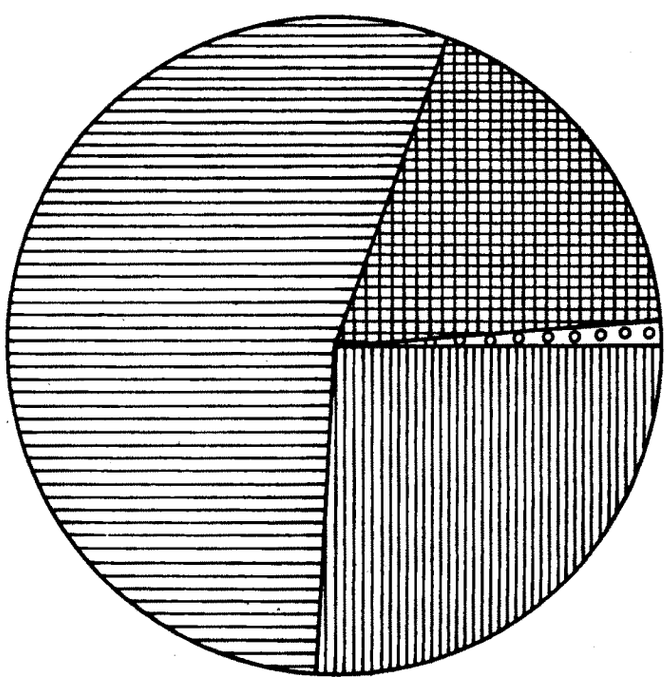
Annual Income (Rs)

Below - 800 (26 %)

801 - 1600 (54·67 %)

1601 - 2400 (18 %)

Above 2400 (1·33 %)



Graph - V Annual Income of the respondents.

TABLE NO. V.1

ANNUAL INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

ANNUAL INCOME (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Below 800	39	26.00
801 - 1600	82	54.67
1601 - 2400	27	18.00
Above 2400	2	1.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table No. V.1 reveals that 26 percent of the respondents fall in the income category of Rs. 100 to Rs. 800, 54.67 percent in Rs. 801 to Rs. 1600 and 18 percent of the respondents have income between Rs.1601 to 2400. Only 1.33 percent respondents are having income above Rs. 2400.

Since female agricultural labour are not generally considered to be the main bread earners of the family, they take up employment only to support the family income. From the above table it is clear that more than half of the respondents get between Rs.801 to Rs. 1600. The income in this sector is not fixedunlike the organised sector and varies according to the nature of the work. The data confirms that economic background of the respondents is poor which naturally have forced them to enter into this unorganised sector and share financial burden.

TABLE NO. V.2

TOTAL FAMILY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

TOTAL FAMILY INCOME (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Below 2000	15	10.00
2001 - 4000	51	34.00
4001 - 6000	48	32.00
6001 - 8000	19	12.66
8001 - 10000	10	6.67
Above 10000	7	4.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is seen from Table V.2 that a major proportion of the families income is between Rs. 2001 to Rs. 6000, 12.66 percent between Rs.6001 to Rs.8001 to Rs. 10,000 and only 4.67 percent respondents have an income above Rs. 10,000.

It is the total family income which determines the purchasing power and the socio-economic strata of the society to which it belongs. Therefore, it can be assumed that the position of class not only depend upon individual income but on the total family income. The above data shows that the economic background of the respondents family is poor inspite of more earning members in the family.

TABLE NO. V.3

RESPONDENTS INCOME & NATURE OF POSSESSION OF HOUSE

ANNUAL INCOME (Rs.)	PAKKA HOUSE	KACHHA HOUSE	TOTAL
Below 800	14 (35.59)	25 (64.41)	39 (100)
801 - 1600	11 (13.15)	71 (86.85)	82 (100)
1601 - 2400	7 (25.93)	20 (74.07)	27 (100)
Above 2400	2 (100)	-	2 (100)
TOTAL	**34 (22.67)**	**116 (77.33)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table V.3 shows the respondents' income and nature of possession of house. The data shows the influence of income over the housing condition of the respondents. It can be noted that the higher income group has pakka houses whereas, the housing condition is deplorable with lower income level. Hence, it is clear that the level of income is one of the major factors for their low standard of living.

TABLE NO. V.4

PER CAPITA INCOME OF THE FAMILY

PER CAPITA (Rs.)	FAMILY	PERCENTAGE
170 - 500	19	12.67
501 - 1000	83	55.33
1001 - 1500	40	26.67
1501 - 2000	8	5.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The Planning Commission in 1977, defined the poverty line as the midpoint of the monthly per capita expenditure class, having a daily caloric intake of 2400 per person in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. At 1979-80 prices, the mid-points are Rs. 16 in rural areas, and Rs. 88 in urban areas. In terms of this definition one can identify the poor as those who do not incur this much consumption expenditure. Those thus identified live below the poverty line.

Table No. V.4 reveals that majority (55.33 percent) of the respondent's per capita income of the family is between Rs. 501 - 1000. Further, the per capita income of 26 percent families is in the range of Rs. 1001 - 1500; 12.67 percent in the range of Rs. 170 - 500 and only marginal number (5.33 percent) of them have between Rs. 1501 to Rs. 2000.

It is therefore, quite clear majority of the respondents are poor and belong to the weaker section of the society. Hence, the reason for female seeking employment as female agriculture labour is to get remuneration.

TABLE NO. V.5

RESPONDENTS INCOME FROM AGRICULTURAL WORK

AGRICULTURAL WAGES (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
101 - 200	10	6.67
201 - 400	12	8.00
401 - 600	21	14.00
601 - 800	23	15.33
801 - 1000	56	37.33
Above 1000	28	18.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table No. V.5 highlights that 6.67 percent of the respondent's yearly agricultural wage is between Rs.100 to Rs.200, 8 percent of the respondent's yearly agricultural wages are between 201 to 400. The agricultural wages of 14 percent of the respondents are between 401 to Rs. 600; 15.33 percent of the agricultural wages are between Rs. 601 to Rs. 800; 37.33 percent of the respondent's between Rs. 801 to Rs. 1000 and only 18.67 percent of the respondent's yearly agricultural wages are above Rs. 1000.

It is observed from the data that though 37.33 percent of the respondent's wages range between Rs. 801 to Rs. 1000, it is not

sufficient to lead a comfortable life. Economic need has been reportedly cited as one of the most important factors impelling female labour to join the labour force. Female agriculture labour, teenagers, and aged people are most elastic to the changing labour market conditions. They usually work as the secondary bread earners in the family. If the agricultural wages are sufficiently high they need not augment the family income, but if the wages are low, one man's earning may not be enough for the whole family. The data further shows that the income from agriculture varies and though many of them get maximum number of working days that seems to be inadequate.

TABLE NO. V.6

SOURCES OF INCOME FROM FARM

INCOME FROM FARM (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
51 - 100	55	36.67
101 - 150	31	20.67
Above 150	30	20.00
NIL	34	22.66
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It can be observed from Table No. V.6 that 36.67 percent of the respondent's monthly income is between Rs. 50 to Rs. 100; 20.67 percent between Rs. 101 to Rs. 150 and 20 percent above Rs. 150. While more than 20 percent of them do not get any income from the farm.

The analysis shows that the maximum amount the respondents are getting from the farm is very limited. Hence it is conspicuous that the income from their farm is inadequate and women have entered into the labour force to steady the family income.

