

## CHAPTER IV

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE STUDENTS

In the previous chapter the state of education in the two schools has been presented in terms of enrolment, drop-out, catchment area of the schools and the facilities available to the students. In this chapter we propose to look into some aspects of socio-economic background of the students in order to further understand the state of education in the area. These aspects are-(a) the ethnic and religious background and (b) the family background. As in the previous chapter, we shall treat the two schools separately and then present the combined observation.

#### ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

In the PHSS students come from Hindu general caste and Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Muslim families. In the PAJHS only scheduled caste and scheduled Tribe students study.

Of the 757 enrolled in PHSS 157 students had dropped out. Therefore we have confined our study only among the 600 continuing students. Of these majority (63.83%) belong to Scheduled Castes. Among them Rajbansis are predominant as is shown in the next table.

Table 4.1

**Enrolment by ethnic group of students of PHSS**

Ethnic group	Enrolment	
	No.	%
Hindu general castes	138	23.00
Scheduled Castes	383	63.83
Scheduled Tribes	17	2.83
Muslim	62	10.33
Total	600	100.00

From the table 4.2 we can see that there are Hindu General Castes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Muslim students. Though large number of Muslims live in this area but majority of the students are Hindus (86.84%) while the Muslims are only 10.33% of the total students. Proportion of Muslim students decrease in higher classes upto Madhyamik, i.e. upto class X. In class XI there are 42.1% Muslims but in

class XII Muslim students comprise only 10%.

It may also be seen from the table 4.2 that in class V the proportion of Hindu general castes, scheduled castes, Muslims and the S.T. are 13.75%, 70%, 12.5% and 3.75% respectively. Of the 70% S.C. 50% are the Rajbansis and 20% non-Rajbansis. The proportion of the Hindu general caste rises with rise in the classes, while that of the S.C. falls. The proportion of the non-Rajbansis does not alter much but the representation of the Rajbansis drastically falls from 50% in class V to 20% in class XII. The sudden rise in the enrolment of class IX is due to the girls coming in from the Junior High Schools to study beyond class VIII. But their drop-out rate is also quite high, so in the class X the number of Rajbansi students decrease drastically.

**Table - 4.2**  
**Class - wise distribution of students by ethnic group in PHSS**

Ethnic group	Class								Total
	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Hindu General	11	18	17	12	44	18	3	15	138
Castes:	13.75	19.35	18.09	16.00	31.88	25.35	15.79	50.00	23.00
Scheduled Castes:									
Rajbansi	40	37	37	45	58	34	5	6	262
	50.00	39.78	39.36	60.00	42.03	47.89	26.32	20.00	43.67
Non-Rajbansi	16	25	19	11	28	13	3	6	121
	20.00	26.88	20.21	14.67	20.29	18.31	15.79	20.00	20.17
All Hindu	67	80	73	68	130	65	11	27	521
Castes	83.75	86.02	77.66	90.67	94.20	91.55	57.90	90.00	86.84
Muslim	10	11	15	5	6	4	8	3	62
	12.50	11.82	15.96	6.67	4.35	5.63	42.10	10.00	10.33
Scheduled Tribes	3	2	6	2	2	2	-	-	17
	3.75	2.15	6.38	2.66	1.45	2.82			2.83
<b>Total students</b>	80	93	94	75	138	71	19	30	600
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

**Table 4.3****Class-wise Distribution of students of PHSS by religion.**

Class	Religion			Total
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	
V	68 (85.00)	10 (12.50)	2 (2.50)	80 (100.00)
VI	80 (86.02)	11 (11.82)	2 (2.15)	93 (100.00)
VII	76 (80.85)	15 (15.95)	3 (3.19)	94 (100.00)
VIII	69 (92.00)	5 (6.66)	1 (1.33)	75 (100.00)
IX	130 (94.20)	6 (4.34)	2 (1.44)	138 (100.00)
X	66 (92.95)	4 (5.63)	1 (1.40)	71 (100.00)
XI	11 (57.89)	8 (42.10)	-	19 (100.00)
XII	27 (90.00)	3 (10.00)	-	30 (100.00)
Total	527 (87.84)	62 (10.33)	11 (1.83)	600 (100.00)

Table No. 4.3 shows the distribution of students by religion in the Phansidewa Higher Secondary School. It may be noted that most of the students are of Hindu Community and the number of Christian students decrease from lower to upper classes. There are no Christian students in XI and XII classes. They belong to Scheduled Tribes. There are only 62 Muslim students, whose number also decrease in upper classes.

