

Chapter - VII

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY

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In elaborating the framework of the study the following aspects will be particularly considered :

1. Objectives of the Study :

The basic objective of this study may be presented as to assess the impact of extra-structural relationships on the strength of marital relationship and family bondage. The specific objectives may be mentioned as to understand the socio-economic background of spouses where both are working outside home; to assess the spouses' attitude towards extra-structural relationships which develop in the professional world; and to interpret the changes in attitude towards morality and values of the partners in marriage.

2. Limitations of the study :

Dealing with human subjects essentially creates certain difficulties for the researcher by delimiting his power to control the environment (non-laboratory settings) and by his dependence on the co-operation of the subjects. That fieldworkers must become dependent upon their research subjects is ironical for him because it is the fieldworker who choose to study others rather than others who choose to be studied. The study is concerned with aspects of marital relationships which are part of personal lives of the respondents. Objective analysis of subjective experiences may

not lead to complete accuracy of results. Dealing with human subjects entail scopes of partial or improper responses. Nevertheless, in social sciences, studies are conducted through elaborate logical designs to reach the highest possible level of accuracy. The essential problem is concerned with the nature of social phenomena. One of the most extreme positions was espoused by Wilhelm Dilthey in nineteenth century. He believed that humans had free will, and thus no one can predict their actions and generalize about them. Emile Durkheim espoused essentially the opposite view and claimed that social phenomena are orderly and can be generalized. His viewpoint was based on the assumption that social phenomena adhere to underlying social laws. For Durkheim, the logic of enquiry was essentially the same in the physical and natural science and social science. Max Weber opposed the exclusive role of the use of methods of natural science for studying social phenomena.

The truth of the matter is that there are times when each particular method is inappropriate and it is necessary to acknowledge the essential complementarity of the various methods to overcome the limitations in the study of social relationship.

3. Selection of Area and Sample Population :

Area selection is based on the nature of research problem. People living in the area which has been selected for

study must contain the scope for behavioural expressions, which the study wants to focus.

Sampling is a method of selecting a portion of universe for study with a view to draw conclusion about the universe of population. We first designate a population of interest from the area selected for sampling. Then we attempt to select a subset of some predetermined size from this population. This subset should adequately represent the entire population so that the informations gathered from the subset ideally will be just as accurate as the data that we could gather from the entire population. There are a number of obvious advantages of sampling, especially savings in time and money. It is necessary that the range of data or information in the population is represented in the sample. In day to day experience, by and large it is possible to make some kind of general statement about the universe of study by observing only a few items, i.e., a sample drawn thereof. Statistical sampling then is a methodological version of our everyday experience and is a very commonly used procedure. A statistical sampling ideally purports to be a miniature model or replica of the collectivity or population constituted by all the items which potentially hold promise of affording information relevant to a given research.

Urban set up is here a prerequisite to the study of the effect of extra structural relationships – arising out of occupational requirements – on marriage and family. The City of Kolkata provides a wider range of variations in opportunities of interactions and occupations and also the

heterogeneous nature of the population. Simple random sampling method is employed here for data collection. In the present study the term "population" refers to all individuals belonging to the married category, where both the spouses have outdoor professional regular engagements. A single unit or member of the population is referred to as a "Population Element".

4. Concepts Used :

Concepts refer to the mental images or perceptions. The development and clarification of concepts is called conceptualisation. The researcher usually rely on existing definitions as given in the social science literature. However, investigators sometimes formulate their own definitions, especially when disagreement exists in the literature over the exact meaning of a concept. Concepts may be difficult to observe directly or they may have referents that are readily observable, such as a tree or a table. The present study involves a number of concepts. (a) Hermeneutics, according to Dilthey, is a discipline concerned with the investigation and interpretation of human behaviour and institutions as essentially intentional. (b) 'Structure', in this context, means the socially approved set of relationships. The present study is concerned with marriage and family, one of the primary institutions of society. (c) Partners in marriage are husband and wife, who together aim to form a family. (d) Metropolis is a large busy city. The present project has taken the city of Kolkata as the focus of attention. (e) Family is a group of persons directly linked by kinship ties, established either

through marriage or through the line of decent that connect blood relatives. Adult members of the family assume responsibility of caring for children. (f) 'Marriage' can be defined as a cultural phenomenon which sanctions a more or less permanent union between partners, conferring legitimacy on their offspring. (g) Boredom, in this study, refers to the monotony of the structural expectations from marriage and family, and (h) Escape is the modes of relief from the monotonous routine.

5. Dependent and Independent variables :

There are several ways in classifying variables. One type of classification is necessitated by the complexity of social situations. While all social situations have a tremendous variety of aspects or properties, the researcher in any given instance will be directly interested in only a few of these and, moreover, will simply find it impossible to observe all the potentially relevant properties. Those variables which are the focus of the research are called explanatory variables, and all other variables are called extraneous. The two principal types of explanatory variables are dependent and independent. The dependent variable is the one the researcher is interested in explaining and predicting. Variation in the dependent variable is thought to depend on or to be influenced by certain other variables. The explanatory variables that do the influencing and explaining are called independent. The present study aims to find out the effect of extra structural relationships on the cohesiveness of the family or on the strength of the marital bondage. Here extra-structural

relationship is the independent variable and cohesiveness of the family is the dependent one. All other things remaining equal, extra-structural relationships are likely to increase the family's cohesiveness.

6. Formulation of Hypotheses :

The tentative answers to the research questions are called hypotheses. A hypothesis is an expected but unconfirmed relationship between two or more variables. Hypotheses come from a variety of sources, including everything from theory of direct observation to guesses and intuition. Whenever the research objective is clearly one of testing relationships among variables, it is essential that hypotheses be formally and precisely stated so that they carry clear implications for testing the stated relations. The present study proposes to test the following hypotheses :-

1. That the newly developing framework of extra-structural relationships is strengthening the cohesiveness of the family;
2. That there has been changes in the pattern of expectations in marriage among the educated middle class working partners of the metropolis.

7. Methods of Data Collection :

A datum is what is observed or is manifest. Various methods of collecting data are employed by social scientists -

observation, interview, questionnaire etc. Observation is the basic method for obtaining information about the world around us. All observations, however, are not scientific in nature. Observation becomes a scientific tool for the researcher to the extent that it serves a formulated research purpose and is planned systematically. Through observation it is possible to record behaviour as it occurs. Observation is often supplemented by interviews and questionnaire methods.

Interview is a widely used method in empirical studies. It involves a person (interviewer) asking questions in a face-to-face contact to other persons (interviewee) who give answers to these questions. Interviews may be structured or unstructured. Unstructured interview may be classified into (a) Focussed, (b) Clinical and (c) Non-Directive types.

The terms 'Questionnaire' and 'schedule' are often treated as synonymous. A questionnaire consists of a number of questions printed in a definite order on a form or set of forms. The advantage of the questionnaire method is that it affords great facilities in collecting data from large, diverse and widely-scattered groups of people. It is used in gathering objective, quantitative data as well as for securing information of a qualitative nature.

In the present study, a pilot survey was undertaken where both interview and questionnaire methods were used. While interviewing people the researcher had long discussions

with the interviewees over their views on the objectives of research. These are the people belonging mostly to the category of authors, singers, people from performing arts, senior academicians, poets, journalists and media personalities. The method of interview was preferred for these people for obtaining a much detailed analysis of their views which would not have been possible otherwise. A face-to-face interaction provided the researcher with valuable insight about the issues.

After an initial assessment of results, questionnaire method was adopted for collecting further data. Certain specific zones were selected for distribution of the questionnaire. The target population was broadly divided into different professional categories. A list was prepared for different occupational categories. From each category a list of names was prepared with the help of media reports, prospectus, publication lists, advertisements and also from employee's offices. From the list twentyfive percent names were chosen randomly. It was ascertained that the candidates spouses were also in regular employment. All the respondents of the present study are residents of Calcutta. After ascertaining all the required aspects, questionnaires along with stamped self-addressed envelopes were distributed. 1500 questionnaires were distributed. 339 replies were received either by post or by hand or through messenger. From among the replies 300 has been finally considered as 'complete' for analysis.

The questionnaire was structured and standardized with close ended questions. The questions were categorized into three sections - A, B and C. Section A was designed to collect general information about the social, economic and educational status of the respondents. This section also included information about aspiration for childrens' education. It was assumed that concern over childrens' education would reflect parents' involvement about a stable home. For "..... Family is a unit of common residence, of economic co-operation and has important responsibility for the socialization of children" (Leslie, Larson, Gorman, page 414).