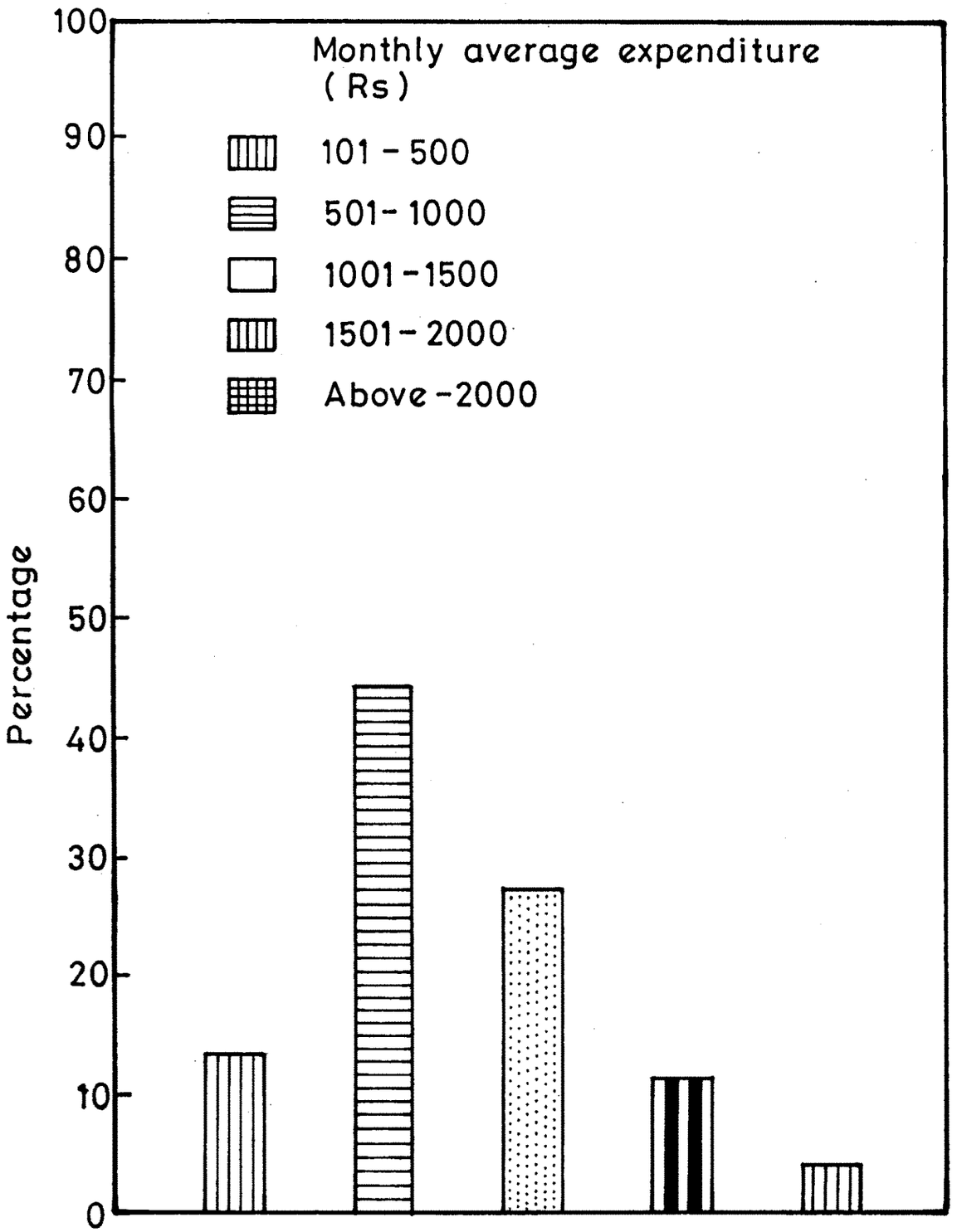
TABLE NO. V.7

SOURCES OF INCOME FROM NON-AGRICULTURE

NON-AGRICULTURAL INCOME (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Upto 300	71	47.33
301 - 600	11	7.33
601 - 900	8	5.33
Above 900	29	19.34
NIL	31	20.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is observed from Table V.7 that 47.33 percent of the respondent's yearly income from non-agricultural work is upto Rs. 300, 7.33 percent of them get between Rs. 301 to Rs. 600. Only 5.33 percent of them get between Rs. 601 to Rs. 900. However, 19.34 percent of the respondents earn more than Rs. 900 from non-agricultural work, while 20.67 percent do not get any income from non-agricultural work.

We can conclude from this analysis that majority of the respondents (47.33 percent) get upto Rs. 300. Income from this category includes income from unorganised temporary work, maid servants, poultry, sale of milk, live stock and fuel. It can be concluded that female workers try their level best to earn from as many sources and supplement the family income.



Graph - VI Monthly average expenditure in respondents family.

TABLE NO. V.8

MONTHLY AVERAGE EXPENDITURE IN RESPONDENTS FAMILY

MONTHLY AVERAGE EXPENDITURE (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
101 - 500	20	13..33
501 - 1000	66	44.00
1001 - 1500	41	27.33
1501 - 2000	17	11.34
Above 2000	6	4.00
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

From Table V.8 it is clear that 13.33 percent of the respondent's monthly expenditure is between 100 to Rs. 500; 44 percent spend between Rs. 501 to Rs. 1000; 27.33 percent between 1501 to Rs. 2000. Only a meagre 4 percent can afford to spend more than Rs. 2000 per month.

The data reveals that majority of the respondents, spend on an average between Rs. 501 to Rs. 1000 per month. Expenditure includes different items on which the family spends like consumption items, lighting, fuel, clothing, social functions, educational and medical items. These are unavoidable and have to be incured to maintain at the minimum level.

TABLE V.9

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE RESPONDENTS PER MONTH

MONTHLY INCOME	MONTHLY EXPENDITURE					
	101 - 500	501 - 1000	1001 - 1500	1501 - 2000	ABOVE 2000	TOTAL
Below 66.67	2 (5.13)	22 (56.42)	9 (23.07)	6 (15.38)	-	39 (100)
66.75 - 133.33	12 (14.64)	33 (40.24)	25 (30.48)	8 (9.76)	4 (4.88)	82 (100)
133.67 - 200	4 (14.82)	11 (40.74)	7 (25.93)	3 (11.11)	2 (7.41)	27 (100)
Above 200	2 (100)	-	-	-	-	2 (100)
TOTAL	**20 (13.33)**	**66 (44)**	**41 (27.33)**	**17 (11.34)**	**6 (4)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table V.9 gives us an idea of the income and the expenditure per month of the respondents. It is observed that the income varies from below Rs. 66.67 to more than Rs. 200 per month. Whereas, the expenditure varies from Rs. 100 to as high as Rs. 2000 per month. The glance at the table reveals that irrespective of the income invariably the expenditure of the respondent is considerably higher.

The analysis shows that among all the income groups, the expenditure is between Rs. 50 to Rs. 1500 per month. But those who are drawing above Rs. 200 per month the expenditure is found to be comparatively low, and ranges between Rs. 100 to Rs. 500. The reason may be that they have saving habit rather than spending lavishly. However, the expenditure is more among all the other income groups and shows that the income is insufficient to spend lavishly and have to control according to their living standard.

TABLE NO. V.10

SAVING OF RESPONDENTS

RESPONDENTS SAVING (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Save	110	73.33
Do not Save	40	26.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is clear from Table No. V.10 that 73.33 percent of the respondents save amounts and utilise their funds properly. 26.67 percent of them do not save anything.

It cannot be said that 73.33 percent of the respondents are saving some amount which may be very large. However, it can be said that they have saving habits. Wealth is one of the factors which helps an individual to emerge as elite in society, thereby contributing to the acquisition of new areas of social status in one's life. Though the income seems to be limited the respondents are interested in accumulating part of it for some future exigency. For accumulation of wealth or the need to save for further needs among the less privileged groups, saving can be the only means.

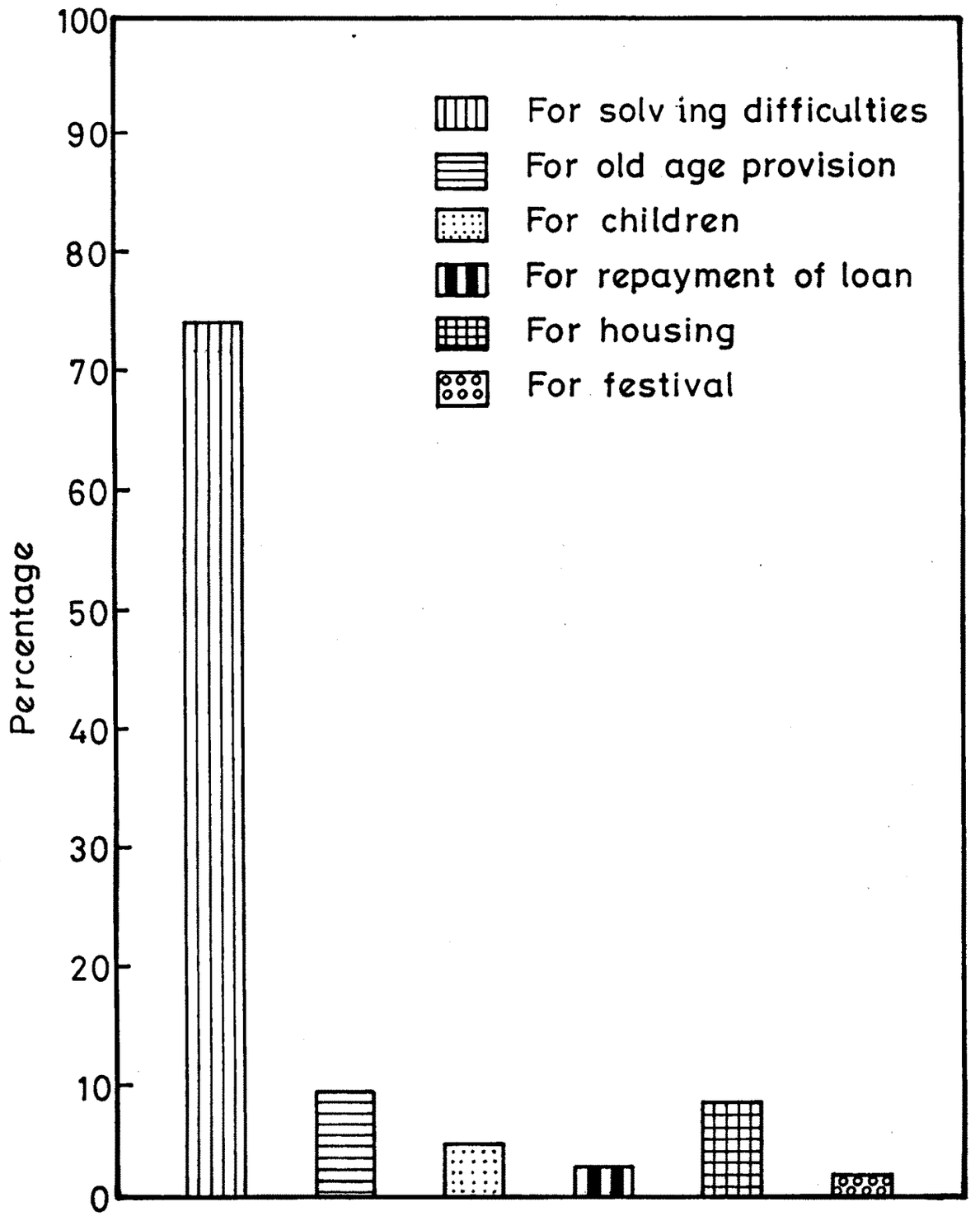
TABLE NO. V.11

REGULARITY OF RESPONDENT'S SAVING

REGULARITY IN SAVING	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Save regularly	3	2.73
Save irregularly	107	97.27
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

The above Table No. V.11 displays that only 2.73 percent of the respondents are having regular saving habits. While 97.27 percent of them do not save regularly.