**Table-4.4****Enrolment by ethnic group of students of PAJHS**

Ethnic Group	Enrolment	%(Percentage)
Scheduled Castes	99	91.67
Scheduled Tribes	9	8.33
Total	108	100.00

In PAJHS (Table 4.4) 91.67% students belong to Scheduled Castes and only 8.33% belong to Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Castes are Rajbansi, Namasudra, Suri, with a predominance of Rajbansis.

**Table-4.5**  
**Class-wise distribution of students by ethnic group in PAJHS**

Class	S.C.			S.T.			Total
	Rajbansi	Non-Rajbansi	Total	Oraon	Santhal	Munda	
V	32 (40.00)	6 (7.50)	38 (38.39)	2 (33.33)	—	—	2 (22.22)
VI	23 (28.75)	7 (8.75)	30 (30.30)	1 (16.67)	1 (50.00)	—	2 (22.22)
VII	17 (21.25)	5 (6.25)	22 (22.22)	2 (33.33)	1 (50.00)	—	3 (33.33)
VIII	8 (10.00)	1 (1.25)	9 (9.09)	1 (16.67)	—	1 (100.00)	2 (22.22)
Total	80	19	99	6	2	1	9
No.	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)
%	80.81	19.19	100.00	66.67	22.22	11.11	100.00

In Table No. 4.5 class-wise distribution of the students have been further analysed by their ethnic groups. The Scheduled Tribe students do not show any perceptible variation in their distribution from lower to upper classes. The scheduled Castes students, on the other hand, show this pattern of variation in a very pronounced manner.

We find that in Class V the Scheduled Castes students Comprise nearly 38% and their proportion gradually decreases to about 9% in class VIII. This variation is much more accentuated in case of the Rajbansi students. Among them the enrolment is 40% in the Class V, which decreases to 10% in the class VIII.

From Table 4.5 it may also be seen that the Rajbansis comprise 80.81% of the scheduled Castes students while the remaining 19.19% is made up of the other Scheduled Castes. The Scheduled Tribes are oraon, Santhal and Munda. There are 6 Oraon students, 2 Santhals and 1 Munda student.

**Table-4.6**

**Class-wise distribution of students by religion and ethnic groups of PAJHS**

Class	Ethnic group		Religion		Total
	S.C.	S.T.	H	C	
V	38	2	39	1	40
VI	30	2	31	1	32
VII	22	3	22	3	25
VIII	09	2	09	2	11
Total	99	9	101	7	108

Table 4.6 shows the distribution of students by religion and ethnic groups in this school. It may be noted that among the 108 students there are 101 Hindu students and only 7 students are Christian by religion. We find that 99 students belong to Scheduled Castes and only 9 students to Scheduled Tribes. There are no Muslim student in this school.

From the preceding tables the predominance of Scheduled Castes students in the two schools is quite apparent. This corresponds with the population composition of the villages in the catchment area of the schools, where proportion of the scheduled Castes is very high. However, after high enrolment in the lower classes a decline in the percentage of S.C. students is observed in the higher classes. the same is true for the S.T. students, while the proportion of Hindu general castes increases in the upper classes.

## **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

In this section we have tried to correlate the family background of the students and their continuation of studying in the schools. For this purpose the following aspects of family background have been presented - (a) family size, (b) occupation of the main earner in the family and (c) educational level of the family members.

