

CHAPTER II

General Information

Introduction :

2.1 In order that we rightly understand the students' answers to the questions, it is necessary to collect some general information about them before we come to assess their political consciousness.

This chapter gives the information about the students included in the sample. The information covers various aspects: College, Class, Sex, age marital status, place of origin, residential place in Kolhapur, financial position and caste. It also gives information about occupations and educational attainments of the guardings of students.

Faculty and Sex

2.2 Table No. 1 gives the distribution of the sample according to faculty and sex. It furnishes separate figures for every faculty and in each faculty males and females are shown independently. Under the caption, " faculty ", are shown: Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Agriculture and Post-graduate. This pattern is maintained throughout the subsequent tables.

2.3 It is amazing that pressure on Arts and Science faculties, in spite of other openings available, is still very heavy as 73.67% of 911 students are claimed by them. It is evident that other faculties have not much of appeal to students or perhaps their "marketing value" has not yet shot up in the esteem of students. A perusal of the percentages for Arts and Science

faculties shows that the percentage of Arts faculty (42.49 %) is higher than the percentage of Science faculty (31.18 %) Though this is quite contrary to our usual expectation, the fact remains that Arts faculty has been still successful in retaining its title despite keen competition. It may, however, be stated that the higher percentage of Arts faculty may be attributed to the fact that Kirti College does not provide science courses. It is only Rajaram College and Gopal Krishna Gokhale College which have courses in both Arts and Science. Secondly, restrictive admissions given to students are also responsible for the low percentage of Science faculty.

2.4 Next to Arts and Science faculties, Commerce faculty could attract 17.68 % of students. It is obvious that the commercial value of this faculty has not dawned upon the students yet. The meagre percentage of Law students (2.08 %) may be, I think, ascribed to the dwindling of litigations in the court of law. Today, the bar has almost ceased to be a land of promise to students. Though Agriculture faculty has become a target of interest lately, it is patronised only by 1.97 % of students. This is because Agriculture College had only one class : F.Y.B.Sc. at the time of this survey. Post-graduate studies do not appear to be rated high as few students (4.61 %) go in for them. Under this category, I could approach Arts students (M.A. Parts I and II) enrolled in Rajaram College only.

2.5 Out of 911 students covered by the survey, 83.5 % are males and 16.5 % are females. This shows a wide gap. It is regrettable that despite strenuous efforts to disseminate

education among females, only few go in for college education. The percentage of females should be an eye-opener and something concrete should be done seriously to popularise college education among females. It would be a great service, if we have paid attention to this problem.

2.6 Arts faculty receives the biggest percentage of females (72.67 % of the 150). It seems the popularity of Arts faculty still continues unabated among females. The stiff courses in science, commerce and agriculture could net 20.67 %, 3.33 % and 0.67 % of females respectively. Shall we say that the cold logic of law is not conducive to the feminine temperament, since there is no sample from Law faculty. The 2.67 % of females that are pursuing Post-graduate studies is negligible. This may be on account of the fact that a high percentage of females gets married before they reach the post-graduate standard.

2.7 It is astonishing that Arts faculty has still much of appeal to the largest percentage of males (36.53 % of the 761 males), despite openings available. This may be imputed to restrictive admissions in other faculties for example Science and Agriculture. Thus, a large number of males turns to Arts faculty. Science faculty has 33.24 % of males on its roll, while Commerce faculty is obliged by 20.49 % of males. It may be noted that the percentage of males doing post-graduate studies (4.99 % is double than the percentages of males from Law faculty (2.49 %) and Agriculture faculty (2.23 %). It is explicit that males prefer post-graduate studies to law studies, after their graduation.

Place of Origin and Sex

2.8 Table No. 2 gives the distribution of the sample according to place of origin and sex. Of the 911 students, 51.81 % hail from urban places, while 48.19 % come from rural areas. How heartening it is that almost half the number of students have roots in mofussil areas. It could be reasoned that the value of higher education seems to have been felt by rural people. Further, it could be said that a big percentage of rural students can be ascribed to the rural surroundings of Kolhapur city. Nevertheless, it may pertinently be mentioned that the high percentage of urban students is due to the fact that 90.7 % of females are city-dwellers.