Section B was designed to collect specific information about marriage and family of the respondents.

Section C was aimed at providing information about core theme of the research work. The questions were formulated to assess (1) the attitude of the respondents towards extra-structural relationship; (2) their attitude towards the cohesiveness of the family; and (3) the attitude towards the future of the girl child.

Questionnaire method was adopted as (i) it provides access to large diversely scattered population; (ii) it is economical; (iii) it is impersonal (some very personal questions may not elicit correct information in interview method); (iv) it provides anonymity for the respondents,

allowing them to feel more free to express their views; and (v) it allows sufficient time to the respondents, so that they do not feel the pressure of immediate response.

8. Statistical Model used to ascertain the relationship between dependent and independent variables. Statistical method used to ascertain whether (the different segments of the sample population differ significantly in respect of behaviour relating to degree of extra-structural relationship and the degree of cohesiveness of family) degree of extra-structural friendship bears significant relationship with the degree of family bondage, is chi-square test.

The chi-square value is computed for ascertaining the association between two attributes. A (e.g. attitude towards extra-structural relationship) and B (degree of cohesiveness of the family) (Blalock, 1972).

The model used furnished below :

A \ B	B ₁	B ₂	B _j	B _e	Marginal Total
A ₁	f ₁₁	f ₁₂	f _{1j}	f _{1e}	r ₁
·	·	·	·	·	·
·	·	·	·	·	·
A ₂	f ₂₁	f ₂₂	f _{2j}	f _{2e}	r ₂
·	·	·	·	·	·
·	·	·	·	·	·
A _i	f _{i1}	f _{i2}	f _{ij}	f _{ie}	r _i
·	·	·	·	·	·
·	·	·	·	·	·
A _k	f _{k1}	f _{k2}	f _{kj}	f _{ke}	r _k
·	·	·	·	·	·
·	·	·	·	·	·
·	·	·	·	·	·
Marginal Total	C ₁	C ₂	C _j	C _e	N

where :

f_{ij} = frequency of individuals in both categories A_i and B_j

r_i = frequency of the ith row

C_j = frequency of the jth column

The concept of estimated frequency :

$$F_e = \frac{r_i C_j}{N}$$

Now, to test the hypothesis that A and B are independent, the chi-square comes out to be :

$$X^2 = N \left[\sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^l \frac{f_{ij}^2}{r_i e_j} - 1 \right]$$

with $(k - 1)$ and $(l - 1)$ degrees of freedom. Strength of association is measured by following the technique introduced by Cramer and is expressed as follows :

$$V^2 \text{ (Cramer's coefficient of Association)} \\ = \frac{\chi^2}{\text{Min.}(k-1, l-1)}$$

Null hypothesis technique is used and level of significance is affixed at 0.05 level, that is, the null hypothesis will be accepted if the calculated value of chi-square falls below 0.05 level.

A. INFORMANT'S PARTICULAR (FEMALE)

1. General Informations

- Name
(skip if unwilling)

- Age : Year
- Place of birth : Rural Suburban Urban
- Marital Status : Unmarried Married Widower
Divorced Separated
Remarried
- Educational Status : Graduate Postgraduate More
- Occupational Status : Employed Professional
Unemployed

2. Statements and views about

a. EDUCATION

- Your educational qualification : Satisfactory Nonsatisfactory
Indifferent
- Interest in children's education : Adequate Inadequate Indifferent
- Affordable expenditure for Children's Education : Per month Rs.
- Expected level of qualification of your children : Graduate Postgraduate More
Others (Doctor/Engineer/CA etc.)
- Type of educational institution For your children (tick more than one, if necessary) : Bengali medium English medium
Residential
- Opinion about the qualification of Already growth up children : Satisfactory Nonsatisfactory
Indifferent

b. OCCUPATION

- Reason(s) for job status : Necessity Necessity and to attain social
Necessity and urge to apply in real life
- Type of employer's organization : Private Government Undertaking
Educational Self employed

- Essential qualification (for job) : SSC Graduate Postgraduate
Technical diploma Technical degree
- Job status (tick more than one, if Necessary) : Permanent Temporary Part time (solely) Part time (alongwith other)
- Pay scale : Less than Rs.1000 Rs.1001-3000
Rs.3001-5000 Rs.5001-10000
Above Rs.10000
- Place of work : Km
- Number of working days in a week : Days
- Working hours per day : Hours
- Job satisfaction : Satisfied Notsatisfied Indifferent
- Income : Satisfactory Dis-satisfactory
Indifferent
- Working environment : Problematic Relaxed Manageable
- Future prospect : Promising Inadequate Indifferent

B. RELATIONS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE INFORMANT

1. *Family*

- Type : Nuclear Joint
- Number of family member :
- Family background
 - Parental family : Liberal Conservative Moderate
 - Husband's family : Liberal Conservative Moderate

2. *Marriage*

- Type of marriage : Negotiation Own choice
- Age at the time of marriage : Your Husband's
- Opinion about dowry

<u>Cash</u> :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Kinds</u> :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

3. *Husband*

- Age : Year
- Place of birth : Rural Suburban Urban
- Educational qualification : Graduate Postgraduate More

- Occupational Status : Employed Professional
Self employed Unemployed
- Pay scale : Less than Rs 1000 Rs. 1001–3000
Rs. 3001 – 5000 Rs. 5001 – 10000
Above Rs. 10000
- Work status : Teaching Supervisory
Executive Managerial
- Number of working days in a week : Days
- Working hours per day : Hours
- Reason(s) for job : Financial necessity Necessity & to
attain social status Social status
Necessity and urge to apply in real life

INFORMANT'S FEELINGS AND REALIZATIONS

1. Are you happy with your Husband? : Yes No
2. What are the qualities your thought That your husband should possess When you were unmarried ?
(✓ more than one if necessary) : Broad minded Accommodative
Non – interfering Homely
Conservative Calculative
Methodical Romantic
3. Do you think that the image of a husband You had in your mind before marriage is Quite different from what your have in Reality? : Yes No
4. How often your husband complains that he is fed-up with you and cannot bear anymore if you do not change yourself ? : Not at all Rarely Very often
Indifferent
5. Do you have friends of opposite sex : Yes No
6. How many are intimate ? : Number(s)
7. How often do you meet them ? : Daily Once a week Twice a
week Once a month
Once a year or more

8. Are they /he common friend of both of you and your husband ? : Yes No
9. If 'no' in '8', does your husband know of such friendship ? : Yes No
10. If 'yes' in '9', does he approves it ? : Yes No Indifferent
11. Does such friendship create any tension in your married life ? : Yes No To some extent
12. If 'yes' or 'to some extent' in 11, then what is your reaction ? : Revolt Compromise Co-operative
13. Do you know about your husband's Friend(s) of opposite sex ? : Yes No
- If yes, : Number
14. Whether all of them belong to same Status of your husband or not ? : Yes No
15. Do you approve it ? : Yes No Indifferent
16. Does such friendship create any Tension in your married life : Yes No To some extent
17. If 'yes' or 'to some extent' in '16', Then what is her reaction ? : Revolt Compromise Cooperative
18. Do you consider yourself, as liberal and modern 'woman' ? : Yes No
19. Do you and your husband spent Adequate time for your family ?
- You : Yes No
- Husband : Yes No
20. In 'no' in '19', reasons for
- You : Job Friendship Social activities Adda
- Husband : Job Friendship Social activities Adda
21. Do you agree with the statement that the emotional pattern of relationship contributes towards cohesiveness of the family : Agree Disagree
22. What is your husband and inlaw's reaction about your taking up a job ?
- Husband : Gladly agreed Agreed Agreed because of economic reasons only Disagreed

- Inlaws : Gladly agreed Agreed
 Agreed because of economic reasons only
 Disagreed
23. Does your employment
 create any tension or disturbance
 in your family ? : Yes No Not so much
24. Does your husband act selfish when his
 Own recreation, however benign, is
 Concerned ? : Yes No
25. If 'yes' in '24' what is your reaction
 To such selfishness ? : Indifferent Approving
26. Do you value extra structural
 relationship ? : Yes No
27. Do you consider such relationship
 Essential for mental and physical health : Yes No May be but it
 create Pressure on other family
 members
28. Are you happy in your sex life ? : Yes No
29. When do you think one should have
 children ? : Immediately after marriage
 After a considerable gap
 Never
30. What is your desired number and sex
 Composition of children ? : Male Female
31. If you do have girl child, what future
 you desire for her ? : Married : Working
 Non-working
Unmarried : Working
 Non-working
32. Do your agree that children are essential
 For a strong marital bound ? : Agree Disagree
33. Do you approve family planning ? : Yes No
34. How do you rate yourself as a wife ? : 40% 60% 80%
 90% 100%