### **Family Size:**

In the villages of this area majority of the families are nuclear, but quite a large number of joint or extended families have also been observed while doing field work. The family sizes, however, vary very much, be it nuclear or joint family. In the following table we shall look into the family size of the students.

Table- 4.7

Percentage distribution of the students of PHSS by family size

N = 600

Family Size	Class								Total	
	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	No.	%
2-4	8.75	17.20	12.76	12.00	11.59	9.85	15.78	6.66	72	12.00
5-7	50.00	59.14	47.87	41.33	50.72	45.07	42.11	66.67	301	50.16
8-10	28.75	15.05	30.85	33.33	24.63	25.35	26.31	13.33	152	25.33
11-13	6.25	7.53	7.44	9.33	10.86	9.85	10.52	6.66	52	8.66
14+	6.25	1.08	1.06	4.00	2.17	9.85	5.26	6.66	23	3.83
Total No.	80	93	94	75	138	71	19	30	600	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		

From Table No. 4.7 we find that proportion of students coming from families with 5 to 7 members is high in all the classes but it is the highest in the uppermost class. Joint families in the vallages from where the students hail are rarely found. The large families, therefore, are in relatively disadvantageous position, which may have some relation with the discontinuation or dropping off of the children belonging to those families.

**Table-4.8**

**Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by family size and class**

N = 95

Family Size	Class				Total students	
	V	VI	VII	VIII	No.	%
2-4	2.77	8.00	12.50	-	6	6.31
5-7	44.44	36.00	33.33	60.00	39	41.05
8-10	33.33	44.00	25.00	30.00	32	33.68
11-13	2.77	12.00	12.50	10.00	8	8.42
14+	16.66	-	16.66	-	10	10.52
Total No.	36	25	24	10	95	100.00
	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)		

Table No. 4.8 shows the family size of the students of P.A.J.H.S. In this table we find that total number of students are 95. Among them students coming from small families (with 2-4 members) as well as very large families (14+ members) are not seen in Class VIII. Representation of students coming from families of 5-7 members is high in all the classes. Enrolment in class VIII is drastically less in any case. Table 3.8, which shows distribution of the students by age may also be seen in this context. It appears from these two tables that the smaller families can afford to send their girl children to school more than what the larger families can. But at the same time it also has to be kept in mind that the older girls are required to help the parents in domestic chores in small families and earning through work in tea plantations in large families with many mouths to feed and many of them also get married at about 15-16 years of age.

#### **Occupation:**

Economic status and occupation of the parents has often been found to be directly associated with the children's education. (Oraon, 1993; Ambasht, 1993, Agarwarl, 1994, etc.). Rathnaiah (1977) has looked into differential enrolment in different



occupational groups of the parents. In our study area, where most of the families are occupied with cultivation and many with business and relatively few with service, there too we have found that occupational and economic differentiation has some effect on school enrolment and drop-out of the children.

**Table - 4.9**

**Occupations of the main earners in the families of the students of PHSS**

Occupation of the guardian	Class of the students								Total
	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Business	10	20	17	7	12	10	2	4	82
									13.67
Service	25	21	15	23	50	26	3	9	172
									28.67
Carpenter	1	2	-	1	4	2	-	-	10
									1.66
Labour	3	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	9
									1.50
Cultivation	41	48	62	43	70	32	14	17	327
									54.50
<b>Total No.</b>	80	93	94	75	138	71	19	30	600
<b>%</b>	13.33	15.50	15.66	12.50	23.00	11.83	3.16	5.00	100.00

Table No. 4.9 shows the occupation of main earners of the families of the students by their class in Phansidewa Higher Secondary School. The guardians of the students are engaged in different occupations, but most of the guardians (54.50%) have stated cultivation as their primary occupation. Besides this there are service-holders (28.67%) and businessmen (13.67%) and others like carpenters (1.66%) and labour (1.50%). In this area, where cultivation is the occupation of the majority of the villagers, it is no wonder that majority of the students come from cultivator families, but it is interesting to note that students from service holders' families form the next major category and those from business-men's families, though more numerous than the service-holders in the villages, are fewer in the school.

