CHAPTER -5

DISCUSSION

The Discussions made in this chapter may be read with reference to the tables mentioned in chapter 4. Each of the tables in chapter 4 is explained and whatever necessary relevant references are cited.

Note:- The term "Small family" includes the one child and small families. While "large family" includes the medium sized and large families, unless specified otherwise.

Table No.6

1. Extroversion:-

It was expected that the larger the family greater will be the amount of the interactions between the members, on the other hand, smaller the family lesser is the amount of the contact among the family members.

Hence larger families are likely to be inclined towards extraversion and the smaller family towards introversion. However, our results are quite opposite. In this regard it may be stated that, whether the family is big or small does not matter, what is important is how much and in what manner interaction takes place between the members. The modern day middle class parents are more conscious of their children’s personality development and are more careful to see
the versatile development of the children. Therefore, they provide more opportunities to interact with others under different pretexts like, participation in competitions, in acting, in child dramas, games and so on.

Larger families are mainly found in rural areas and traditionally there is a distance and awe about the elder members of the family, resulting into less freedom of expression in the household. This may account for this discrepancy in results. Offner, (1960) found that effects of family size on personality patterns of children. At that time situation may be different but nowadays interactions among family members may be important than family size.

2) Psychoticism:

The term Psychoticism as indicated by Eysenck is not a sign of abnormality but a dimension of personality which indicates tough mindedness of the person. By definition tough mindedness means strong, robust and somewhat stubborn personality. Although too much tough mindedness is not desirable, certain amount of tough mindedness is certainly beneficial to the person. Since it shows the strength of his personality.

The post hoc comparison shows higher mean differences in a single child family as compared to other sizes family. Even small size families showed greater mean. This means children from the smaller families are comparatively more tough-minded than the larger families. In small families the number of members under the single roof is small and hence less interactions among the members, one or both parents
are outside home most of the time as earning members. Left to their resources without little support these children gradually become more independent, become more independent, become more hard in their attitudes resulting into tough-mindedness. In case of larger families there is a greater social support, because the number of members is greater. This results into more social support to each others, a soft attitude towards other members. Thus they are less tough-minded as compared to smaller family.

3. Neuroticism:

The term neuroticism as used by Eysenck is not a pathological in nature but expresses an emotional dimension of personality. The results showed that members of the smaller families show greater emotionality as compared to the members of larger families. This is again surprising. One may expect a tough minded person to be less emotional and a soft minded person to be more emotional. Our results show something different. Children from smaller families are not only tough-minded but also more emotional. How this contradiction be resolved? It is not necessary that the tough-minded person be unemotional or less emotional. Tough-mindedness is a way of behaving in different situations, while emotionality is a way of expressing the feelings. In smaller families due to the smaller number of members the children are less restrained in the expression of their emotions, because they feel that their emotional behavior will be properly reciprocated. In larger families due to the pressure of elders, children are likely to restrain their expression of emotions and therefore may appear to be less emotional. This contradiction seems to be very
interesting in the sense that, it discounts the misconception of the relationship between the tough-mindedness and emotionality. Bossard & Boll, (1966) found that family relationship reinforces effect of emotional tie.

* Regarding security –insecurity Sen gupta & Chakrawarty, Shah & Guha (1985) also not found the significant differences between joint and nuclear families with respect to behavior as we as insecurity feeling.

**Table No. 7 & 8**

1) Rejecting:

The children in larger families appeared to feel more rejected by their parents as compared to smaller families. The term itself is misleading which according to manual says “the disdainful and in outright refusal of the child”. This is what the child feels. The child feels that the father and mother are ‘Rejecting’ him. Actually rejecting is a very serious term indicating complete disinterest and total refusal of the child. In any normal family no parent is neglectful of his or her child (there may be certain exceptions). Then why children feel rejected in this sample? In smaller families the total number of members is very small. Therefore parents willingly or unwillingly must pay attention to their children. Parents are under social pressure to look after their children properly. Similarly due to the limited number of members parents can equally decide their attention among their children. Therefore, they feel less rejected. The picture is opposite in larger families. The number of children is more along with other
dependents, therefore attention cannot be concentrated on a small group of children. Therefore children feel that they are not properly attended to and that is why they feel 'rejected'.

2) Object punishment

Object punishment is a physical punishment which includes spanking, beating, locking in a room, depriving from favorite objects like toys, putting restrictions on the movements of the child etc. Our results show that this form of punishment is often used by medium sized family and less by other type of families. Thus there are two extremes. That is, very small families and very big families rarely use object punishment while medium sized family uses it often.

In small families the parents are more loving, affectionate and caring of their children. They do not want to hurt the child physically or mentally. If they do punish the child they see him sulking, whimpering or some time suffocating and in extreme cases may become feverish. These situations are extremely painful for the parents. They cannot bear the sight and therefore as far as possible they avoid physical punishment. In larger families the elder members like uncles, grand parents, aunts try to shield the child from the physical outbursts from the head of the family. They advise the head of the family to restrain and control himself or herself.