This shows that the respondents, though have cultivated the habit of saving, are quite irregular in their saving. This may be because of the nature of seasonal availibility of agricultural work. Thus, as agricultural work does not fetch regular income they may not be in a position to save regularly.



Graph - VII Reason for saving.

TABLE NO. V.12

REASON FOR SAVING

REASON FOR SAVING	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
For solving difficulties	81	73.64
Old age provision	10	9.09
For children	5	4.55
For repayment of loan	3	2.73
For housing	9	8.19
For Festival	2	1.80
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

It is observed from Table V.12 that 73.64 percent of the respondents do save to overcome some difficulties or emergencies. While 9.09 percent expressed that they save for their old age, 4.55 percent save for the future of their children, and only 2.73 percent save for repayment of loan. Further, 8.19 percent save for housing, 1.8 percent of them save just to celebrate festivals.

Hence, it is clear from the above table that a majority (73.64 percent) save as they forsee some future exigency and to overcome any difficulty which may arise spontaneously.

TABLE NO. V.13

ANNUAL INCOME AND SAVINGS OF THE RESPONDENTS

(in Rs.)

ANNUAL INCOME	SAVING	NOT SAVING	TOTAL
Below 800	22 (56.41)	17 (43.59)	39 (100)
801 - 1600	65 (79.68)	17 (20.32)	82 (100)
1601 - 2400	23 (85.18)	4 (14.82)	27 (100)
Above 2400	2 (100)	-	2 (100)
TOTAL	**112 (73.33)**	**38 (26.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table V.13 above reveals that 56.41 percent of the respondents below Rs. 800 category save and 43.59 percent do not save. Among the category of Rs. 801 to Rs. 1600, 79.68 percent are saving while the remaining 20.3 percent do not save any money. Among the 1601 to 2400 group 85.18 percent of the respondents are saving and only 14.82 percent have no habit of saving and those in the group getting more than Rs. 2000, 100 percent do save.

It is obvious that income has an influence on the saving habit of the respondents. Those drawing less than Rs. 800 have a lesser tendency to save. As the annual income increases the level of saving also increases as it is obvious that when adequate income is available a portion of it can be set aside for future needs.

TABLE NO. V.14

AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS AND SAVINGS

AGE GROUP (Yrs.)	SAVING		NOT SAVING		TOTAL	
13 - 22	18	(85.71)	3	(14.29)	21	(100)
23 - 32	42	(70.00)	18	(30.00)	60	(100)
33 - 42	35	(71.43)	14	(28.57)	49	(100)
43 - 52	9	(69.23)	4	(30.77)	13	(100)
Above 52	6	(85.71)	1	(14.29)	7	(100)
TOTAL	**110**	**(73.33)**	**40**	**(26.67)**	**150**	**(100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

As far as Table No. V.14 is concerned , among the 13 to 22 years age group, 85.71 percent do save while the remaining 14.29 percent do not save. Among the 23 - 32 age group 70 percent save while 30 percent do not. So also, among the 33 to 42 age group 71.43 percent save while 28.57 percent have no saving habit. Among the 43 to 52 age group 69.23 percent save and 30.77 percent do not save. And lastly , among the 53 and above age group 85.71 percent of the respondents save while 14.29 percent do not exhibit any regular saving habit.

The analysis above illustrates that as the age increases the motive to save is decreasing, though among all the age groups saving habit is high. The youngest age group in our data i.e. 13 - 22 constitutes comparatively more in saving. Hence, age is found to be an influencing factor as far as saving is concerned. In the younger age the need to bear the family burden may be less and they may be in a position to spare more money unlike other groups where they have to incur more expenditure for education, clothing, etc. However, the need for saving is much felt among the younger generation.

TABLE NO. V.15

LOAN TAKEN BY RESPONDENTS FROM THE BANK

LOAN	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
Taken loan	52	34.67
Not taken loan	98	65.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Since the respondent's economic condition is poor, it was intended to understand their indebtedness. To meet the exigencies they have to borrow from one or the other source. Table V.15 shows the distribution of the female agriculture workers as regards whether they have taken any loan for some or other purpose or not.

It is observed that majority of the respondents (65.33 percent) respondents have not taken any loan from any other source. Whereas, 34.67 percent of the respondents have borrowed loan to meet their needs.

TABLE NO. V. 16

AMOUNT BORROWED AS LOAN BY RESPONDENTS

AMOUNT BORROWED (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
101 - 400	3	5.77
401 - 800	30	57.69
801 - 1200	14	26.93
Above 1200	5	9.61
TOTAL	**52**	**100**

Table V.16 discloses the distribution of the amount of loan taken by the respondents. It is noted that 57.69 percent of the respondents have borrowed between Rs. 401 - Rs. 800, 26.93 percent have borrowed a sum ranging from Rs. 801 - 1200, 9.61 percent respondents have borrowed more than Rs. 1200. Whereas, only 5.77 percent female agriculture labourers have borrowed between Rs. 101 to Rs. 400.

The data reveals that the amount borrowed by the respondents is small. Most of the respondents revealed that they took loan to meet the medical expenses or for education of children.

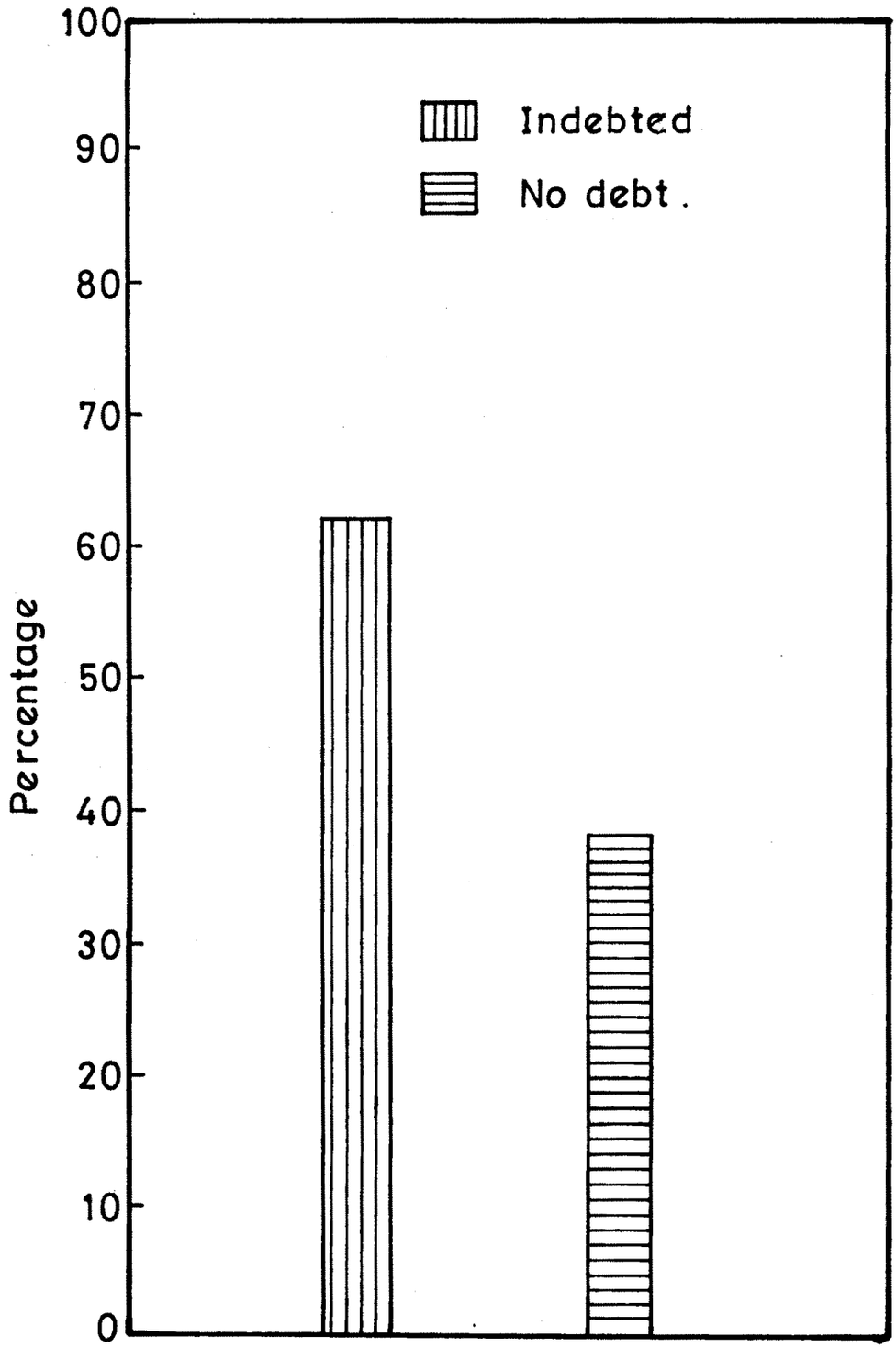
TABLE NO. V.17

RATE OF INTEREST PAID ON LOAN

RATE OF INTEREST (%)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Below 10	32	61.47
Above 10	20	38.53
TOTAL	**52**	**100**

Table IV.17 illustrates the rate of interest the respondents pay on their borrowed sum. It is observed that 61.47 percent of the respondents pay interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum or less. Whereas, 38.53 percent respondents reported that they pay more than 10 percent per annum as interest on their borrowing.