A. INFORMANT'S PARTICULAR (MALE)

1. General Informations

- Name
(skip if unwilling)
- Age : Year
- Place of birth : Rural Suburban Urban
- Marital Status : Unmarried Married Widower
Divorced Separated
Remarried
- Educational Status : Graduate Postgraduate More
- Occupational Status : Employed Professional
Unemployed

2. Statements and views about

a. EDUCATION

- Your educational qualification : Satisfactory Nonsatisfactory
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- Interest in children's education : Adequate Inadequate Indifferent
- Affordable expenditure for Children's Education : Per month Rs.
- Expected level of qualification of your children : Graduate Postgraduate More
Others (Doctor/Engineer/CA etc.)
- Type of educational institution For your children (tick more than one, if necessary) : Bengali medium English medium
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- Opinion about the qualification of Already growth up children : Satisfactory Nonsatisfactory
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b. OCCUPATION

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- Family background
 - Parental family : Liberal Conservative Moderate
 - Wife's family : Liberal Conservative Moderate

2. *Marriage*

- Type of marriage : Negotiation Own choice
- Age at the time of marriage : Your Husband's
- Opinion about dowry

<u>Cash</u> :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Kinds</u> :	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

3. *Wife*

- Age : Year
- Place of birth : Rural Suburban Urban
- Educational qualification : Graduate Postgraduate More

- Occupational Status : Employed Professional
Self employed Unemployed
- Pay scale : Less than Rs 1000 Rs. 1001-3000
Rs. 3001 – 5000 Rs. 5001 – 10000
Above Rs. 10000
- Work status : Teaching Supervisory
Executive Managerial
- Number of working days in a week : Days
- Working hours per day : Hours
- Reason(s) for job : Financial necessity Necessity & to
attain social status Social status
Necessity and urge to apply in real life

INFORMANT'S FEELINGS AND REALIZATIONS

1. Are you happy with your wife? : Yes No
2. What are the qualities your thought
That your wife should possess
When you were unmarried ?
(✓ more than one if necessary) : Broad minded Accommodative
Non – interfering Homely
Conservative Calculative
Methodical Romantic
3. Do you think that the image of a wife
You had in your mind before marriage
is Quite different from what your have in
Reality? : Yes No
4. How often your wife complains
that she is fed-up with you and cannot
bear anymore if you do not change
yourself ? : Not at all Rarely Very often
Indifferent
5. Do you have friends of opposite : Yes No
sex
6. How many are intimate ? : Number(s)
7. How often do you meet them ? : Daily Once a week Twice a
week Once a month
Once a year or more

8. Are they /she common friend of both of you and your wife ? : Yes No
9. If 'no' in '8', does your wife known of such friendship ? : Yes No
10. If 'yes' in '9', does he approves it ? : Yes No Indifferent
11. Does such friendship create any tension in your married life ? : Yes No To some extent
12. If 'yes' or 'to some extent' in 11, then what is your reaction ? : Revolt Compromise Co-operative
13. Do you know about your wife Friend(s) of opposite sex ? : Yes No
- If yes, : Number
14. Whether all of them belong to same Status of your wife or not ? : Yes No
15. Do you approve it ? : Yes No Indifferent
16. Does such friendship create any Tension in your married life : Yes No To some extent
17. If 'yes' or 'to some extent' in '16', Then what is her reaction ? : Revolt Compromise Cooperative
18. Do you consider yourself, as liberal and modern 'man' ? : Yes No
19. Do you and your wife spent Adequate time for your family ?
- You : Yes No
- Wife : Yes No
20. In 'no' in '19', reasons for
- You : Job Friendship Social activities Adda
- Wife : Job Friendship Social activities Adda
21. Do you agree with the statement that the emotional pattern of relationship contributes towards cohesiveness of the family : Agree Disagree
22. What is your reaction to your wife's taking up a job ? : Gladly agreed Agreed Agreed because of economic reasons only Disagreed
23. Does your wife's employment create any tension or disturbance in your family ? : Yes No Not so much

24. Does your wife act selfish when his
Own recreation, however benign, is
Concerned ? : Yes No
25. If 'yes' in '24' what is your reaction
To such selfishness ? : Indifferent Approving
26. Do you value extra structural
relationship ? : Yes No
27. Do you consider such relationship
Essential for mental and physical health : Yes No May be but it
create Pressure on other family
members
28. Are you happy in your sex life ? : Yes No
29. When do you think one should have
children ? : Immediately after marriage
After a considerable gap
Never
30. What is your desired number and sex
Composition of children ? : Male Female
31. If you do have girl child, what future
you desire for her ? : Married : Working
Non-working
Unmarried : Working
Non-working
32. Do your agree that children are essential
For a strong marital bound ? : Agree Disagree
33. Do you approve family planning ? : Yes No
34. How do you rate yourself as a husband ? : 40% 60% 80%
90% 100%

ANALYSIS OF TABLES AND DIAGRAMS

Table : 7.1

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Distribution of Respondents by Age and Sex

Age (Years)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
18 - 30	4	2.44	10	7.35
31 - 40	40	24.39	50	36.77
41 - 50	74	45.12	46	33.82
51 - 60	38	23.17	24	17.65
61 and above	8	4.88	6	4.41
ALL	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.1 indicates that the percentage of male and female respondents within the age interval 18 - 40 years are, respectively, 26.83 and 44.12 whereas, the corresponding figures for the age interval 41 years and above are 73.17 and 55.88. It appears from the table that work participation rate among younger women is higher in comparison to their older counterparts. It is equally possible that the younger women are more responsive than the older group of women. This possibility arises out of the fact that the reply of the mailed questionnaires was not upto the level of expectation.

Table : 7.2

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Educational Status of Respondents

Level of Education	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Graduate	62	37.80	40	29.41
Post-graduate	52	31.70	58	42.64
More	46	28.05	34	25.00
Indifferent	4	2.45	4	2.95
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.2 indicates the percentage of respondents in different levels of educational achievements. 59.75% of the male respondents belong to the group of higher educational level of post-graduates and more. For the females the figure is 67.64. The study includes educated persons only and the minimum level of education is fixed at the level of graduation.

Table : 7.3

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Parental Family Background of the Respondents

Family Background	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Liberal	52	31.71	50	36.76
Conservative	38	23.17	26	19.12
Moderate	72	43.90	56	41.17
Indifferent	2	1.22	4	2.95
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.3 shows the nature of parental family backgrounds of the respondents. The types vary from conservative, moderate to the liberal ones. Majority of the respondents are from moderate and liberal types as compared to the conservative one 75.61 percent of the males and 77.93 of the females belong to moderate to liberal forms while, the corresponding figures in conservative type indicate comparative low percentage as 23.17 and 19.12, respectively.

Table : 7.4

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

**Expectation of Respondents about the Level of
Qualifications for their Children**

Level of Qualification	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Graduate	8	4.87	2	1.47
Post-graduate	34	20.74	30	22.06
More	56	34.15	32	23.53
Others (Doctors, Engineers, CA etc.)	52	31.70	56	41.17
Indifferent	14	8.54	16	11.76
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.4 shows the pattern of distribution of the respondents so far their aspirations about childrens' education are concerned. The level of aspiration remains high irrespective of their personal qualifications, family background and income status. 86.59 percent of the male respondents and 86.76 percent of female respondents want post-graduate or even higher level of education for their children.

Table : 7.5

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Distribution of the Respondents as per the Family Type

Family Type	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Nuclear	102	62.19	94	69.11
Joint	58	35.37	40	29.42
Indifferent	4	2.44	2	1.47
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.5 shows the pattern of distribution of the respondents in between the family-types (Nuclear family and Joint family). 62.19 percent of the male respondents have Nuclear-family set-up whereas, only 35.37 percent of them belong to joint-families. The corresponding figures for the women are respectively, 69.11 and 29.42. It appears that although the small family norm is dominating the urban areas, traditional joint family set-up has its utility in as much as one third of the sample population.

Table : 7.6

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Distance of work-place from Residence of the Respondents

Distance (in K.M.)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
1 - 10	68	41.46	78	57.36
11 - 20	46	28.05	38	27.94
21 - 30	16	9.76	2	1.47
30 - 40	0	0	0	0
41 - 50	0	0	0	0
51 and above	6	3.66	0	0
Indifferent	28	17.07	18	13.23
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.6 represents the distance of residence of the working individuals from their work places. Majority of the respondents reside within 20 K.M. of distance from their work places. There is no significant difference between the two categories in this regard, except for slight female preponderance in the shorter distance range. 69.51 percent of males and 85.30 percent of females fall within the group 1 to 20 k.m.