**Table - 4.10**

**Percentage distribution of the students by the occupation of their guardians**

Class	Occupation of the guardians				Total students (No.)
	Cultivation (N=327)	Service (N=172)	Business (N=82)	Others (N=19)	
V	12.54	14.53	12.20	21.05	80
VI	14.68	12.21	24.39	21.05	93
VII	18.96	8.72	20.73	-	94
VIII	13.15	13.37	8.54	10.53	75
IX	21.40	29.07	14.63	31.58	138
X	9.79	15.12	12.19	15.79	71
XI	4.28	1.74	2.44	-	19
XII	5.20	5.23	4.88	-	30
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	600

The Table 4.10 shows the percentage distribution of the students coming from different occupational families. It may be seen that the cultivators' families enroll their children later than the service-holder's families. The percentage of students from the cultivator's families steadily decrease from class VII onward. An increase in class IX is due to additional enrolment from Junior High Schools and girl students. In the service-holders' families percentage of students is relatively higher. The lower percentage in class XI is due to the fact that after passing Madhyamik Examination many students go to Siliguri to complete the Higher Secondary course. Businessmen's families show a similar picture. The percentages of students from the families of the carpenters and labourers present an indifferent picture.

**Table-4.11**

**Occupation of the main earners in the families of the students of PAJHS**

Name of the Occupations	Class				Total
	V	VI	VII	VIII	
Business	3	1	1	-	5 (5.26)
Service	6	7	6	2	22 (23.16)
Carpenter	-	1	1	-	2 (2.11)
Labour	1	1	2	1	4 (4.21)
Cultivation	26	15	14	7	62 (65.26)
Total students No.	36	25	24	10	95
%(Percentage)	37.89	26.32	25.26	10.53	100.00

Table No. 4.11 shows the occupation of main earners of the student's families by their class in Phansidewa Ashram Type Junior High School for girls. It may be noted from the above table that the main earners are engaged in different occupations, but most (65.26%) of the earners are engaged in cultivation and only two earners are Carpenters. 23.16% of the respondents come from the families of service-holders. From the table it is apparent that the number of students from cultivators' family steadily decrease in the upper classes, while that from the service-holders' families remain more or less steady.

**Educational Level of the Family Members:**

Educational level of the members of the family has been found to have positive effect on the children's education. Educated parents, particularly the educated mothers, aspire for children's education. They realize the value of education more than the illiterate parents. Keeping these views of other researchers in mind an analysis of the educational level of the family members of the students is presented in this section.

As the two schools (PHSS and PAJHS) have different backgrounds — PHSS catering to boys and girls of all communities and PAJHS only to the girls belonging to S.C. and S.T. communities. We shall take up the two schools separately. At the end of this presentation we shall try to compare the findings.

**Table-4.12**

**Percentage distribution of the students of PHSS by class and the educational level of the father/guardian.**

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	18.75	21.25	30.00	28.75	1.25	80	13.33
						100.00	
VI	18.27	20.43	34.40	22.58	4.30	93	15.50
						100.00	
VII	13.82	18.08	41.48	23.40	3.19	94	15.66
						100.00	
VIII	18.66	18.66	33.33	25.33	4.00	75	12.50
						100.00	
IX	13.76	9.42	47.82	19.56	9.42	138	23.00
						100.00	
X	16.90	8.45	25.35	40.84	8.45	71	11.83
						100.00	
XI	21.05	10.52	26.31	42.10	-	19	3.16
						100.00	
XII	6.67	6.67	40.00	33.33	13.33	30	5.00
						100.00	
Total	96	90	221	159	34	600	100.00
	16.00	15.00	36.83	26.50	5.67	100.00	

Table No. 4.12 shows the distribution of the students by the educational levels of their father / guardian. Of the 600 fathers 16% are illiterates. 15% have studied upto Primary Level, about 37% upto junior high school level and 26.5% upto secondary level and 5.67% only have studied upto college level or above. It may be seen that about 85% of the students have literate fathers / guardians and more than 30 % have secondary level or above education.