The rate of interest the respondents are paying are not exhorbitant. The rate of interest is below 10 percent due to the availability of subsidy scheme facility.



Graph-VIII Indebtedness of the respondents.

TABLE NO. V.18

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE RESPONDENTS

INDEBTEDNESS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Indebted	93	62
No debt	57	38
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table V.18 shows the indebtedness of the female agriculture labourers. It is observed that 62 percent of them are indebted whereas, 38 percent are not under any kind of debt.

The data reveals that majority of the respondents have debt and only few are not indebted perhaps due to self-sufficiency with their income.

TABLE NO. V.19

AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS AND THEIR DEBT

AGE GROUP (Yrs.)	INDEBTED	NOT IN DEBT	TOTAL
13 - 22	9 (42.86)	12 (57.14)	21 (100)
23 - 32	38 (63.33)	22 (36.67)	60 (100)
33 - 42	34 (69.51)	15 (30.49)	49 (100)
43 - 52	8 (61.54)	5 (38.46)	13 (100)
Above 52	4 (57.14)	3 (42.86)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**93 (62)**	**57 (38)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

The above table (V.19) reveals that among the 13 - 22 age group 42.86 percent of the respondents have debt while 57.14 percent have no debt. Among the 23 to 32 age group 63.33 percent are indebted while 36.67 are not; in the 33 - 42 age group 69.51 percent of them are having debt while 30.49 have no debt. Among the age group of 43 - 52, 61.54 percent are indebted and in the upper age group of 52 and above, 57.14 percent are in debt and 42.86 percent do not have any sort of debt.

It is obvious from the above table that irrespective of age all the age groups show respondents who are entrenched in debt. The magnitude is perhaps higher in the middle aged group. The reason

may be that in the older age group, the burden reduces as children are grown up and are capable of standing on their feet. While in the middle aged group the dependence of children will be the highest and necessiates them to borrow money. Also in the age group of 13 - 22 the largest number (57.14 percent) of the respondents have no debt, again showing that with the increase in burden of family responsibilities, the need to borrow increases. Hence, the nature of debt increases with age to a certain extent and then decreases as the age exceeds 52 and more when family responsibilities are low.

TABLE NO. V.20

RESPONDENTS YEARLY EMPLOYED DAYS AND DEBT

EMPLOYMENT	IN DEBT	NO DEBT	TOTAL
Employed	16 (64)	9 (36)	25 (100)
Not employed	77 (61.6)	48 (38.4)	125 (100)
TOTAL	**93 (62)**	**57 (38)**	**150 (100)**

Table V.20 reveals that 64 percent of the employees who are employed throughout the year are having family debt, while the remaining 36 percent have no debt. While among those who do not get employment the whole year, 61.60 percent are having debt and the remaining 38.40 percent are not having any debt.

A view at the table reveals that the proportion of indebtedness is high irrespective of their employment status. Here it is clear from the table that employment status is not an influencing factor as far as indebtedness is concerned. That means that the income they earn is also not sufficient for the respondents even though they get employment and have fallen in debt.

TABLE V.21

NUMBER OF EARNING MEMBERS IN FAMILY AND DEBT

FAMILY MEMBERS	INDEBTED	NO DEBT	TOTAL
1 - 2	41 (60.23)	27 (39.77)	68 (100)
3 - 4	46 (67.59)	22 (32.41)	68 (100)
5 - 6	6 (50)	6 (50)	12 (100)
7 - 8	-	2 (100)	2 (100)
TOTAL	**93 (62)**	**57 (38)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

As far as Table V.21 is concerned among the 1 - 2 earning members group 60.23 percent have fallen in debt while the remaining 39.77 percent have no debt. Among the group where 3 - 4 members are earning 67.59 percent have debt while 32.41 percent have no debt. In the next group where 5 to 6 members are earning in a family, half of the members are indebted while the others do not have any debt. Only in the group where 7 to 8 members are earning all the members (100 percent) are not having any debt.

The data illustrates that except those having 7 to 8 members in the family who earn, in all other groups majority of them have fallen in debt. The notion that more members fetch more income is true as far as our data is concerned. Since more members are earning it is natural that total family income is more and need to borrow reduces.

TABLE NO. V.22

FAMILY INCOME AND FAMILY DEBT

FAMILY INCOME (Rs.)	INDEBTED	NO DEBT	TOTAL
Below 2000	13 (86.67)	2 (13.33)	15 (100)
2001 - 4000	45 (88.24)	6 (11.76)	51 (100)
4001 - 6000	20 (41.67)	28 (58.33)	48 (100)
6001 - 8000	9 (47.37)	10 (52.63)	19 (100)
8001 - 10000	3 (30)	7 (70)	10 (100)
Above 10000	3 (42.86)	4 (57.14)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**93 (62)**	**57 (38)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

The Table No. V.22 illustrates that in the group earning less than Rs. 2000, 86.67 percent are indebted while 13.33 percent are not in debt. Among the Rs. 2000 - Rs. 4000 income group 88.24 percent are having debt, while only 11.76 percent are not indebted. Among the Rs. 4001 - 6000 income group category 41.67 percent are indebted while a majority of 58.33 percent are not indebted. In the income group of Rs. 6001 to Rs. 8000, 30 percent are indebted while a overwhelming 70 percent are not having any debt. In the income group of Rs. 10,000 and above 42.86 percent are indebted while 57.14 percent of the respondents do not have any debt.

The table on the whole shows that income is an influencial factor as far as indebtedness is concerned. Among the low income group indebtedness is high and among the higher income group it is low. As the income increases the indebtedness is decreasing. It is quite obvious that when the income is inadequate they have to seek some alternative to compensate for the shortage in funds.

TABLE NO. V.23

REASON FOR FAMILY DEBT

REASON FOR FAMILY DEBT	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Marriage purpose	5	5.49
Purchasing purpose	77	84.62
Festival purpose	9	9.89
TOTAL	**91**	**100**

It is observed from the Table V.23 that 5.49 percent of the respondents have borrowed for marriage purpose. While 84.62 percent i.e. the majority have borrowed money for purchasing purpose. While, 9.89 percent of the respondents have borrowed to meet the expenses during festivals.

It is clear from the table that majority of them have borrowed for purchasing provisions, necessary items, cloth, etc. It reveals that since their income is inadequate they are forced into debt to purchase essentials such as food grains, cloth and other material.

TABLE NO. V.24

SOURCES OF BORROWING

BORROWING SOURCE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Money Lender	14	15.38
Friends	25	27.47
Relatives	52	57.15
TOTAL	**91**	**100**

Table No. V.24 discloses that 15.38 percent of the respondents borrowed money from money lenders, 27.47 percent from friends and 57.15 percent from other sources like relatives.

Contrary to the earlier days when most of the agricultural labourers mostly borrowed from money lenders who exploited them, the present data reveals that though a minority of 15.38 percent do borrow from money lenders most of the others are aware of the problems of borrowing from money lenders and they mostly borrow from relatives and friends. It also shows that the respondents have good cohesion with their relatives who have come forward to help them in their times of need.

TABLE NO. V.25

REASONS FOR INDEBTEDNESS

DEBT REASONS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Children's marriage	5	5.49
Death in the family	4	4.39
Illness	12	13.19
For day to day expenses	63	69.24
Other reasons	7	7.69
TOTAL	**91**	**100**

It is observed from Table No. V.25 that 5.49 percent of the respondents have borrowed money for the marriage of their children. 4.39 percent for funeral and other expenses for the deaths in the family, 13.19 percent to meet the medical expenses and 69.24 percent to meet the day to day expenses. 7.69 percent of the respondents have borrowed for other reasons such as repayment of loan, purchase of clothes, food grains etc.

A major proportion of the respondents have borrowed money just to meet their day to day expenses. Most of the female labourers get very less wages. Hence it is evident that their insufficient income has compelled them to fall a prey to debt.

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TABLE NO. V.26

EXTENT OF INDEBTEDNESS OF THE RESPONDENTS

INDEBTEDNESS (Rs.)	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Below 500	21	23.08
501 - 1000	40	43.97
1001 - 1500	10	10.99
1501 - 2000	8	8.79
2001 - 2500	5	5.49
2501 - 3000	2	2.19
Above 3000	5	5.49
TOTAL	**91**	**100**

Table No. V.26 reveals that 23.08 percent of the respondents extent of indebtedness is below Rs. 500; 43.97 percent between Rs. 501 - Rs. 1000; 10.99 percent between Rs.1001 to Rs. 1500; about 8.79 percent of them have borrowed between Rs. 1501 to Rs. 2000; 5.49 percent between Rs. 2001 to Rs. 2500; 2.19 percent have borrowed between Rs. 2501 to Rs. 3000 and about 5.49 percent have debt over Rs. 3000.