Table : 7.7

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Distribution of Respondents by Marriage - Type

Marriage Type	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Negotiated Marriage	86	52.43	52	38.23
Self-choice/ Romantic Marriage	74	45.14	80	58.82
Indifferent	4	2.43	4	2.95
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.7 indicates the distribution of the respondents so far as the principle of selection of spouse is concerned. The selection is either through family negotiation or by self-choice. In the first case the settlement is primarily between the households. This type is rather a rule of (caste, gotra etc. emphasizing) closed system. In second place, there are the romantic marriages where the partners are selected from an infinite range of eligibles. The sample population of this study includes both the types of marriage. The male respondents do not differ significantly between the two types; there being a slight higher figure in the negotiated type. Among the female respondents, there is a distinct trend

towards self-choice (58.82 percent) as compared to the negotiated one (38.23 percent).

Table : 7.8

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Reasons for Taking up Job

Reasons for Job	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Necessity (financial)	64	39.03	18	13.23
Necessity & Social Status	24	14.63	14	10.29
Necessity and urge to put to use one's capability	56	34.15	74	54.42
Indifferent	20	12.19	30	22.06
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.8 portrays a comparative picture between males and females in respect of their rationale behind their employment. For the males, the predominant responses go in favour of necessity along with the desire to attain social status and urge to put to use one's capability. The figures are, respectively, 39.03, 14.63 and 34.15. On the contrary, for females, majority opine in favour of necessity and urge to put to use one's capability (54.42 per cent). Financial consideration alone seems to be major reason for only 13.23 percent of women

respondents. Urban middle class educated women appear self-conscious enough to put to use their potentialities in productive labour market.

Table : 7.9

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Number of Respondents Having Friends of Opposite Sex

Replies (Affirmation/ Negation)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	110	67.08	94	69.12
No	46	28.04	34	25.00
Indifferent	8	4.88	8	5.88
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.9 shows the pattern of distribution of respondents who have heterosexual friendships. 67.08 percent of males and 69.12 percent females reply in affirmation. The urban educated working spouses appear to resemble each other in their wider range of non-kin relationships in work places.

Table : 7.10

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Pattern of Distribution of Respondents as per the Number of Intimate Friends of Opposite Sex

Number of Person(s)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
1	14	8.55	12	8.82
2	26	15.85	18	13.23
3	18	10.98	8	5.88
4	8	4.88	14	10.29
5	10	6.09	10	7.35
6 and above	6	3.65	14	10.29
Indifferent	82	50.00	60	44.14
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.10 shows the distribution of respondents as per the number of intimate heterosexual friends. Majority of the respondents, irrespective of sex difference, remain indifferent about this question. The figures are 50.00 for males and 44.14 for females. This may be a result of feeling inhibition in exposing one's intimate personal feelings. The rest of the respondents reply in definite manner. There seems no significant difference in the pattern of responses between the

two categories. The number (of such friends) vary from one to more.

Table : 7.11

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

**Respondents Awareness of their spouses' Friends of
Opposite sex**

Replies (Affirmation / Negation)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	56	34.15	90	66.18
No	86	52.43	28	20.58
Indifferent	22	13.42	18	13.24
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table : 7.12

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

**Respondent's Attitude Towards their Partners' Friends of
Opposite Sex**

Replies (Affirmation/ Negation)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	48	29.26	64	47.06
No	6	3.66	12	8.83
Indifferent	110	67.08	60	44.11
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.11 records the awareness of and Table 7.12 records the attitude towards the partners' friends of opposite sex. Higher percentage of the female respondents seem to be aware of their partner's friend(s) of opposite sex (66.18), and accept it (47.06). Attitude of indifference to direct questions about one's personal life needs to be mentioned as the percentages are quite high in, both, males and females.

Table : 7.13

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

Effect of Intimate Heterosexual Friendships of Partners on Marriage Relationships

Effect (Tension)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	6	3.66	8	5.88
No	60	36.58	82	60.29
Indifferent	98	59.76	46	33.83
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.13 shows the effect, if any, of intimate heterosexual friendships of the partners on marriage-relationships. Male responses are fewer (40.24). Majority of those who responded to the question negated the possibility of tension in their married life. 60.29 percent of females negated any such

possibility. Corresponding figure for males is 36.58. 59.76 percent of males and 33.83 percent of females show indifference to the question.

Table : 7.14

Male = 164 Nos.

Female = 136 Nos.

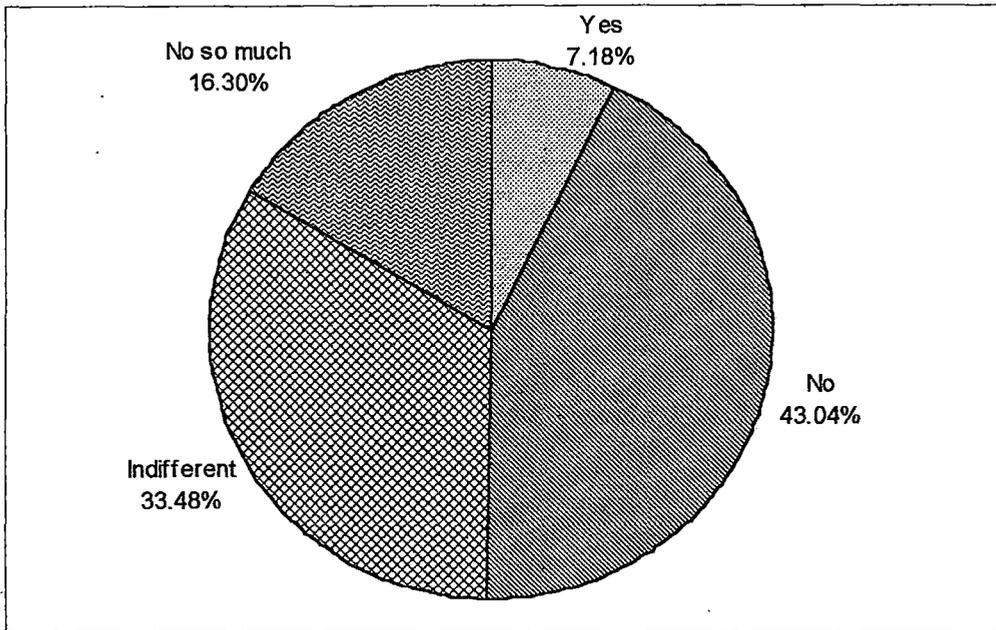
The Necessity of Children for a strong Marital Bond as observed by the Respondents

Replies (In affirmation /Negation)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	138	84.15	120	88.24
Disagree	10	6.09	8	5.88
Indifferent	16	9.76	8	5.88
All	164	100.00	136	100.00

Table 7.14 indicates that majority of the respondents consider children as essential for strong marital bond. 84.15 percent of males and 88.24% of females are in agreement with the proposition. It can be assumed that the work, for both the spouses, is not a hindrance for a stable family life. Although children essentially imply more responsibilities, financial and physical, even then children are welcomed in the families.

Diagram 7.1. Tension due to the working status of women

Husband = 164 Nos.



Wives = 136 Nos.