Relationship between father's educational level and the student's class is also observed in this table. Comparing the total percentages and the class-wise percentages it is observed that there is decrease of illiterate fathers' percentage from lower to higher classes. The same is true for fathers with primary level of education. Whereas those with Junior High and Secondary level of education show a more or less steady representation except perceptible increase in the class XII for junior high and classes X, XI and XII for those with secondary level of education. This trend is glaringly evident in case of the fathers with college education.

**Table-4.13**

Percentage distribution of the students of PHSS by class and the educational level of the mother

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	67.50	15.00	11.25	6.25	-	80	13.33
						100.00	
VI	37.31	21.51	18.28	11.82	1.07	93	15.50
						100.00	
VII	56.39	12.76	24.47	5.31	1.07	44	15.66
						100.00	
VIII	61.33	16.00	16.00	5.33	1.34	75	12.50
						100.00	
IX	44.21	15.94	27.54	11.59	0.72	138	23.00
						100.00	
X	46.48	18.31	14.08	21.13	-	71	11.83
						100.00	
XI	57.89	10.53	21.05	10.53	-	19	3.16
						100.00	
XII	53.33	16.67	6.67	23.33	-	30	5.00
						100.00	
Total	318	98	115	65	4	600	100.00
	53.00	16.33	19.17	10.83	0.67	100.00	

Table No. 4.13 shows the distribution of the students by the educational levels of their mother. Of the 600 mothers 53% are illiterates, 16.33% have studied upto primary level, 19.17% upto junior high school level and 10.83% upto secondary level and 0.67% only have studied upto college level or above. A large percentage of illiterate mothers are seen in every class of PHSS. Some are educated upto primary and secondary levels but very few have studied beyond that. As such, the mothers' educational level is low. On the other hand Table No. 4.12 shows that a larger proportion of fathers get the chance for higher education in comparison to the mothers, who are apparently neglected, as percentage of illiterate fathers is lower than that of the illiterate mothers.

However, from the Table No. 4.13 it may be seen that the percentage of mothers having secondary or above level of education increases from class IX onwards. Thus it may be suggested that the mothers with secondary or above level of education are more concerned about continuation of study of their children.

Next we shall see whether the educational level of the siblings have any relationship with the students' education. For this purpose at first we identify the students having brothers and sisters.

**Table-4.14**  
**Distribution of the students of PHSS having brothers / sisters**

Class of the student	Having Brothers		Having Sisters		Total students
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
V	74	6	65	15	80
VI	79	14	75	18	93
VII	84	10	77	17	94
VIII	71	4	56	19	75
IX	123	15	121	17	138
X	60	11	63	8	71
XI	19	-	17	2	19
XII	30	-	27	3	30
Total	540	60	501	99	600

Table No. 4.14 helps us to look at the educational level of the siblings. There are 540 students having brothers and 501 students having sisters. There are many cases where there are more than one brother or sister. Altogether there are 1228 brothers and 1087 sisters, but for our purpose we have taken the brother / sister with highest educational level. This is presented in the Table 4.15 and 4.16.

Table No. 4.15 shows the distribution of the students by the educational levels of their brother. Of the total present students only 540 students have brother and 60 students have no brother.



**Table-4.15**

Percentage distribution of the students of PHSS by the educational level of their brother.

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	2.70	35.13	21.62	32.43	8.10	74	13.70
						100.00	
VI	3.79	18.98	34.17	31.64	11.39	79	14.62
						100.00	
VII	4.76	28.57	35.71	28.57	2.38	84	15.55
						100.00	
VIII	5.63	22.53	28.16	28.16	15.49	71	13.14
						100.00	
IX	0.81	16.26	40.65	36.59	5.69	123	22.77
						100.00	
X	3.33	13.33	33.34	41.67	8.33	60	11.11
						100.00	
XI	5.26	10.52	36.84	26.31	21.05	19	3.51
						100.00	
XII	6.67	6.67	33.33	43.33	10.00	30	5.55
						100.00	
Total	19	113	180	181	47	540	100.00
	3.51	20.92	33.33	33.51	8.70	100.00	

Comparing this table with the Table No. 4.12 and 4.13 we find that the proportion of illiterates have significantly decreased. As a matter of fact two-third of the brothers are seen to have studied upto Junior High and High School level. 8.70% have studied in colleges. This indicates on the one hand a better educational attainment in this generation and on the other the interest the brothers take in their siblings' study. This may be further examined by looking at the educational attainment of the sisters of the students.