With the exeption of 5.49 percent who have borrowed above Rs.3000 the others are aware of their capacity of repayment and limitations of getting any formidable amount.

TABLE NO. V.27

CASTE AND INDEBTEDNESS

CASTE	INDEBTED	NO DEBT	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	-	2 (100)	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	72 (63.16)	42 (36.84)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	21 (61.76)	13 (38.24)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**93 (62)**	**57 (38)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

It can be observed from Table No. V.27 that there are no respondents who have any debt from the Hindu Kumbar (FC) caste, while from the Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC) caste 63.16 percent are indebted and 36.84 percent are not having any debt. Among the Hindu Ager (SC) caste 61.76 percent of the respondents are indebted while 38.24 percent have not borrowed any funds.

On analysis of the data, it is seen that there is no indebtedness among the forward caste. On the other hand, both among the BC and SC castes indebtedness is a major proportion. The representation of these two castes are more or less similar in this aspect.

SECTION VI

FEMALE AS HOME MAKER AND AT WORK

Female employment, in full time out side the home, naturally means that most of the day is spent in the work. As a result of this, female labourers have less time for their husband chores as compared to those who are full time house keepers. In this chapter, it is attempted to find out how female agriculture labourers would manage their domestic responsibility in addition to their out side work and also the influence of work on the motherhood role and the kind of attitude they develop towards the way their children should be brought up.

TABLE NO. VI.1

AVAILABILITY OF TIME TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Getting time	112	74.67
Not getting time	24	16.00
Not married	14	9.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is observed from Table VI.1 that 74.67 percent of the respondents get enough time to devote their children. Whereas, 16 percent of the respondents do not get enough time. While the remaining 9.33 percent respondents are not married.

The above analysis depicts that though they are working full time inthe field still they are able to devote their time to look after their children. Many of them expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of time they are able to spend on their families. They disclosed that they are not able to concentrate to their homes, especially during times of season. They further opined that they cannot avoid going for work because they have to avail the opportunity during the season and supplement family income.

TABLE NO. VI.2

TIME SPENT IN MANAGING HOUSEHOLD WORK

RESPONSES	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1 - 2 hours	6	4.00
3 - 4 hours	78	52.00
5 - 6 hours	64	42.67
Above 6 hours	2	1.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table VI.2 shows that 4 percent respondents spend 1 - 2 hours, 52 percent for 3 - 4 hours, 42.67 percent between 5 - 6 hours and only 1.33 percent more than 6 hours a day in respect of their work at home.

The data discloses that more than half of the female agriculture workers can devote between 3 to 6 hours daily to look after their daily chores.

TABLE NO. VI.3

PERSONS HELPING DOMESTIC WORK

DOMESTIC HELP FROM	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Husband	113	75.33
Grand mother	7	4.67
Children	17	11.33
Others	13	8.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The female agriculture workers also get help from the family members in the domestic work. Table VI.3 depicts that in case of 75.33 percent females, their husbands help them, 4.67 percent respondents get help from grand mother, 11.33 percent from children and 8.67 percent get help from other family members in domestic work.

Analysis of this table depicts that the majority of the respondent's husband do undertake domestic work along with other family members and besides children, grandmother and family relatives also take part in domestic work. Hence, it is obvious that all the family members are quite mutual and co-operative in their respective family affairs. When the wife is working there is greater amount of

sharing of responsibility between husband and wife. But in actual practice, especially in traditional society, women are responsible in attending to the daily chores. It is notable that from the data, the spouses of the respondents are mutually adjusting and sharing domestic responsibilities with their wives to enable them to avoid conflict between housework and outside work.

TABLE NO. VI.4

EFFECT OF RESPONDENT'S WORK ON DOMESTIC WORK

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Hindrance	75	50
No hindrance	75	50
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It can be observed from Table VI.4 that 50 percent of the respondents feel that involvement in work hinders the work at home. However, remaining 50 percent of them do not feel so and work comfortably at the work place.

From the above data, it is evident that the respondents feel, as a consequence of their employment they are neglecting their families. However, remaining fifty percent do not find any hindrance in their work. As explained elsewhere, they get more co-operation from their family members in maintaining the routine work. They feel that they are able to combine their dual responsibilities of house and work and do not feel that they are neglecting their families.

TABLE NO. VI.5

FEELING OF RESPONDENT REGARDING STAYING AS HOUSEWIFE RATHER THAN AT JOB

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Like to stay at home	79	52.67
Liking for job	71	47.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The respondents were asked their feeling regarding staying as housewife rather than doing the present job. Table VI.5 illustrates that 52.67 percent female workers like to stay at home rather than doing the outside job on the fields. Whereas, 47.33 percent respondents like to do the job and did not like to remain as housewife alone and expressed their desire to work and earn.

The above findings disclose that many of the respondents like to remain as housewives alone as it always conflicts with the outside work. It is an indication that they would rather concentrate on housework and attend to family affairs. But their poor economic condition necessitates them to involve in outside work to generate income for the family.

TABLE NO. VI.6

REASONS FOR WORKING ON JOB

REASONS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
To supplement family income	16	10.67
For better standard of living	126	84.00
Interested in working	-	-
To use spare time	8	5.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

From the above table, it can be noted that the respondents prefer to do the outside job for earning money. Majority of them (84 percent) stated that they prefer to work outside for improving standard of living. 10.67 percent females work outside to supplement the family income and the rest 5.33 percent do to use their spare time.

It seems that an overwhelming majority of them have taken up this agricultural work to have a better standard of living. It is obvious that in order to improve the standard of living, their economic condition should improve. One man's income may not be adequate in the present inflationary condition for maintaining the family hence, women folk have to go in for some or the other kind of job.

TABLE NO. VI.7

RESPONDENTS OPINION REGARDING SUFFICIENCY OF PRESENT INCOME

RESPONDENT OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Sufficient	45	30
Not sufficient	105	70
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The female agricultural workers were enquired regarding the sufficiency of present family income. Table VI.7 displays that 70 percent of the respondents stated that their present family income is found to be insufficient. Whereas, 30 percent females frankly agreed that their family's present earning is adequate to maintain their house.

It can be concluded that the income, the respondents are getting is not sufficient for leading a comfortable life. It shows that the wages they are getting are meagre but act as a supplementary income source to family, rather than a comfortable living.

TABLE NO. VI.8

OPINION OF FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT RESPONDENT'S WORK

FAMILY MEMBERS OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Approval to work	126	84
Disapprove the work	24	16
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It was intended to know the reactions of the family members of the respondents ragarding the idea of women working outside the home. Table VI.8 reveals that significant proportion (84 percent) approve the idea of respondent doing a job outside the house to earn additional money. Whereas, 16 percent family members totally showed their disapproval.

This brings us to the fact that other family members do like the female member going for work outside the home. This question was posed with the assumption that the older generation would reflect the traditional view that the place of women is in the home. It is quite conspicuous that they have assimilated the new values and have approved women going for work outside, even in the villages as well.

TABLE NO. VI.9

WHETHER RESPONDENT'S WORK HAS HELPED IN ECONOMIC INDEPENDANCE

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Feel independent	83	55.33
Do not feel independent	67	44.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table VI.9 illustrates that 55.33 percent of the respondents work has helped the family to be economically independent. Remaining 44.67 percent of them gave negative answer.

As far as the above table is concerned, it is clear that women feel economically independent than depending for everything on the bread winner.

TABLE NO. VI.10

RESPONDENT'S OPINION ABOUT CHILDREN FOLLOWING SAME OCCUPATION

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Should follow	90	60
Should not follow	60	40
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is obvious from the above table that their children should also follow the same job. But the rest 40 percent feel that their children should not follow their present occupation.

It can be infered from the table that majority of the respondents feel their children to follow their job, means that they have still the same traditional outlook perhap, may be due to their illiteracy, ignorance, unawareness or poor economic condition. It shows that large percentage of the respondents at the lower level of occupation still prefer to transmit their traditional occupation to the next generation.

TABLE NO. VI.11

OPINION OF RESPONDENT FOR HAVING MORE CHILDREN FOR ENHANCING FAMILY INCOME

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
YES	104	69.33
No	46	30.67
TOTAL	150	100

The respondents were asked their opinion as to whether they want to have more children for enhancing their family income. Table VI.11 gives their responses. It is noticed that 69.33 percent respondents desire to have more children, which subsequently enhance the family income. Whereas, the rest 30.67 percent are strongly against this concept.

Especially, in the agriculture occupation even at a considerable younger age children can work on the fields and get additional income to supplement the family income. The data therefore, reflects that the old attitude towards procreating more children in these villages has not changed and the propogation of small family norm has little effect.

TABLE NO. VI.12

OPINION ABOUT STATUS OF WORKING WOMEN

OPINION ABOUT STATUS IN SOCIETY	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Good opinion	132	88
Bad opinion	18	12
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is clear from the above table that 88 percent of the total respondents agreed that working woman has a better status in the society. However, remaining 12 percent of the respondents did not agree.