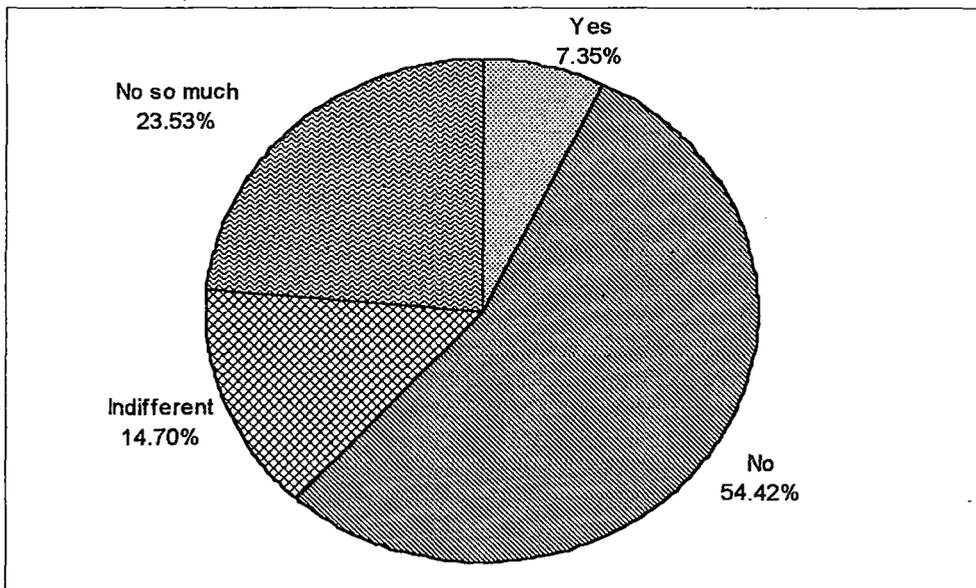


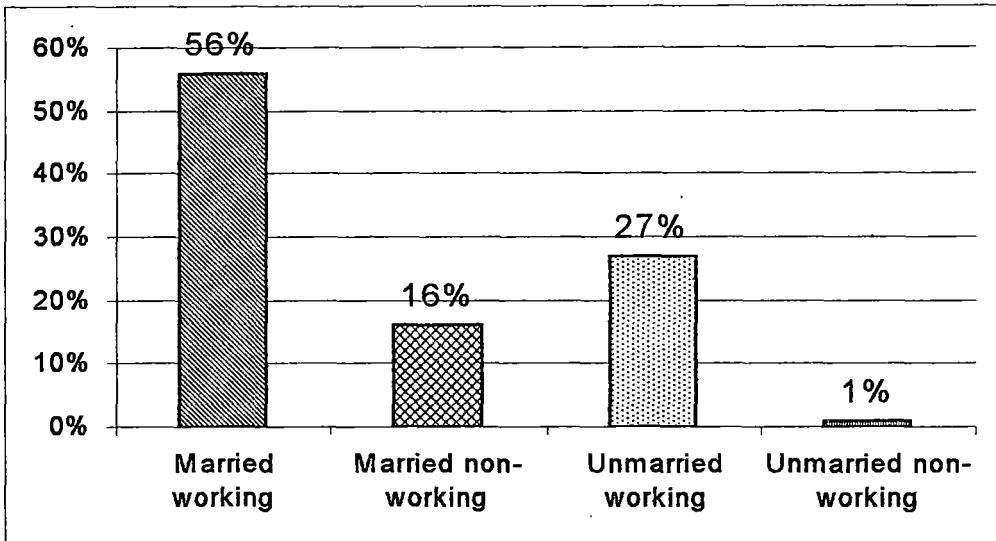
Diagram : 7.1

Diagram No. 7.1 portrays the possibility of tension, if any, in married relationship due to the working status of women. Only 7.18 percent of the husbands and 7.35 percent of the wives perceive tension in marriage. Majority of the respondents negate such possibility. It may be inferred that women's working status is being accommodated within the structural relationships.

Diagram No. 7.2

Desired Future for Girl Child

FEMALE



MALE

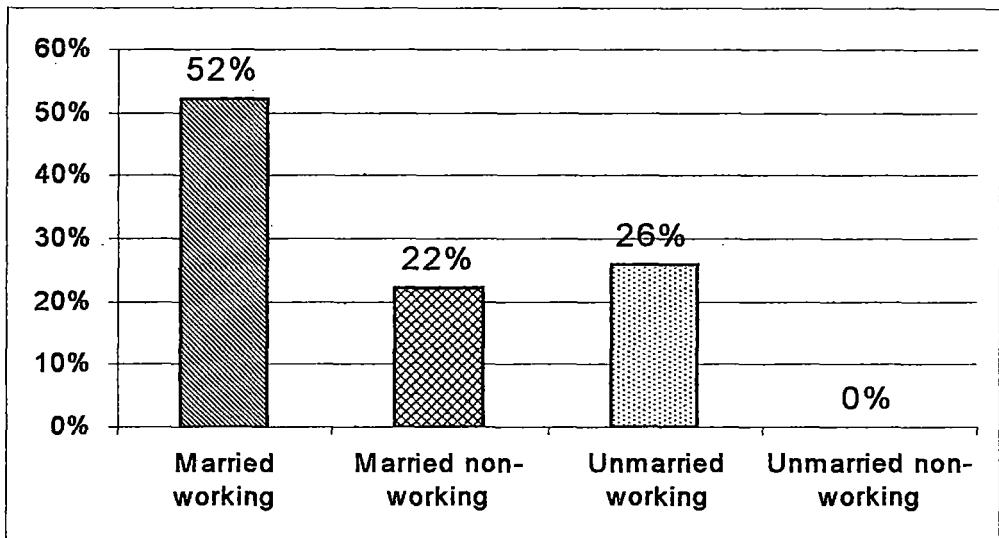
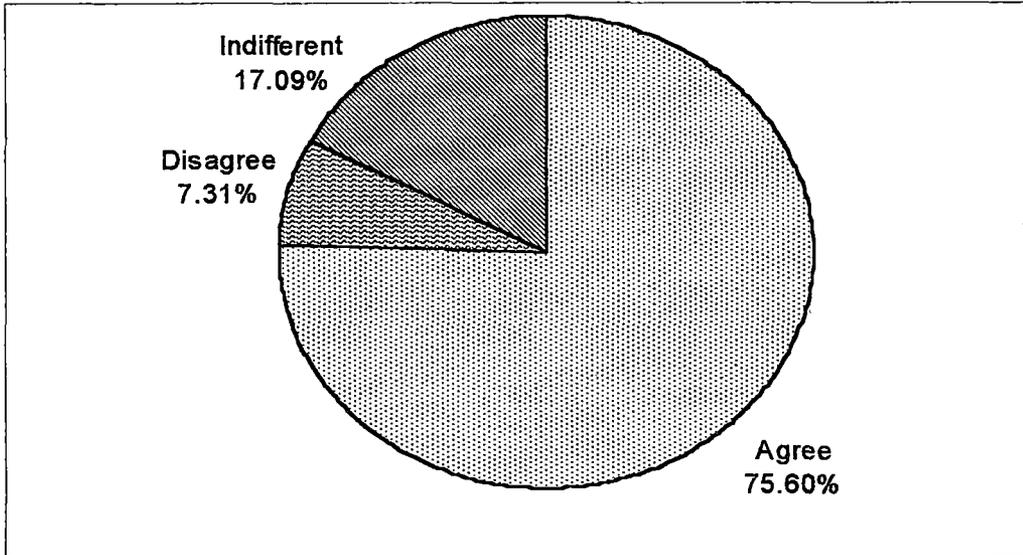


Diagram no. 7.2 shows the opinion about the future of girl child. It is worth mentioning that almost all respondents answered the question in some definite manner. Majority responded in favour of working status. The status of marriage (without work) remains the primary consideration for 16% female and 22% of the male respondents. The future trend definitely goes in favour of married working women.

Diagram : 7.3 Answer to the question - "Do You Agree with the Statement that the Emotional Pattern of Relationships Contributes towards Cohesiveness of the Family