2.9 The detail break-up of the table shows that out of 439 rural students, 96.81 %, and of the 472 urban students, 71.19 % are males. It is a matter of elation that the large percentage of rural males taking higher education is a symbolic of its importance being realised by them. Secondly, it may be pointed out that ample educational facilities have reached the grass-roots of our society. But it is very much disappointing to note that out of 439 rural students, only 3.19 % females and of the 472 urban students 28.81 % females take to college education. On the whole, the situation is not at all encouraging because few females (16.5 %) avail themselves of college education. This is specially true of the rural females. It is superfluous to say that college education is not as much popular among rural females as among urban females, for it is primarily a social problem. Villagers do not believe in giving secondary and higher education to females. Nay, they have tabooed it almost religiously. It is only recently that most of them allow their daughters to complete

their primary education. Most of the girls are married during the schooling period or immediately after the completion of primary education. Hence, the problem of giving college education to females does not arise at all. In view of this, the parents of the 3.19 % females from rural areas deserve hearty congratulations.

Caste

2.10 Under the category, " Caste " are incorporate the following : Brahmin and other advanced castes, such as Saraswat, C.K.P., etc.; Jain; Gujars, etc.; Gujarathi, Marwari, Sindhi, Pardeshi and Rajput; Maratha; Lingayat; Intermediate Hindus : Sali, Kasar, Koli, Lonari, Shimpi, Kumbhar, Nhavi, Sonar, Burud, Vaishya, and Vanjari; Backward and Schedules Castes: Dhor, Mang, Mahar and Harijan; Neo Budhist, Muslims and Christians. For the sake of sheer convenience Jain, Lingayat, Nao-budha, Muslim and Christian are treated as castes.

2.11 Table Nos 3 and 4 give the distribution of males and females respectively according to caste. Maratha males constitute the largest percentage of males (44.02 %, out of 761). This is because they are in thuming majority in rural areas which are the feeding centres for colleges in Kolhapur city. Secondly, even in Kolhapur city, there is a large number of Maratha families settled before the Kolhapur State merged with Indian Union. A high percentage of Maratha-males prosecuting college education is verily praiseworthy. Next to Maratha males, there are 23.65 % Brahman and others. This percentage, though looks comparatively small, reveals the high degree of literacy in this class. The percentages of Jain males (7.36 %) and

Lingayat males (5.26 %) appear, contrary to our expectation, some what big but it may be noted that there is a comparatively large number of Jain and Lingayat families in Kolhapur city as well as in its surrounding areas. There are 5.78 % Backward and scheduled castes males, and 0.13 % Neo Budhist males. These low percentages are nothing but a substantial proof that the higher education has not been availed of much by these castes, in spite of the liberal educational concessions offered to them by the Government, both the present and the earlier State Government. As regards Neo Budhist males, it may be said that the followers of Dr. Ambedkar do not seem to have embraced Buddhism universally. It may be observed that Gujar, etc. males do not appear to believe in higher education as there are 1.58 % of males taking college education. It is regrettable that Intermediate Hindus seem to be indifferent towards higher education despite educational facilities made available to them, this is clear from their meagre percentage: 6.83 %. The small percentages of Muslim males (3.02 %) and Christian males (1.31 %) are attributable to their small number of families in this region. Of the male students, 1.05 % who presumably suffer from certain inhibitions avoid mentioning their castes.

2.12 Of the 150 females, 62.67 %, the largest percentage, are from Brahman and other castes. This shows how higher education is most popular among them. College education attracts 20.67 % Maratha females. Obviously, it is not much popular among them. The percentage of Jain females (6.66 %) is indeed appreciable considering the total strength of Jains in this region. The position of female education among Gujarsete, Lingayats, Intermediate Hindus, Muslims and

Christians is disappointing, while in case of Backward and Schedules castes, and Neo Budhists, it is supremely deplorable because there is not a single girl going to college from these castes. It could be generalised quite confidently that higher education does not find as much favour with non-Brahman and other females as with Brahman and others females. In the circumstances, attempts at the proliferation of college education among females other than Brahmans and others would be a great service to society as a whole.