The above analysis discloses that though the occupation of the respondents has low prestige and value, women in this profession feel that they enjoy good status in the society, irrespective of the type of work they do in the field.

TABLE NO. VI.13

CASTE OF THE RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FEELING ABOUT WOMEN STATUS IN SOCIETY

CASTE \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	2 (100)	-	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	100 (87.72)	14 (12.28)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	30 (88.24)	4 (11.76)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**132 (88)**	**18 (12)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VI.13 reveals that among the forward caste 100 percent agree that working women have better status in the society followed by the scheduled caste (88.24 percent) and the backward caste (87.72 percent).

The analysis makes it obvious that a great majority among all the caste groups agree that working women have better status in the society. Comparatively, forward castes have not responded negatively regarding it, and a few disagreed among the other two caste groups. Hence, the need for sending women for work is much felt and the general opinion reagrding the working women status is high in all the castes.

TABLE NO. VI. 14

RESPONDENT'S EDUCATION AND THEIR OPINION ABOUT THE STATUS OF WORKING WOMEN

EDUCATION \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Illiterate	98 (87.50)	14 (12.50)	112 (100)
Primary	27 (87.09)	4 (12.91)	31 (100)
Secondary	5 (100)	-	5 (100)
Higher secondary	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
College	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
TOTAL	**132 (88)**	**18 (12)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VI.14 displays views of respondents on the women status in the society in relation to their education. 87.50 illiterate and 87.09 percent primary educated respondents agree that the the agriculture female labourers have good status in the society. Whereas, the agreement was in totality (100 percent) among those who are educated upto seconday, higher secondary and college level.

Thus, it is evident that education has changed the attitude of the respondents though, there is little reservation among the illiterate and primary educated respondents. Hence, education has helped them to perceive things rightly.

TABLE NO. VI.15

HUSBAND'S OPINION ABOUT RESPONDENT'S WORK

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Approve work	133	88.67
Disapprove work	17	11.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It is observed from Table VI.15 that 88.67 percent of the total respondent's husbands approve their spouses taking job outside the house. Whereas, 11.33 percent disapprove due to one or the other reason.

A good percentage of husbands view favourably, the work of their spouses. It clearly shows that they encourage females for work as is explicit from the previous tables that they expect some financial help to supplement the total income.

SECTION VII

SOCIAL INTERACTION OF FEMALE AGRICULTURE LABOURERS

Working women, unlike non-working women have a much wider area of interaction. They get the opportunity to meet different people in the work spot though they are from same area. They come in contact with their colleagues and other members of their work group with whom they may form friendship belonging to different castes or religions. Moreover, it may be assumed as a consequence of such differential interaction the working women may develop some what different kind of attitudes and interest. This section concentrates the interaction pattern of the female agriculture women and whether there are any changes in their outlook as a consequence of their interaction with other work group.

TABLE NO. VII.1

RESPONDENTS AGE AND THE AGE OF THEIR INTIMATE FRIENDS

AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS	AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS FRIENDS 13 - 22 YEARS	23 - 32 YEARS	33 - 42 YEARS	43 AND ABOVE	TOTAL
13 - 22	7 (33.33)	10 (47.62)	4 (19.05)	-	21 (100)
23 - 32	20 (33.33)	37 (61.67)	3 (5.00)	-	60 (100)
33 - 42	17 (34.69)	28 (57.14)	4 (8.17)	-	49 (100)
43 - 52	3 (23.08)	8 (61.54)	2 (15.38)	-	13 (100)
53 and above	-	1 (14.29)	5 (71.42)	1 (14.29)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**47 (31.33)**	**84 (56.00)**	**18 (12.00)**	**1 (0.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parantheses indicate row percentage)

Table VI.1 highlights that among the 13 - 22 age group, majority of (47.62 percent) have intimate friends with their next age group i.e. 23 - 32 and with their same age group 33.33 percent. As far as 23 - 32 age group is concerned, their friendship is mostly (61.67 percent) with their own age group. Similarly, the next two age groups i.e. 33 - 42 and 43 - 52 age group also have relatively more (57.14 and 61.54 percent respectively) interactions with 23 - 33 age group friends. Whereas, the interactions of the older generation is high (71.42 percent) with 34 - 44 age group.

On comparing the age of the respondents with that of her intimate friends age, it is found that there is a tendancy to make friends from the same age group to which they fall or to the next age group. On the whole, majority of the female working women fall in the category of those who are having similar age or in the next age group. Similarly, as the age increases, the tendancy is to form friends according to their age. The tendancy to make friends with their senior age group or junior age group with lower age group is comparatively less. Thus, it appears that age does influence forming friends.

TABLE NO. VII.2

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS AND OF THEIR INTIMATE FRIENDS

EDUCATION OF RESPONDENTS	EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS FRIENDS					
	ILLITERATE	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	HIGHER SECONDARY	COLLEGE	TOTAL
Illiterate	83 (74.11)	25 (22.33)	3 (2.67)	1 (0.89)	-	112 (100)
Primary	2 (6.45)	21 (67.75)	2 (6.45)	6 (19.35)	-	31 (100)
Secondary	1 (20.00)	3 (60.00)	1 (20.00)	-	-	5 (100)
Higher Secondary	1 (100)	-	-	-	-	1 (100)
College	-	-	-	-	1 (100)	1 (100)
TOTAL	**87 (58)**	**49 (32.67)**	**6 (4)**	**7 (4.67)**	**1 (0.66)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parantheses indicate row percentage)

Regarding the Table VII.2, it is clear that majority (67.75 percent) of the primary educated respondents have intimate friends who are also primary educated. Whereas, the secondary educated respondents are found to have more (60 percent) interaction with the friends who are primary educated. The higher secondary educated respondent has maintained friendship only with the primary educated friends. On the other hand, the college graduate female worker keeps friendship only with the college graduate friends.

As far the education of the respondents and the education of their intimate friends is concerned, the tendancy is similar to that observed in the case of age group. Those who are illiterates have intimate friends who are also illiterates. Similarly, a major proportion of the primary educated have close friends who are also primary educated or with those who are illiterates. This indicates that the agricultural labourers interact with those who have a similar status in that area.

TABLE NO. VII.3

RESPONDENTS CASTE AND OCCUPATION OF THEIR INTIMATE FRIENDS

RESPONDENTS CASTE	OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDENTS FRIENDS				
	AGRICULTURE	HOUSE WIFE	SERVICE	OTHERS	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	-	2 (100)	-	-	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	84 (73.69)	24 (21.06)	4 (3.50)	2 (1.75)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	5 (14.70)	21 (61.77)	5 (14.70)	3 (8.83)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**89 (59.34)**	**47 (31.33)**	**9 (6)**	**5 (3.33)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parantheses indicate row percentage)

From Table VII.3, it can be derived that forward castes do not mingle with their same occupation people as majority do have friends who are housewives. Similar is the case as far as scheduled caste respondents are concerned, as significant proportion (61.77 percent) have friends who are housewives. But unlike the forward castes, these caste groups do not mingle with others who are either, agriculturist (14.70 percent), or who are either working in service (14.70 percent) or with others like students (8.83 percent). On the other hand, backward caste respondents' interaction is more (61.77 percent) with those who belong to their same occupation followed by housewives (21.06 percent), service (3.50 percent) and others like students (1.75 percent).

The analysis makes it clear that except forward castes, other two caste groups have a wider interactions with all other people who are in different occupations.

TABLE NO. VII.4

RESPONDENTS CASTE AND CASTE OF THEIR INTIMATE FRIENDS

RESPONDENTS CASTE	CASTE OF FRIENDS OF RESPONDENTS: HINDU KUMBAR (FC)	HINDU HALAKKI OKKAL (BC)	HINDU AGER (SC)	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	1 (50)	1 (50)	-	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	28 (24.57)	61 (53.50)	25 (21.93)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	9 (26.24)	19 (55.94)	6 (17.82)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**38 (25.33)**	**81 (54)**	**31 (20.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VII.4 discloses that forward castes have interactions either with their own caste group (50 percent) or with the backward caste people (50 percent). On the other hand, the backward caste respondents are found to have more interactions with their own caste people (53.50 percent) as against the forward caste (24.57 percent) and scheduled caste (21.93 percent). While, the scheduled caste respondents are found to have more interactions with the backward caste people (55.94 percent) rather than forward caste (26.24 percent) and scheduled caste people (17.82 percent).

A castewise comparison of the respondents, with whom they interact, reveals that majority of them have intimate friends in their own caste group. But some variations we can observe as far as scheduled caste is concerned. They have exposed a wide variation in their interactions with other caste group. But it is notable that the upper caste people in the villages do not have any interaction with the scheduled caste group, but have some interactions with the backward castes people. This, it shows that in the hierarchy of caste system still the link between the upper strata and the lower strata are missing, showing that the old values still exist and have not significantly changed in the villages.