**Table-4.16**

Percentage distribution of the students of PHSS by the educational level of their sister.

Class.	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	13.84	41.53	29.23	15.38	-	65	12.97
						100.00	
VI	13.33	33.33	30.66	21.33	1.33	75	14.97
						100.00	
VII	7.79	35.06	37.66	19.48	-	77	15.36
						100.00	
VIII	17.85	25.00	32.14	23.21	1.78	56	11.17
						100.00	
IX	5.78	18.18	38.01	37.19	0.82	121	24.15
						100.00	
X	17.46	23.80	22.22	33.33	3.17	63	12.57
						100.00	
XI	5.88	23.52	29.41	41.17	-	17	3.39
						100.00	
XII	7.40	14.81	33.33	40.74	3.70	27	5.38
						100.00	
Total	56	138	163	138	6	501	100.00
	11.17	27.54	32.53	27.54	1.19	100.00	

Table No. 4.16 shows the educational level of the sisters of the students in PHSS. Total number of students of PHSS are 600. Among them 501 students have sisters and 99 students have no sisters, but total number of the sisters are 1087. For the purpose of this table I have taken only the sister who has attained highest educational level.

Comparing this table with the Table No. 4.12 and 4.13 we find the educational attainment has increased perceptibly. The illiterates are only 11.17% of the sisters as compared to 16% fathers and 53% mothers. The proportion of sisters having primary level of education have increased. (Fathers 15%, Mothers 16.33% and Sisters 32.53%). 60% of the sisters have studied upto Junior High of High School level in comparison to the 30% of the mothers with the same level of education, although the percentage of fathers with the same educational level is a bit higher. Thus our earlier observation of higher educational attainment holds true in case of the sisters too, although the gender differentiation becomes obvious when we compare the educational attainment of the brothers (Table 4.15) and the sisters.

However, the impact of the sisters' educational attainment on the study of their siblings is suggested when we find that those students studying in classes IX and above have higher percentages of sisters who have studied upto secondary and above level.

Next we shall see whether the educational level of the other family members has any relationship with the students' education. For this purpose at first we identify the students having other family members.

**Table-4.17**

**Class-wise distribution of the students of PHSS having other family members**

Class of the students	Having other family members		Total students
	Yes	No	
V	19	61	80
VI	29	64	93
VII	32	62	94
VIII	38	37	75
IX	48	90	138
X	30	41	71
XI	8	11	19
XII	3	27	30
Total	207	393	600

From the above Table we find that of the total number of students of PHSS only 207 students have family member other than those discussed earlier and 393 students

have no such relative. Percentage distribution of these 207 students according to the educational level of the relative is presented in the Table 4.18. The relative with the highest educational attainment has been considered for this purpose.

From the table 4.18 we can see that the percentage of illiterates among all the relatives of the students of PHSS are 19.32. In the Junior High level their percentage is highest (36.23), and there are 22.22% having secondary level of education and 7.24% with college education. The relationship of the educational attainment of these relatives with the students' continuation of education is suggested by the data, as the proportion of Junior High and above level of education increases class IX onwards.