MALE



FEMALE

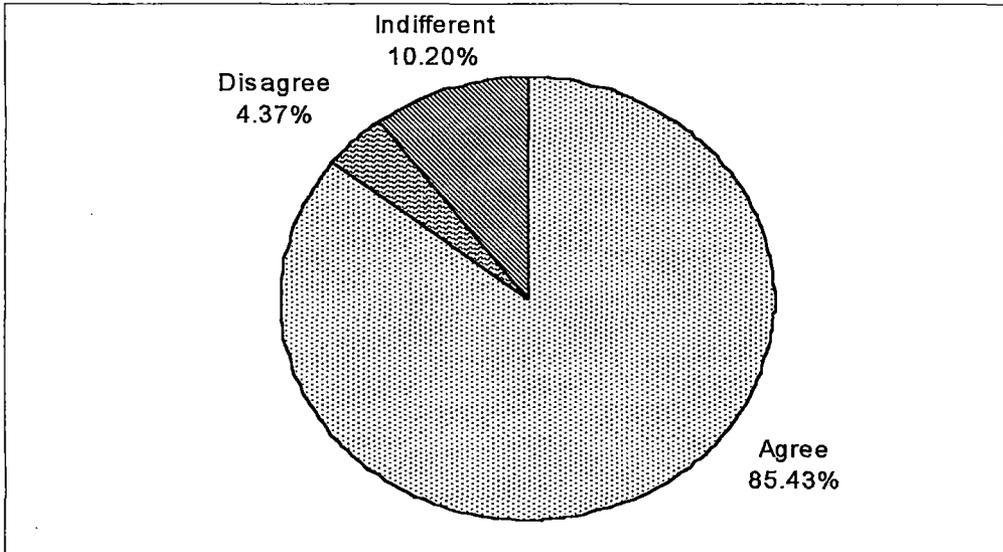
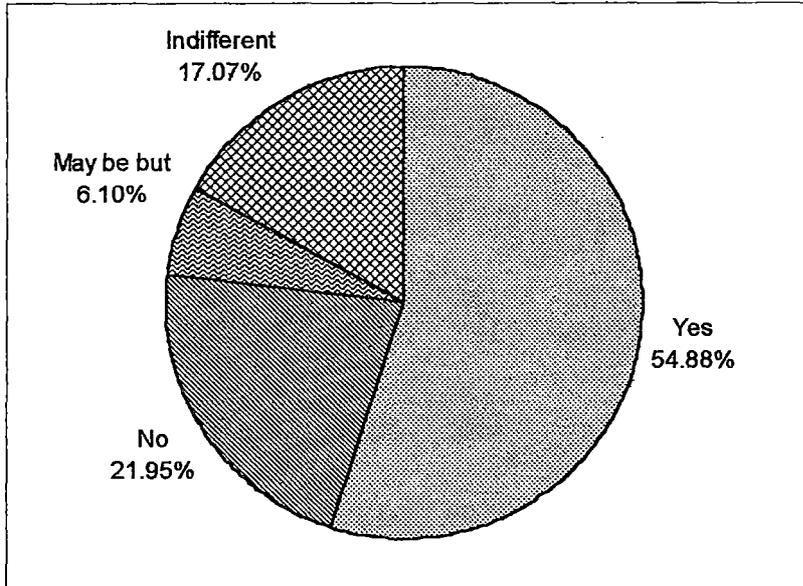


Diagram No. : 7.4. Answer to the Question - 'Do you Consider Extra Structural Relationships as Essential for Mental and Physical Health?'

MALE



FEMALE

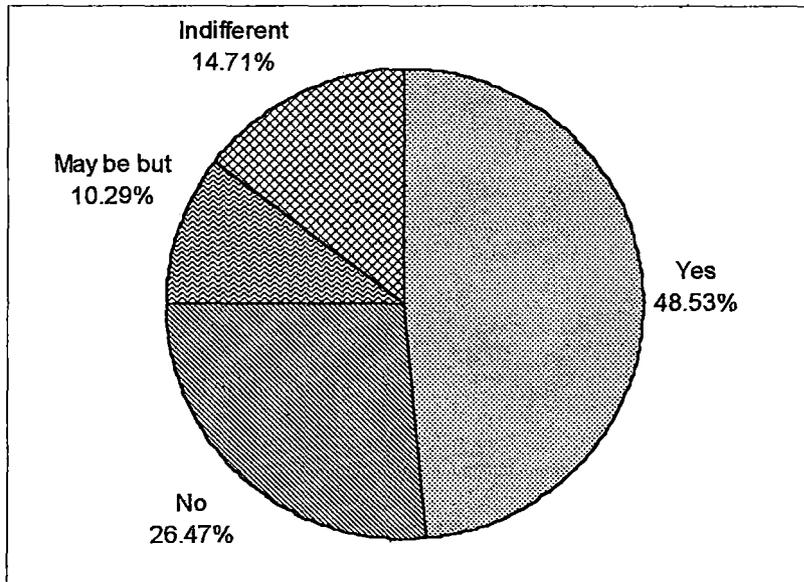


Diagram - 7.03 presents the picture whereby majority of the working spouses agree with the statement that emotional pattern of relationships contributes towards the cohesiveness of the family.

Diagram - 7.04 shows the trend of opinion about the necessity of extra structural relationships. 54.88 percent of the males and 48.53 percent of the females reply favourably. 6.10% of males and 10.29% of females express the necessity of such relationships, but at the same time skeptic about it. They feel that such relationships may create tension in marriage relationship.

Diagram : 7.05. Family background of the respondents and their answers to the question – ‘Do you consider extra-structural relationships essential for mental and physical health?’

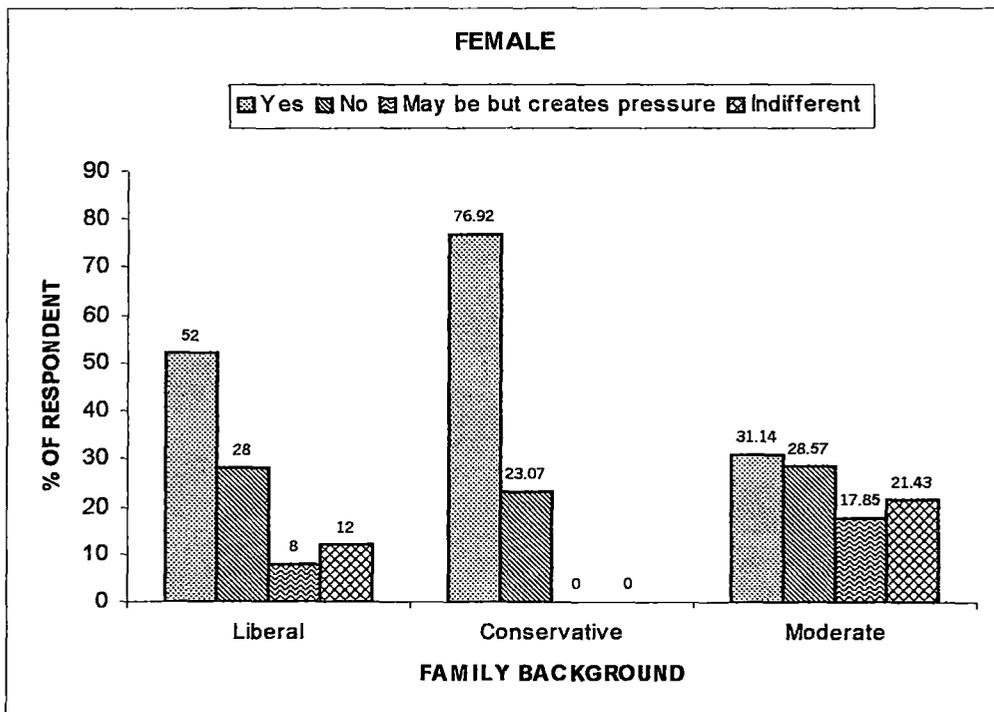
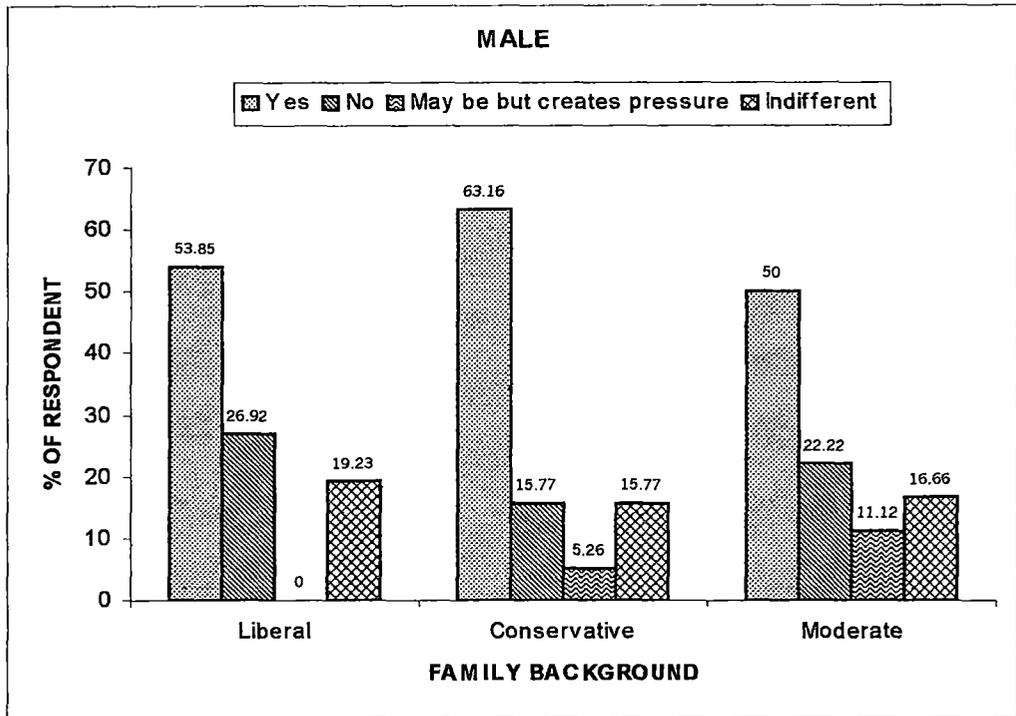


Diagram : 7.05 shows the responses about the necessity of extrastructural relationships as felt by individuals coming from different family backgrounds. Those who come from conservative atmosphere seems to show more favourably inclined to the view. The overall picture shows a favourable trend with some indications towards the pressure created by the structure.