Activities

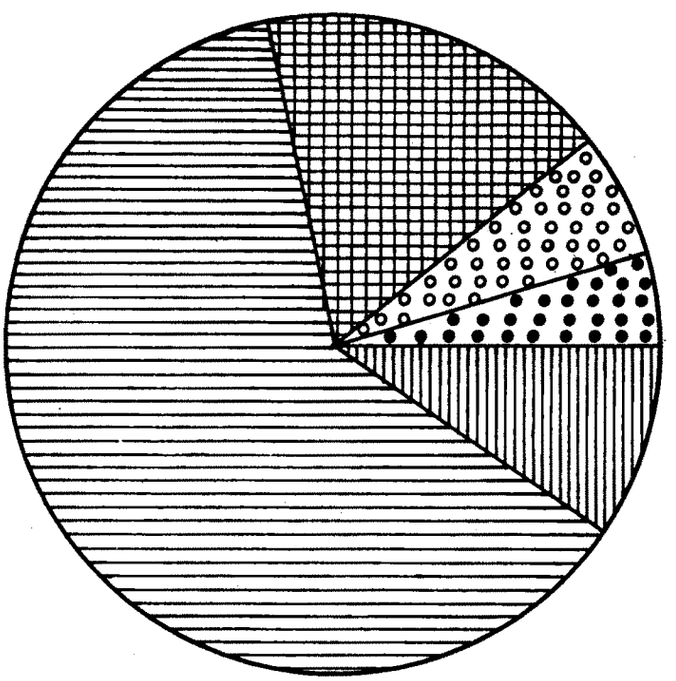
Gossip (9·33 %)

Attending personal work (62 %)

Going for cinema, T.V., visits to temples (17·33 %)

Visiting to friends (6·67 %)

None (4·67 %)



Graph - X Respondents activities in spare time.

TABLE NO. VII.5

RESPONDENTS ACTIVITIES IN SPARE TIME

ACTIVITIES	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Gossip	14	9.33
Attending personal work	93	62.00
Going for cinema, T. V. visits to temples	26	17.33
Visiting to friends	10	6.67
None	7	4.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It can be observed from the above table that 9.33 percent of the respondents involve themselves in gossips during their leisure time, 62 percent attend to personal work and 17.33 percent spend time in seeing movies, or see T.V. or visit temples. Whereas, 6.67 percent respondents spend their spare time in visiting their friends and 4.67 percent do nothing.

The above data shows that majority of the respondents spend their leisure time by attending their personal work. It is obvious as working women, they have little time to devote to their family and hence they concentrate the spare time available at their disposal for carrying out personal work.

SECTION VIII

ATTITUDE

Attitude plays a significant role in the building up of personality, individuality and the entire mental make-up of an individual. Attitudes are the prime movers of thought and action. What a woman thinks, feels and values is reflected in her expressed attitudes that are to be transmitted to the coming generation.

This section pertains to the various attitudes women have formed regarding respondent's agreement towards women should work only if income is not sufficient, respondents agreement towards women working outside the home, respondents agreement towards educating children, attitude towards joint family gives better protection to women and children, respondents agreement towards nuclear family have greater independance and more status for women, respondents attitude regarding divorce system should not be there, respondents attitude towards marrying within their own caste, respondents attitude towards intercaste marriage, respondents attitude towards education of women and also have attempted to see whether caste, education and age have any influence on their attitudes.

TABLE NO. VIII.1

RESPONDENTS AGREEMENT TOWARDS WOMEN SHOULD WORK ONLY IF INCOME IS INSUFFICIENT

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	133	88.67
Disagree	17	11.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table No. VIII.1 discloses that 88.67 percent of the respondents agree that women should work only if the family income is inadequate. Remaining 11.33 percent of them are not in the favour of the statement.

The response of the respondents reveal that they are interested in working as agricultural labourers only due to insufficient income in the family. Their main intention in taking up employment is to supplement the family income.

TABLE VIII.2

RESPONDENTS AGREEMENT TOWARDS WOMEN WORKING OUTSIDE HOME

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	127	84.67
Disagree	23	15.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

From Table No. VIII.2 it is obvious that 84.67 percent of the respondents agree that women should work in their spare time fruitfully by working outside their homes and 15.33 percent of them disagreed.

As regards data in Table VIII.2 is concerned, it is clear that women have the mentality to work outside and spare their time fruitfully, though they responded differently in the previous table.

TABLE NO. VIII.3

RESPONDENTS AGREEMENT TOWARDS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	131	87.33
Disagree	19	12.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table VIII.3 reveals that majority of the respondents agree that their children should get education. On the other hand, 12.67 percent female workers disgree that their children need to be educated.

From the data,we can infer that many have realised education is the only way that contribute to the elevation of their position, from their lower condition.

TABLE NO. VIII4

RESPONDENT'S ANNUAL INCOME AND THEIR OPINION ABOUT EDUCATING CHILDREN

ANNUAL INCOME	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Below 800	33 (84.62)	6 (15.38)	39 (100)
801 - 1600	73 (89.03)	9 (10.97)	82 (100)
1601 - 2400	23 (85.18)	4 (14.82)	27 (100)
Above 2400	2 (100)	-	2 (100)
TOTAL	**131 (87.33)**	**19 (12.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.4 shows the relationship between annual income of the respondents and their attitude towards educating children. Though, among all the income group majority agree for the statement, the trend shows that high income group disclosed more agreement. Regarding disagreement, the highest percentage is observed to be in the low income group. This shows that income determines the attitude as low income group feels that they are handicapped financially to give education to their children.

TABLE NO. VIII.5

RESPONDENT'S EDUCATION AND THEIR OPINION ABOUT EDUCATING CHILDREN

EDUCATION \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Illiterate	100 (89.28)	12 (10.72)	112 (100)
Primary	25 (80.65)	6 (19.35)	31 (100)
Secondary	4 (80)	1 (20)	5 (100)
Higher Secondary	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
College	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
TOTAL	**131 (87.33)**	**19 (12.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses denote row percentage)

It can be seen from Table VIII.5 that among the illiterates, 89.28 percent agree and 10.72 percent disagree about educating their children. While among primary educated female workers, 80.65 percent agree and 19.35 percent disagree, and those who are educated upto secondary level agree to the extent of 80 percent and disagree to the extent of 20 percent. Whereas, those who are educated upto higher secondary and college level agree in totality (100 percent).

The table on the whole shows that almost all agree to educate their children. This reflects the awareness, need and importance of education among the rural agricultural workers.

TABLE NO. VIII.6

RESPONDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS JOINT FAMILY GIVES BETTER PROTECTION TO WOMEN & CHILDREN

RESPONDENTS OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	74	49.33
Disagree	76	50.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table VIII.6 highlights that nearly one half of the respondents are of the opinion that joint family gives better protection to women and children. But almost a similar percentage gave a negative answer to the same.

The above table confirms that there are difference of opinion still, regarding the type of family they prefer to live in. Though changes are taking place still many of them have not changed their traditional outlook and still feel that they can have better protection, if they live together in one family.

TABLE NO. VIII.7

RESPONDENT'S CASTE AND THEIR OPINION REGARDING PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN JOINT FAMILY

CASTE \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	-	2 (100)	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	52 (45.62)	62 (54.38)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	22 (64.71)	12 (35.29)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**74 (49.33)**	**76 (50.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

The above table reveals that all the forward caste people disagree with the statement that joint family gives better protection for children and women. When more than 50 percent disagree among the backward caste and 35.29 percent disagreement is found among scheduled caste.

This indicates that disagreement is high among forward caste and scheduled caste. This shows that though the scheduled caste is at the bottom of hierarchy, feel that joint family gives better protection to children and women and have not realised the need for self independance.

TABLE NO. VIII.8

RESPONDENT'S AGE AND OPINION REGARDING PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN JOINT FAMILIES

AGE (Yrs.) \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
13 - 22	5 (23.81)	16 (76.19)	21 (100)
23 - 32	33 (55)	27 (45)	60 (100)
33 - 42	24 (48.98)	25 (51.02)	49 (100)
43 - 52	9 (69.23)	4 (30.77	13 (100)
Above 52	3 (42.86)	4 (57.14)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**74 (49.33)**	**76 (50.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.8 reveals that among the 13 - 22 age group, 23.81 percent respondents do agree that there is protection for children and women in joint family and 76.19 percent disagree for the same. In the 23 - 32 age group 55 percent agree and 45 percent disagree, among 33 - 42 age group 48.98 percent agree and 51.02 disagree. Looking at the 43 - 52 age group, it is seen that 69.29 percent respondents agree and 30.77 percent disagree. Similarly, those who are above 52 years age 42.86 percent agree and 57.14 percent disagree.

The above table makes it clear that though there are variations in the responses given by different age groups, a vast majority (76.19 percent) of the younger age group i.e. 13 - 22, disagreed with the statement that joint family gives protection to women and children. We can understand from the data that young women are comparatively more desirous of becoming self independent.

TABLE NO. VIII.9

RESPONDENTS AGREEMENT TOWARDS NUCLEAR FAMILY HAVE GREATER INDEPENDANCE AND STATUS FOR WOMEN

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	84	56
Disagree	66	44
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

It can be observed from the above table that 56 percent of the respondents agree that in nuclear family, women have greater independance and much status. While, 44 percent of them disagree.

The data indicates that majority of the respondents prefer to be in nuclear family as they feel they have greater independance and much status. It is natural that when there are more members and elders in the family, their freedom will be curtailed due to the supremacy of elders. It further shows the attainment of modernised views and emerging trend of a new status among the women workers.