**Table-4.18**

Percentage distribution of the students of PHSS by educational level of their other family members

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	10.52	21.05	31.57	31.57	5.26	19	9.17
						100.00	
VI	24.13	20.68	27.58	24.13	3.44	29	14.00
						100.00	
VII	31.25	9.37	21.87	21.87	15.62	32	15.45
						100.00	
VIII	21.05	18.42	31.57	21.05	7.89	38	18.35
						100.00	
IX	22.91	8.33	43.75	18.75	6.25	48	23.18
						100.00	
X	-	16.66	53.33	23.33	6.66	30	14.49
						100.00	
XI	25.00	-	62.50	12.50	-	8	3.86
						100.00	
XII	-	66.66	-	33.33	-	3	1.44
						100.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	19.32	14.97	36.23	22.22	7.24	100.00	

Table-4.19

Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by the educational level of their Father/Guardian

PAJHS

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	22.22	5.55	44.44	27.77	-	36	37.89
						100.00	
VI	20.00	24.00	24.00	32.00	-	25	26.31
						100.00	
VII	4.16	16.66	29.16	45.83	4.16	24	25.26
						100.00	
VIII	20.00	10.00	40.00	20.00	10.00	10	10.52
						100.00	
Total	16	13	33	31	2	95	100.00
	16.84	13.68	34.73	32.63	2.10	100.00	

Table No. 4.19 shows the distribution of the father/guardian of the students of Phansidewa Ashram Type Junior High School for girls by their educational level. Most of the father's qualification are Primary to Secondary level and in College or higher Classes they are small in number. From the above table it may be noted that although there are illiterate father in every class but the proportion of fathers with Junior High and above level of education is higher in each class, indicating greater interest they take about the study of their daughters.



Table-4.20

Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by the educational level of their mother

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	38.88	27.77	27.77	5.55	-	36	37.82
						100.00	
VI	60.00	24.00	12.00	4.00	-	25	26.31
						100.00	
VII	50.00	16.66	29.16	4.16	-	24	25.26
						100.00	
VIII	30.00	50.00	20.00	-	-	10	10.52
						100.00	
Total	44	25	22	4	-	95	100.00
	46.31	26.31	23.15	4.21	-	100.00	

Table No. 4.20 shows the distribution of the students of PAJHS by the educational level of their mother. In this Table we can see that there are great difference among educational levels between that of the mothers and the fathers.

Most of the mothers are illiterate and there are no college educated mother, only 4.21% of the mothers have secondary level of educational. From this table we are unable to find any definite relationship with the mothers educational levels and the study of their daughters.

Next we shall see whether the educational level of the siblings has any relationship with the students' education. For this purpose at first we identify the students having brothers and sisters.

**Table - 4.21**

Distribution of the students of PAJHS having brothers/sisters by class

Class of the student	Having Brother		Having Sister		Total students
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
V	34	2	33	3	36
VI	24	1	19	6	25
VII	23	1	19	5	24
VIII	10	-	9	1	10
Total	91	4	80	15	95

From the above Table we can see that the total number of the students of PAJHS are 95. Among them 91 students are having brother and 80 students having sisters. As explained earlier, we shall consider only the brother / sister who has attained highest educational level when a student has more than one brother / sister.

Table-4.22

Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by the educational level of their brother

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	5.88	41.17	20.58	29.41	2.94	34	37.36
						100.00	
VI	-	20.83	16.66	50.00	12.50	24	26.37
						100.00	
VII	-	17.39	26.08	39.13	17.39	23	25.27
						100.00	
VIII	-	10.00	30.00	60.00	-	10	10.98
						100.00	
Total	2	24	20	37	8	91	100.00
	2.19	26.37	21.97	40.65	8.79	100.00	

Table No. 4.22 shows the distribution of the students of PAJHS by the educational level of their brothers. Total number of present students are 95 of whom 91 have brothers. From the above Table it may be noted that except in class V there are no students with illiterate brothers. Most of the brothers (71.41%) are educated upto Junior High or above level. There are students with college educated brothers more or less in all the classes except in class VIII.

The Table 4.23 shows the educational level of the sisters of the students of PAJHS. Comparing this table with the Table 4.19 and 4.20 we find that illiteracy has perceptibly reduced than the earlier generation, but the daughters have not attained higher level of education than their fathers, although the opposite is true when we look at the mothers' educational levels. Only 27.36% mothers have junior high or above level of education in comparison to 61.25% of the daughters. Yet this is lower than that of their brothers (71.41%).