Diagram : 7.06 refers to the responses of people coming from different educational levels.

Diagram : 7.07. Answer to the question - 'Do you value extra structural relationship?'

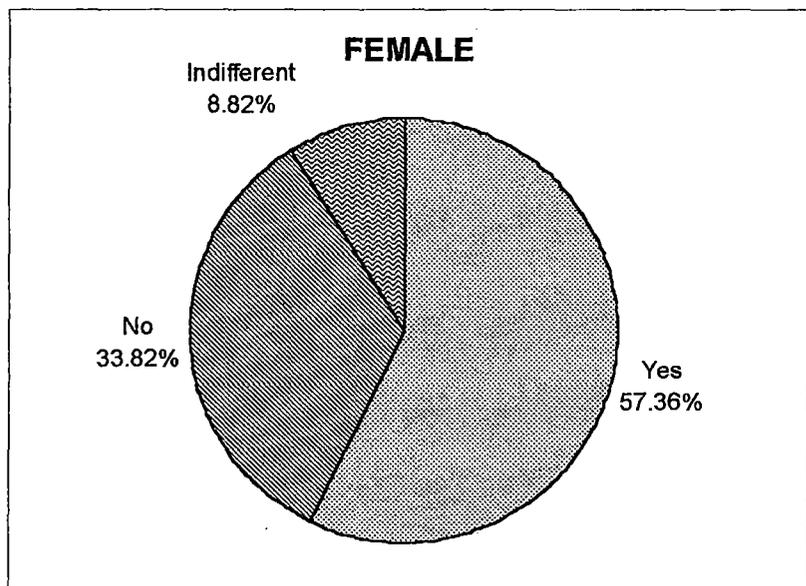
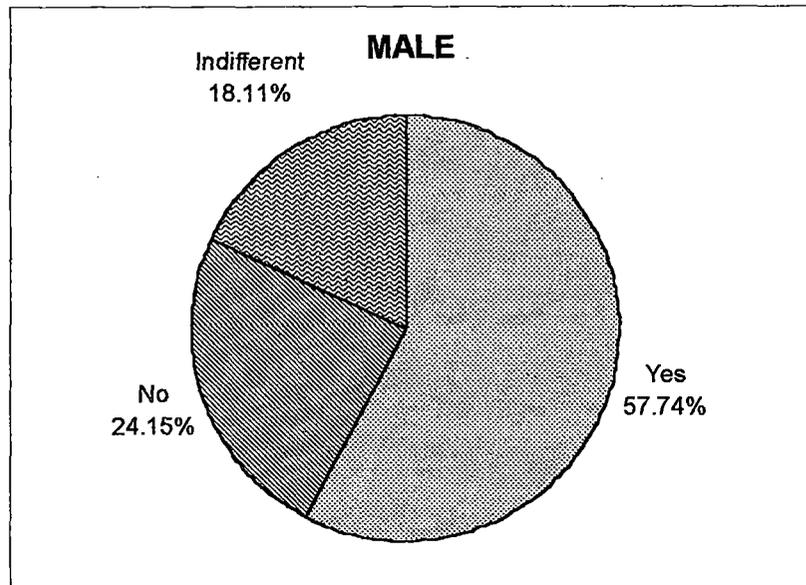


Diagram : 7.07 reflects the distribution of the sample population into groups - favourable and unfavourable - in so far as they value the extra-structural relationships. There seems no significant difference in percentages of male and female respondents who have responded favourably. The figures are 57.74 and 57.36 respectively. 42.26 percent of male and 42.64 percent of the female responses are either unfavourable or remain indifferent.

Tables VIIA, VIIB and VIIC show the degree of attitude towards extra-structural relationship and its effect on cohesiveness of family.

Thurstone (1946) defined attitude as the "degree of positive or negative effect associated with some psychological object". Any symbol, phrase, slogan, persons, institutions ideal or ideas towards which people can differ with respect to positive or negative effect is considered by Thurstone as a psychological object. In this particular study, the reaction of individual respondent towards extra-structural relationship is measured with a view to ascertain the nature of its association with family bondage. It is measured by using Likert's scale attitude measurement. Opinions of respondents about some statements relating to extra-structural relationships have been collected. Against each item there are scale points. The design of the scale points are as follows : strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree with weights 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively for favourable statements and reverse is the sequence of weights for the unfavourable statements. Since the middle category of "undecided" in Likert's scale serves as a scope to escape for, a slightly unwilling respondents (Chattopadhyay, 1963) has not been considered in this study. Level of attitude of the individual respondent is determined on the basis of the attitude scores.

Chi-square analysis is done by dividing the respondents into four groups. Namely, low, middle, high and very high. Respondents with score falling below the 25 percentile, between 25 and 50 percentile, between 50 and 75 percentile and above 75 percentile are considered to have respectively

low, middle, high and very high attitude towards extra-structural relationship. As regards the degree of cohesiveness the respondents are again divided into two groups namely, low and high degree of cohesiveness by calculating the median value of the scores. Respondents with score falling below 50 are considered to have low and respondents above 50 have high cohesiveness of the families.

A contingency table is constructed Chi-square value is computed to assess the degree of association. Result obtained shows a high probability (between .05 and .02). The null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative which states that there is a positive relation between extra-structural relationship and cohesiveness of the family, is accepted.

Table-VIIA : Relationship Between Attitude Towards Extra-Structural Relations and Cohesiveness of the Family for Female (Respondents by cross classifying two nominal scale variables with the help of Chi Square Test).

Cohesiveness \ Attitude	Low Upto 23	High Above 23	Total
Low 0 - 7	28 (77.77)	8 (22.23)	36
Middle 8 - 16	18 (42.85)	24 (57.15)	42
High 17 - 20	8 (33.33)	16 (68.66)	24
Very high 21 & above	12 (35.29)	22 (64.21)	34
Total	66 (48.52)	70 (51.48)	136

$$\chi^2 = 8.728; \text{ d.f} = 3$$

Cramer's Coefficient of Association = 0.0642.

Table VIIA shows that the proportions of the female respondents with low, middle, high and very high degree of favourable attitude towards extra-structural relationship and belonging to the low degree of cohesiveness are respectively, 77.77, 42.85, 33.33 and 35.29 and the corresponding figures for the high degree of cohesiveness are 22.23, 57.15, 68.66 and 64.71. The table, thus, indicates a direct relationship between attitude towards extra-structural relations and degree cohesiveness of the family. The calculated value of Chi-square ($\chi^2 = 8.728; \text{ d.f} = 3$) being significant to accept, the null-hypothesis is rejected and our alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Table-VIIB : Relationship Between Attitude Towards Extra-Structural Relations and Cohesiveness of the Family for male (Respondents by cross classifying two nominal scale variables with the help of Chi Square Test).

Cohesiveness Attitude	Low Upto 23	High Above 23	Total
Low upto 00	34 (65.38)	18 (34.62)	52
Middle upto 12	34 (70.83)	14 (29.17)	48
High upto 19	10 (33.33)	20 (66.66)	30
Very high above 19	12 (35.29)	22 (64.71)	34
Total	90 (54.87)	74 (45.13)	164

$$\chi^2 = 8.857; \text{ d.f} = 3$$

Cramer's Coefficient of Association = 0.0540.

Table VIIB shows that the proportions of the male respondents with low, middle, high and very high degree of favourable attitude towards extra-structural relationship and belonging to the low degree of cohesiveness are respectively, 68.38, 70.83, 33.33, and 35.29 and the corresponding figures for the high degree of cohesiveness are 34.62, 29.17, 66.66 and 64.71. The table, thus, indicates a direct relationship between attitude towards extra-structural relations and degree cohesiveness of the family. The calculated value of Chi-square ($\chi^2 = 8.857; \text{ d.f} = 3$) being significant to accept, the null-hypothesis is rejected and our alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Table-VIIC : Relationship Between Attitude Towards Extra-Structural Relations and Cohesiveness of the Family (for both male and female sample by cross classifying two nominal scale variables with the help of Chi Square Test).