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TABLE NO. VIII.10

RESPONDENTS ATTITUDE REGARDING NON-EXISTANCE OF DIVORCE SYSTEM

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	129	86
Disagree	21	14
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

The attitude of the respondents regarding the non-existance of divorce system is depicted in Table VIII.10. It is observed that 86 percent female workers agree that there should not be divorce system. Whereas 14 percent disagreed and claimed that the divorce system should exist in the society.

An overwhelming majority of the respondents agreed that divorce system should not be there. In Hindu religion especially, when one is married, the female is supposed to live with the spouse until death and has to live in the system prevailing in the family. Further, many disclosed that women who are divorced have a less status and respect in the society and will be looked down. This clearly shows their inclination towards traditional values.

TABLE NO. VIII.11

RESPONDENT'S EDUCATION AND OPINION ABOUT DIVORCE SYSTEM

DIVORCE SYSTEM / EDUCATION	SHOULD NOT BE THERE	SHOULD BE THERE	TOTAL
Illiterate	97 (86.61)	15 (13.39)	112 (100)
Primary	25 (80.65)	6 (19.35)	31 (100)
Secondary	5 (100)	-	5 (100)
Higher Secondary	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
College	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
TOTAL	**129 (86)**	**21 (14)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.11 depicts that among the illiterates, 86.61 percent agree and 13.39 percent disagree with the non-existance of divorce system. Among primary educated 80.65 percent agree and 19.35 percent disagree. While all the respondents who are educated to secondary level and above opined in totality that the divorce system should not be there.

Majority of the respondents opined that divorce system should not be there irrespective of education. Those who are illiterate and barely educated, we cannot expect much to influence the attitude of the respondents.

TABLE NO. VIII.12

RESPONDENT'S AGE AND AGREEMENT REGARDING DIVORCE SYSTEM

DIVORCE SYSTEM AGE (Yrs.)	SHOULD NOT BE THERE	SHOULD BE THERE	TOTAL
13 - 22	16 (76.19)	5 (23.81)	21 (100)
23 - 32	52 (86.67)	8 (13.33)	60 (100)
33 - 42	43 (87.04)	6 (12.96)	49 (100)
43 - 52	11 (84.62)	2 (15.38)	13 (100)
Above 52	7 (100)	-	7 (100)
TOTAL	**129 (86)**	**21 (14)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

From Table VIII.12, it is clear that among the 13 - 22 years age group 76.19 percent respondents do agree that divorce system should not be there and 23.81 percent disagree. Among the 33 - 42 age group 87.04 percent agree and 12.96 percent disagree. Whereas, those who are in the age group above 52 agree in totality that there should be divorce system.

Tha analysis indicates that the disagreement with regard to divorce system is highly among the aged and agreement with regard to it is high among the young age group i.e. 13 - 22 group. But there are variations among the other age groups. It appears that the youngsters have assimilated the new values regarding divorce system.

TABLE NO. VIII.13

RESPONDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS MARRYING WITHIN OWN CASTE

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	122	81.33
Disagree	28	18.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

From the above table, we can observe that 81.33 percent of the respondents agreed that one should marry within once own caste. Only a small proportion of 18.67 percent of the total have disagreed.

We can conclude from the table that a major proportion disagree with marrying from other castes. This is an indicator that casteism is highly prevalent in village areas.

TABLE NO. VIII.14

RESPONDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERCASTE MARRIAGE

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	50	26.67
Disagree	100	73.33
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Table VIII.14 shows that nearly three fourth of the respondents are not in favour of intercaste marriage, while the rest 26.67 percent accepted the statement.

We can infer from the above table that the disagreement for intercaste marriage is an indication of their caste consciousness. Regarding this, little change has been undergone in the attitude of the village people and shows their unacceptance of an outsider in to their caste. This further shows their strong inclination towards their own caste.

TABLE NO. VIII.15

RESPONDENT'S CASTE AND OPINION ABOUT INTERCASTE MARRIAGE

CASTE	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	1 (50)	1 (50)	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	28 (24.56)	86 (75.44)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	11 (32.35)	23 (67.65)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**40 (26.67)**	**110 (73.33)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.15 illustrates that among the backward caste and scheduled caste groups, majority of the respondents disfavour the idea of intercaste marriage. Only among the forward caste fifty percent agree and the rest disagreed. However, among the scheduled caste respondents 32.35 percent agree and the rest 67.65 percent disagreed. Though, the trend shows a slight change in the attitude, most of them hesitate to leave outside their caste boundaries to enter into other domains of the society for the marital union. Hence, it is quite suggestive that the clutches of traditions are acting strongly. But the changed attitude among the scheduled caste may be to seek new modern social mobility in the pursuit of new status.

TABLE NO. VIII.16

RESPONDENT'S EDUCATION AND AGREEMENT REGARDING INTERCASTE MARRIAGE

EDUCATION \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Illiterate	25 (22.32)	87 (77.68)	112 (100)
Primary	11 (35.48)	20 (64.52)	31 (100)
Secondary	2 (40)	3 (60)	5 (100)
Higher Secondary	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
College	1 (100)	-	1 (100)
TOTAL	**40 (26.67)**	**110 (73.33)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.16 depicts that among the illiterate respondents 25.32 percent agree and 77.68 percent disagree regarding intercaste marriage. Among the primary educated, 35.48 percent agree and 64.52 percent disagree. While, those who are educated upto secondary level, 40 percent respondents have agreed and the rest 60 percent disagree. The higher secondary and college educated female workers agree in totality (100 percent) with the statement.

As far as Table VIII.16 is concerned, it is clear that disagreement is high among all the groups irrespective of their

education. But, it is quite interesting to note that as the education level increases, the attitude towards intercaste marriage becomes more and more favourable. Hence, it is clear that increased level of education has changed outlook of the respondents regarding entering into other domains of the society for marital union.

TABLE NO. VIII.17

RESPONDENT'S AGE AND AGREEMENT REGARDING INTERCASTE MARRIAGE

AGE (Yrs.) \ OPINION	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
13 - 22	10 (47.62)	11 (52.38)	21 (100)
23 - 32	14 (23.33)	46 (76.67)	60 (100)
33 - 42	7 (14.28)	42 (85.72)	49 (100)
43 - 52	6 (46.15)	7 (53.85)	13 (100)
Above 52	3 (42.86)	4 (57.14)	7 (100)
TOTAL	**40 (26.67)**	**110 (73.33)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.17 depicts that disagreement regarding intercaste marriage are as follows :

* 13 - 22 age group - 47.62 % agree and 52.38 % disagree
* 23 - 32 age group - 76.67 % disagree and 23.33 % agree
* 33 - 42 age group - 85.72 % disagree and 14.28 % agree
* 43 - 52 age group - 53.85 % disagree and 46.15 % agree
* 53 and above age - 57.33 % disagree and 42.86 % agreed

The analysis enunciates that disagreement for intercaste marriage is comparatively less among the younger age. The trend discloses that the values in the young generation is changing and they have welcomed the idea in pursuit of higher status.

TABLE NO. VIII.18

RESPONDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS EDUCATION OF WOMEN

RESPONDENT'S OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Agree	134	89.33
Disagree	16	10.67
TOTAL	**150**	**100**

Regarding Table VIII.18, we can observe that a large majority (89.33 percent) female agriculture workers are of the opinion that women should be educated. Only 10.67 percent respondents disagree with the statement.

The data discloses that our respondents feel that women should be educated in order to have a better status in the society. It is an indication that the women folk in rural areas have realised the value of educating the girls for their betterment, advancement and protection in the society. This is an important landmark in the changing attitude of the rural mass especially, among the downtrodden.

TABLE NO. VIII.19

RESPONDENT'S ANNUAL INCOME AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN EDUCATION

ANNUAL INCOME \ OPINION	AGREE		DISAGREE		TOTAL	
Below 800	36	(92.31)	3	(7.69)	39	(100)
801 - 1600	72	(87.81)	10	(12.19)	82	(100)
1601 - 2400	24	(88.89)	3	(11.11)	27	(100)
Above 2400	2	(100)		-	2	(100)
TOTAL	**134**	**(89.33)**	**16**	**(10.67)**	**150**	**(100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII. 19 shows that even though the respondents in all the income groups have shown more or less similar share in favouring the idea of women's education, high income groups i.e. Rs. 1601-2400 and above Rs. 2400 agree to 88.89 percent and 100 percent respectively. It is clear that economic position is one of the determinants of attitude formulation.

TABLE NO. VIII.20

RESPONDENT'S CASTE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS EDUCATION OF WOMEN

CASTE \ ATTITUDE	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Hindu Kumbar (FC)	2 (100)	-	2 (100)
Hindu Halakki Okkal (BC)	104 (91.23)	10 (8.77)	114 (100)
Hindu Ager (SC)	28 (82.35)	6 (17.65)	34 (100)
TOTAL	**134 (89.33)**	**16 (10.67)**	**150 (100)**

(Figures in parentheses indicate row percentage)

Table VIII.20 illustrates that among forward caste all the respondents agreed to education of children and among the backward caste and scheduled caste, the agreement is to the extent of 91.23 percent and 82.35 percent respectively. On comparing the opinion caste wise, the disagreement is high among the schedules caste. Whereas, among the forward caste all the respondents agree to the statement. It goes to show that the values for educating children among the scheduled caste have been percolated properly.