However, the Tables 4.22 and 4.23 shows higher educational attainment in this generation as well as the continued gender discrepancy. Still we may suggest that the educational attainment of the siblings has positive relationship with their sisters' education.

Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by class and the educational level of others family members are examined next. At first we identify the students who have family members other than their parents and siblings.

Table-4.23

Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by the educational level of their sister.

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	6.06	36.36	36.36	18.18	3.03	33	41.25
						100.00	
VI	5.26	26.31	31.57	31.57	5.26	19	23.75
						100.00	
VII	21.05	21.05	31.57	26.31	-	19	23.75
						100.00	
VIII	-	33.33	33.33	22.22	11.11	9	11.25
						100.00	
Total	7 8.75	24 30.00	27 33.75	19 23.75	3 3.75	80 100.00	100.00

**Table - 4.24**

Class-wise distribution of the students of PAJHS having other family members

Class of the student	Having other family members		Total students
	Yes	No	
V	17	19	36
VI	10	15	25
VII	10	14	24
VIII	4	6	10
Total	41	54	95

Table No. 4.24 shows that the total number of the students having other family members are 41 whereas the total students are 95. 54 students have no other family members staying with them.

From the Table 4.25 we can see the educational level of the other family members of the students of PAJHS. This Table shows that in class V and class VII there are no student with illiterate family members. The educational level of the family members are observed to gradually increase from the primary to secondary level as the percentages of primary, Jr. high and secondary level are 24.39, 26.82 and 34.14 respectively. But it also may be noted that there are no student with family member having college level education. Thus the educational level of the family members may have some relationship with the education of these girl students.

Table-4.25

Percentage distribution of the students of PAJHS by educational level of their other family members

Class	Educational Level					Total	
	Illiterate	Primary	Jr. High	Secondary	College & Above	No.	%
V	-	23.52	23.52	52.94	-	17	41.46
						100.00	
VI	40.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	-	10	24.39
						100.00	
VII	20.00	30.00	20.00	30.00	-	10	24.39
						100.00	
VIII	-	25.00	75.00	-	-	4	9.75
						100.00	
Total	6	10	11	14	-	41	100.00
	14.63	24.39	26.82	34.14	-	100.00	

## Summary and Observations

In this chapter we have examined some aspects of the ethnic, religious and family background of the students.

The schools are situated in a predominantly Scheduled Caste area as a result majority of the students belong to S.C., although a large number of Hindu General Castes' students and some Muslims and S.T. students also study in PHSS and some S.T. girls study in PAJHS. Among the S.C. again the Rajbansis are predominant.

Except a few Muslims and Christians most of the students are Hindu by religion. There are no Muslims in PAJHS.

The aspects of family background studied are (a) family size, (b) occupation and (c) educational level of the family members.

The family size varies from 2 to more than 14 members, but students coming from families with 5-7 members from 50% in PHSS and 41% in PAJHS. Larger families are more frequently found among the S.C. and S.T. as appears by comparing the two schools.

Occupationally majority of the students' families are cultivators. But the number of students from cultivator families are found to decrease in upper classes in both the schools. The trend of studying is more or less steady for the students from service holders' families.

Educational level of the family members of the students of both the schools have been examined and some positive relationship of the parent's education with the student's continuing studies have been formed. But in PAJHS this relationship is less evident, where the parents, specially the mothers are mostly illiterate or primary level educated. Probably the governmental incentives for educational development of S.C / S.T. students have played important role in this case. Some other facts come to light by looking at the educational level of the family members. The mothers have lower education than the fathers specially in case of S.C / S.T. - as found in PAJHS. The level of educational attainment has risen in the student's generation. The brothers are better educated than their fathers and sisters are very much more educated than their mothers, the gender differentiation in education is decreasing. All these have definite impact on the student's education and continuation of their study.