Cohesiveness \ Attitude	Low Upto 23	High Above 23	Total
Low 0 - 6	60 (69.76)	26 (30.24)	86
Middle 7 - 13	40 (60.60)	26 (39.40)	66
High 14 - 20	40 (45.45)	48 (54.55)	88
Very high 21 & above	24 (40.00)	36 (60.00)	60
Total	164 (54.66)	136 (45.34)	300

$$\chi^2 = 8.728; \text{ d.f} = 3$$

Cramer's Coefficient of Association = 0.0642.

Table VIIC shows that the proportions of both male and female respondents with low, middle, high and very high degree of favourable attitude towards extra-structural relationship and belonging to the low degree of cohesiveness are respectively, 69.76, 60.60, 45.45 and 40.00 and the corresponding figures for the high degree of cohesiveness are 30.25, 39.40, 54.55 and 60.00. The table, thus, indicates a direct relationship between attitude towards extra-structural relations and degree cohesiveness of the family. The calculated value of Chi-square ($\chi^2 = 8.316; \text{ d.f} = 3$) being significant to accept, the null-hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Non-kin relationship of spouses, arising out of workplace conditions, helps in maintaining the cohesiveness within the family.

Statistical Data from 1991 Census - A bird's eye view

INDIA

Population	84.63 crores
Females	40.71 crores
Males	43.92 crores
Sex Ratio (Number of females per 1000 Males)	927
Literacy Rate	52%
Female Literacy	39%

WEST BENGAL

Population	68077965
Males	35510633
Females	32567332
Sex Ratio (Number of females per 1000 Males)	917
Literacy Rate (Rate in % excluding Age Group 0 - 6)	57.7
Female Literacy	46.57%

KOLKATA

Population	4399819
Males	2445328
Females	1954491
Sex Ratio (Number of Females per 1000 males)	799
Literacy Rate (Rate in % excluding Age Group 0 - 6)	77.61%
Female Literacy	75.09%
Male Literacy	91.94%
Marital status for Female Population	47.9%
Marital status for Male Population	47.5%
Female Work Participation Rate	1971 - 5.66% 1981 - 6.1% 1991 - 6.91%

Sources : (1) Rastriya Mahila Ayog National Commission for Women.
(2) Director of Census operations, West Bengal.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Marriage and family, is undoubtedly one of the most prevalent and powerful institutions of society throughout the history of civilizations. It emerged and formed the core of the future society as the early wandering nomads were trying to settle down. The institution of marriage evolved, even later, to give some legal sanction to the families. With the passage of time changes occurred in its structure and functions.

From the very early of the family forms there was the trend of women-folk remaining housebound to look after the household and children, and to provide comfort to husbands. During its long existence changes occurred in diverse areas of social life, but the role of women in the family did not change perceptibly as long as the male partner remained the sole bread earner. The role of the housewife was glorified, but it transpired to be monotonous to the concerned person (housewife) herself. The prolonged homebound life produced boredom and unhappiness in the psyche of the women partners of the family.

In twentieth century there was one distinct change in the scenario. The wives and mothers in the family actively started sharing the provider's role. Increasing proportion of women took initiative in finding out jobs outside home. In the later half of the century, the proportion of married working women spending a lot of time outside the confinements of family and

having a wider world of relationships at their workplaces definitely showed an upward swing.

During the 1950s and 1960s, sociologists assumed that the family was a key social institution and a fundamental element of social structure. In the 1960s, however, there were radical criticisms.

The meaning of the family was also changing. Pre-industrial families were both producers and consumers, but after Industrial revolution the productive role of the family was gradually withdrawn and it remained primarily as the consuming unit.

Increasing participation of married women in labour market, along with much higher rates of unemployment that were prevalent in early twentieth century, has eroded the norm of family - dependence on the sole male bread winner. The isolated housewife is now much rare than the women struggling to cope with the double shift of paid and domestic work. A trend of late marriage, particularly for the women folk, had developed during the later half of the twentieth century.

There had been contradictory claims and statistical data concerning the necessity of family. Nevertheless, one thing is certain that the family has changed conceptually and

physically, and is still in a state of change causing confusion and shock for its members. It is mostly the female partners of the family whose role has been changed perceptibly. A person who was destined to serve the family (though unpaid), gradually started to realize her own potentiality. She came to understand and appreciate the values of freedom and raised her voice of protest.

There was resistance, oppression and reluctance to start with, from the male partners of marriage. But expectations and behaviour did change though slowly and partially.

Now, the present study attempts to find out the roles played by educated middle class spouses of an urban area, where both the spouses are professionally engaged. How do the husband and the wife, when both are professionally busy, react to the increasing occurrence of extra-familial relationships and obligations ?

Family-structure in India is presumed to be dominated by traditional family norms and values, restricting the freedom of women. Now, the partially changed and further changing family norms and values, the participation of women folk in the outside world of productive employment, widening of circle of relationships beyond family particularly for women members — these and others are some of the issues for attention of sociological study. How all these are affecting the structural relationship of the family ? How is the structure

reacting ? Is it changing ? If so, in which way ? Will the family be strengthened or will it wither away ? Questions such as these are meant to be considered here with reference to family relationship in the metropolitan city of Kolkata.

The findings which surface by an analysis of the tables are as follows —

1. The participation of women in the labour-force in the organized sector is still very low, but there is a definite upward trend in this respect.
2. Desire for children is positively strong among the working spouses. Aspiration for higher education of children is also a common phenomenon among the partners in marriage. Their aspiration is irrespective of their own educational, economic and familial backgrounds.
3. In the metropolitan set-up, majority of the families are of the nuclear type. The rest are joint-families or extended - nuclear ones. The latter types are more helpful for the working spouses, as those families provide a secure atmosphere for the children at home during the absence of both the parents.
4. There is a definite preference for work-place near residence, and the reason obviously seems to be saving more time for family-affairs.
5. As to the principle of selection of spouse, women definitely show inclination towards self-choice.

6. The primary reason for taking up jobs is definitely financial. But for the women-folk, realization of self-potentiality is also equally important. They appear to be confident about their status as individuals. They also show an attitude of openness while responding to the research questionnaire.
7. Widening of non-kin acquaintance is also very much prevalent in urban social set-up. Friends of opposite sex are common for both the categories. At least there is no significant antagonism of women partners in the majority of cases. In this respect, there is some reservation in most of the male members. About the question of having intimate friends of opposite sex, there is lack of forthright answer in many cases. It is assumed that there are some inhibitions and also resistance to direct queries for disclosing one's intimate feeling in this regard.
8. In the question of tension arising out of partners having intimate friends of opposite sex, 50% of the male respondents did not answer. Female respondents are more outspoken and there is a definite inclination towards negation of any tension.
9. Most of the husbands and wives denied the possibility of tension in marriage-relationship arising out of wives' participation in paid labour market outside home.
10. Parents' opinion about the prospect of their girl child goes in favour of working status. They want the

future of their daughters as to be secure enough as working-wives, i.e., a professional career along with matrimonial relationships.

Statistical methods, used to assess the impact of extra-structural relationships on the family, also lead to the view that where both husband and wife in a family-unit work outside the home, this does not necessarily imply any insurmountable difficulty or dislocation or rupture in their domestic relationship. This research also indicates changes in morality and values of the family, giving rise to a flexible accommodative and compliant model and leading to an enhanced durability of marriage-partnership. With its new structural existence, the family is much less oppressive, resulting in more scope of individual freedom for both the partners — giving rise to a form of joint venture with emphasis on equality. Thus it seems evident that the empirical findings on the subject corroborate the theoretical judgements on it.

Urban families having working-wives are in no way less efficiently run than the families in which wives are not having profession out-side homes. On the contrary, the first type means less frustration on the part of the woman and more organization in routine household chores. The professional world works as an outlet for monotony and boredom. The meaning of leisure is somewhat different for the families having working spouses, and it is utilized more efficiently. It

has been found that as married women have taken on more and more hours of paid employment, they have been partially successful in getting their husbands to assume greater role in necessary home making duties, including child care. Married couples of urban centres, where both the spouses are working, have less time to brood and fight over routine household problems. They concentrate more on the solutions of the problems rather than on long discussions on them. To adjust in various situations, arising out of different family necessities, is a trend among these couples.

Thus, professional life tends to stabilize the family life of the couples to a certain extent. It was thought that women, as members of paid labour force, were economically independent and would be less eager to preserve their marital relationships at the cost of themselves. But, present study finds the case otherwise. The working woman is quite stable in both stances of her existence — a woman and a professional.