Financial Position

2.13 Table No. 5 gives the distribution of males and females according to their financial position. In the absence of any means to know exactly the annual income of the guardians of students, I preferred three broad categories of financial positions: good, fair and poor. Further, it may be stated that students might be honestly ignorant of the actual income of their guardians. Secondly, they might deliberately mis-state their income because of the fear of losing educational concessions. These considerations weighed on my mind in resorting to the above mentioned pattern. However, it can positively be said that students can definitely feel and, therefore, state whether they are financially good, fair or poor.

2.14 Out of 761 males, 3.81 % and of the 150 females, 9.33 % have " good " financial position. It is explicit that very few students have such a position. This is very much keeping with the fact that the percentage of the financially " good " is certainly meagre in our society. It is perceptible that the percentage of females having " good " financial

position is higher than the percentage of males. There are 6.83 % of males and 2.67 % of females who are in the income bracket of " poor ". The low percentage of females collaborates the above mentioned percentage of the females having " good " financial position. It definitely indicates that females are better off financially than males. The largest percentages of males (89.36 %) and females (88.00 %) are drawn from the middle class as they indicate their financial position as " fair ". It means colleges are mainly "fed" by the middle class in our society.

Age

2.15 Table Nos. 6 and 7 give the distribution of males and females respectively according to age in complete years. It can be seen from the tables that 11.3 % of males and 34.70% of females are in the age-group of 15-17. It means a large number of females enters college comparatively earlier than males. The largest percentage of males (50.85%) and females (52.67 %) are in the age-bracket of 18-20, as against this the age-group of 21-23 has 27.20 % of males and 9.33 % of females. Thus, the biggest percentages of males (78.05 %) and females (87.37 %) are within the age of 18 to 23 and 15 to 20 respectively. It may be safely inferred that a large number of males enters college at the age of 18 and completes its education by 23, while the big number of females gets into college at the age of 15 and finishes its education by 20. The disparity between the ages of males and females is ascribable to the educational background of students.

Marital Status

2.16 Table No. 8 gives the distribution of the sample according to marital status. As expected, the percentage of married students is almost negligible. Only 3.00 % of males and 1.3 % of females have reported as married. It is really perplexing that the percentage of married males is more than the percentage of married females. It is understandable that the marriage age has shot up considerably; college students seem to be loath to get into matrimonial alliance during their college life.

Place of Residence in Kolhapur

2.17 Table Nos. 9 and 10 give the distribution of males and females respectively according to the place of residence in Kolhapur city. Quite a big percentage of males (33.77 %) lives in its home with parents. Rest of the males seek accommodation at places mentioned below: Hostels run almost by every caste provide lodging for 23.65 % of males. This is one of the features of Kolhapur city. Once it served the purpose of diffusing education to those who were denied it, but presently it has outlived its utility and is not in tune with democratic principles. The meagre percentage of male students (8.14 %) dwelling in their college hostels is indicative of the inadequate accommodation facilities offered by colleges in Kolhapur. There are 7.25 % of males who stay with their accommodative relatives, while 3.28 % of males put up with local guardians and 0.65 % of males manage to find bed space with some patron. Notwithstanding such facilities, 19.44 % of males are compelled to seek private accommodation. It is a matter of admiration that 1.97 % of males come daily to their colleges from

Neighbouring villages.

2.18 As expected, the highest percentage of females (82.66 %,) out of 150) lives with its parents. Ten percent of females live with local guardians, while 2.66 % of them reside with their relatives. One female reports that she is being accommodated by a patron. There are 1.33 % of females who come to their college daily from adjacent villages. It must be mentioned here that want of accommodation has forced 2.66 % of females to seek private accommodation. There is no case of females staying either in college hostels or other hostels. This is because of the lack of accommodation in college hostels and other hostels, except in that of G.K.G. College. In the end, it may be said that with the establishment of Shivaji University here and the prospective increase in the number of colleges, the need for lady's hostel is supremely genuine.

Guardians

2.19 General information about students would be incomplete without some knowledge of their guardians. Hence, it was proposed to deal with occupations and educational attainments of their guardians.

Occupations

2.20 It is a matter of happiness that even college education has come within the reach of most of students owing to the educational concessions and facilities made available to them. In the circumstances, students from various walks of life have been enabled to receive their higher education. Consequently, this involves a fairly wide disparity of background. In the

light of this, occupational background of the guardians is considered significant.

