

CHAPTER - III

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CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS ....

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In the present chapter an attempt has been made to outline the bio-social characteristics of the sampled respondents.

A sample of unmarried graduates taken for the present study was 100, with 50 males and 50 females. In the first part of the questionnaire they were asked to give their socio-economic background such as, age, religion, caste, occupation, rating of family, and size of family. The distribution of the respondents according to age, caste, etc. is given below.

Age Composition :

The age-group composition of the respondents is given in Table 1. Since all the respondents were unmarried and studied upto graduation, a majority of them were between the age-group of 21 and 25 years.

Table 1.

The Age-Group of Respondents

Age-group	Total No.of Respondents
16 to 20 years	7
21 to 25 years	90
26 to 30 years	3
Total	100

It is seen from the Table 1 that 90 percent of the respondents were from 21 to 25 years of the age-group; whereas only 7 percent from the age-group of 16 to 20 years, i.e., almost all the respondents were found to be in the age-group of 21 to 25 years.

Religious Composition :

Religious composition of the respondents is given in Table 2.

Table 2.

Religionwise Distribution of Respondents

Religion	Total No.of Respondents
Hindus	96
Muslims	3
Christians	1
Total	100

Religionwise distribution of respondents shows that, percentage of Hindus is very significant ( 96 percent ), whereas it is negligible in the case of Muslims and Christians.

Caste Composition :

Caste Composition of the respondents is shown in Table 3.

Caste is a varied phenomenon in Indian society. Naturally, the respondents, too, were found to belong to different castes. For the sake of convenience, the respondents were grouped into three categories of castes, viz.,

- 1) Advanced Castes,
- 2) Intermediary Castes, and
- 3) Backward Castes.

Brahmins, Saraswats, CKPs were included in the Advanced Category. Marathas, Malis and Lingayats were included in the Intermediary category, and the rest of the castes especially scheduled castes were listed under the Backward category. Their distribution is as given below.

Table 3.Castewise Distribution of Respondents

Caste-Groups	Total No.of Respondents
Advanced	22
Intermediary	68
Backward	6
Not Applicable	3
Not Mentioned	1
Total	100

The sample appears to be over represented by intermediary caste-group, which includes the Maratha caste respondents who constitute almost 40 percent of the Maharashtra's population.

Further, backward caste-group also doesn't appear to figure in the sample. May be because they cannot afford to seek higher education.

Income :

The respondents belonged to various income-groups, There were a few female respondents, who were employed with a view to utilise their leisure time and educational talent profitably. Table 4 shows the annual income of the

respondents' family.

Table 4.

Familywise Income of Respondents

Income-Groups	Total No. of Respondents
Upto Rs.5,000	29
Rs.5,001 to 10,000	36
Rs.10,001 to 15,000	8
Rs.15,001 to and above	23
Not Applicable	2
Not Mentioned	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The distribution of the sample shows that 29 per cent of the respondents come from the family having income upto Rs.5,000 per annum. The largest single group of the respondents ( 36 percent ) is in the range of Rs.5,001 to 10,000 per annum; whereas 23 percent of the respondents belonged to Income-group of Rs.15,001 and above. It appears that a majority of the respondents hail from the families with less than Rs.10,000 income per annum.

Family Rating :Table 5.Rating of the Family

Rating of the Family	Total No. of Respondents
Upper Class	8
Middle Class	79
Lower Class	11
Not Mentioned	2
Total	100

Almost 80 percent of the respondents rated themselves as belonging to middle class; whereas only 10 percent identified themselves with lower class and another 8 percent identified themselves with upper class as shown in Table 5. In other words, 4 out of every 5 respondents were found to belong to middle class.

Family :

The size of family plays a vital role in shaping one's attitudes. Thus in order to understand the size of family; the respondents were asked to mention the number of members in their family. Total number of members in the family was the criterion applied for determining the size

of the family. Thus families having members upto 5 were considered as small families, families with members in between 6 and 10 as middle sized families and families with more than 10 members were considered as big families. There were 75 percent respondents who belonged to the first group of the small family, 24 percent to the second group of the middle sized family, and only 1 percent to the big family. This depicts that a considerable number of families are being separated due to various reasons like division of property, migration etc. In a nutshell, three out of every four respondents hail from the small family.

#### Education :

As a sample was restricted only to graduates, as mentioned earlier, to limit the number and to exclude undergraduates etc. all the respondents were graduates. However, the researcher tried to contact respondents from various faculties like arts, commerce, science and education. Their distribution according to their <sup>faculty.</sup>~~family~~ is given in Table 6.



Table 6.Facultywise Distribution of Respondents

Educational Qualifications	Total No. of Respondents
B.A.	59
B.Com.	8
B.Sc.	14
B.Ed.	1
Post-graduate	18
Total	100

It seems that a majority of the respondents belong to Arts Faculty.

Socio-Economic Status of Respondents :

SES level of family of the respondents is very important factor and plays a significant role in forming individuals attitudes towards marriage. Thus, SES level of the family was inevitable. Therefore, education of father and mother of the respondents, their family income per annum and rating of family were considered in the determination of SES level. This SES level was graded as High, Medium and Low on the basis of the score of the above mentioned four factors.

Of the sample 29 percent respondents were found to have high and another 29 percent low level of SES; whereas 42 percent were found<sup>to</sup> have a Medium level of SES.

Hobbies :

Hobby plays an important role in the marital life, especially in the selection of mate and marital adjustment. It is generally believed that husband and wife with similar hobbies lead normal, happy and harmonious marital life, and hence this factor cannot be overlooked. The respondents were requested to mention their hobbies. They were given alternatives like, reading, listening to radio, Gossiping, etc. Their responses were classified as shown in Table 7.

Table 7.

Hobbies of the Respondents

Hobbies	Total No.of Respondents
Reading	63
Radio listening	14
Gossiping	9
Any other	14
Total	100

This can be easily explained. Since all of them are graduates and most of them are following their further studies, it is quite possible that they are fond of reading. To the alternative 'any other' respondents have shown interest in playing (1), seeing movies (2), listening to western music (1), playing games (5), writing (2), touring (1) and no hobby (2). The hobby of reading is found to be the most important hobby among the respondents.