2.21 Table Nos. 11 and 12 deal with the occupational background of guardians according to sex. The highest percentage of guardians of males (45.86 %, out of 761) is engaged in farming. This is due to the rural surroundings of Kolhapur city. Thus, the rural background of these students may explain, to some extent, their behaviour in college premises. Next to farming, 17.35 % and 11.30 % of the guardians of males are in Government and private services respectively. These percentages are not that way high because Kolhapur is a district place where opportunities to enter into Government or private services are not as many as in a city like Bombay. In South Maharashtra, Kolhapur city is an industrial and business centre. Consequently, 11.30 % of the guardians of males are occupied with industry and business. This percentage should not be underrated in view of the fact that Kolhapur is a district place. Only 1.30 % of males have reported that their guardians are independent professionals: doctors, lawyers, artists, contractors, engineers and chartered accountants. This meagre percentage is in consonance with the need of this place. The percentage of pensioners is 2.36 %. There are 2.39 % of the guardians of males who are well-to-do persons living on their property. It may be noted with interest that one male reports that his guardian is a socio-political worker by profession. This proves at once that people do not take to socio-political work as a profession. 1.97 % of males state that their guardians are in "other" professions which comprise goldsmiths, tailors, fishermen, writer, chambhar, burud, purohit, music director and labourer.

It is obvious that 2.49 % of the guardians of males are engaged in more than one vocation. More than half of the percentage of such guardians is engaged in farming, and trade and business. On the whole, it may be said that a large number of the guardians of males is occupied with farming, government and private services, and trade and business.

2.22 Of the 150 females, 35.32 % and 21.33 % have reported that their guardians are in government and private services respectively. As expected, these percentages are high because those is such services, being educated themselves, favour female education. Therefore, they would always send their daughters to colleges for higher education. About 14.00 % of the guardians of females are in trade and business. This is appreciable because businessmen seem to have realised, of late, the significance of female education. It is a matter of great admiration that 11.33 % of the guardians engaged in farming send their daughters to colleges. Independent professions could claim 4.67 % of the guardians of females while the percentage of the well-to-do guardians of females is 6.66 %. Only 1.33 % of the guardians of females are socio-political workers and the percentage of pensioners is also 1.33 %. There are 1.33 % of females who have reported that their guardians are busy with more than one vocation. It may be observed in the end that like the guardians of males, the guardians of females too are occupied largely with farming, trade and business, and government and private services.

Educational Attainments

2.23 It is superfluous to mention that the educational



background of a family makes a vast difference in the upbringing of the children. Students with educational heritage have always advantage over others who lack it and this has far reaching consequences upon their careers.

2.24 Table Nos 13 and 14 give the distribution of males and females respectively according to educational attainments of their guardians. Out of 761 males, 82.92 % and of the 150 females, 98.66 % have reported that their guardians are literate. It means a large number of students has more or less literate guardians but it may be said in particular that almost all females have literate guardians. It is obvious that females have more educational heritage than males. This may expound, to some extent, their behaviour in college premises and outside too.

2.25 The detail composition of the tables reveals below the educational attainments of the guardians of students. The guardians of 3.33 % of males and 0.66 % of females can only sign their names, while the guardians of ^{25.20}~~24.25~~ % of males and ^{n 73}~~3.38~~ % of females can only read and write. The percentages of males and females whose guardians have completed their primary education are 22.98 % and 4.73 % respectively as against this there are 18.86 % of the guardians of males and 9.46 % of the guardians of females who are non-matriculate. The percentage of matriculate guardians of females (25.00 %) is higher than the percentage of matriculate guardians of males (11.89 %), while 6.81 % of males and 14.86 % of females state that their guardians had had college education but are not graduates. The percentage of graduate guardians of females (29.73 %) is higher than the percentage of graduate guardians of males

(8.87 %). Again, the percentage of the guardians of males (2.06 %) having advanced education is less than the percentage of the guardians of females (10.81 %). It may be generalised in conclusion that females have comparatively better educational heritage than males. This factor largely explains the behaviour pattern of males both within and without colleges.