In medium sized family this form used as a token to other children so that they do not mis-behave in future. Parents do not like to use this form often, but are forced to do so for maintain discipline and proper guidance for children.

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3) Demanding:

The variable Demanding has been defined by the author of the test as the expression of authority and claim with imperious command over the child executed in the exercise of overall control.

The results of this project have shown that the children belonging to larger family feel that the members of their family are more demanding. Surprisingly enough this is not to be found in the small families.

The following might be the reasons for finding such a significant result. Although the large families are the bigger and hence the amount of work and the responsibilities shouldered are bound to be more than the small family. This probably makes the senior members more demanding. In a large family every member is expected to contribute towards family welfare; hence, the seniors have to exert more control on the members. So that everybody remains on that right track of life to reach the desired goals. It won’t be logically incorrect to expect more assertiveness on the part of the seniors in the large family.

In small families the number of members is smaller and the work is less. Hence the parents need not be demanding. Because of the availability of automatic machines the member of the family is not required to contribute his might to household jobs as machines do them. As such the seniors need not be demanding ones.
4) Symbolic Rewards:

Means symbolic expression of appreciation for emotional, psychological security of the child as against physical, tangible, concrete action of warmth. Both indicate parents acceptance of the child which is a precursor for the child to achieve, aspire and advances.

The post hoc compositions indicate that on symbolic reward the one child family small sized and large family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium sized family.

In one child family and small sized family parents may have such type of understanding and importance of symbolic reward. They may have such knowledge of child psychology as lemon. They use symbolic reward as reinforcer to motivate their child.

In large families also due to more members of family every one want to admire the child and hence symbolic reward has been produces by father and mother also.

But in medium size family, researcher think that, the family members want to avoid the adverse effect of symbolic reward. Symbolic reward is there but in less amount.

The occurrence of symbolic reward was found to be higher in one child, small and large families as compared to medium sized families. In one child and small families it may due to a deliberate attempt by parents to extend Symbolic Reward and Object Reward due to an enhanced level of understanding. Due to the large number of family members in the large families,
Over a small gesture by every member accumulates into a larger reward. As opposed to this, even though medium sized families have a sizeable number of members, there is a tendency to believe that reinforcement may lead to pampering of the child and hence Symbolic Reward is withheld.

As regards to Object Reward, while one child and small families can afford it monetarily, medium and large families may not find it economically adequate to extend Object reward to every child in the family.

5) Loving:

The word loving itself is self explanatory. It means, that, it is the expression of fondness, and to the child. The result shows that the amount of loving by parents is more in a small family as compared to the large family. This outcome is quite natural. The rational for the explanation of above given results is as follows:

In a small family the parents can concentrate more and pay more attention to their children. The demands of children are at once fulfilled. The children get no chance to compare the attitude of their parents towards them with other siblings in the family. This means that the children naturally do not experience partial behavior from parents. The picture in the large family is quite different. In a large family the number of children is greater and hence paying attention to all of them and satisfying the demands is just impossible for the
parents and seniors in the family. The favors cannot be done to all. Only some are favored soles. This behavior of parents affixes the stains of partiality on their foreheads.

6) Object Reward

As mentioned in symbolic reward it is symbolic expression of appreciation for emotional, psychological security of the child as against physical, tangible, concrete action of warmth. Both indicates parents acceptance of the child which is a precursor for the child to achieve, aspire and advance.

The post hoc comparisons indicate on object reward the one child family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium sized family, and large families. The small family has significantly higher mean than the medium size family.

In one child family and small family father and mother as a parent can fulfill all needs of their child. Today in competitive world they always gives object reward and they can afford it because of less family members.

But in medium size or large families due to more family members, chief of family can’t release object reward frequently. Even though they are aware of competitive world, they may have use of symbolic rewards and motivational strategy. In medium size family and large families they can’t afford object reward frequently due to more expenses.
So we found here one child family and small family having higher mean differences compared to medium and large families.

Post hoc comparison of the mean difference with family type as the independent variable and parent child relationship scale rated by father and mother towards child as the dependant variable.

**Table No.9 & 10**

1) Rejection Vs Acceptance:

This dimension means as Rejection is parental negative attitude toward children, feeling them worthless, refusing to admit them, criticism of the children, invidious comparisons, parental signs of hostility

The post hoc comparison indicate that on acceptance the one child family has significantly higher mean difference than the small family and medium size family.

Although acceptance is observed in all the family types, the mean difference of one child family is higher than the small and medium sized families.

This could be due to the fact that there being only one child in the family, the parents have little other choice than to accept him/her as he/she is. While in small and medium sized families, the parents may have a tendency to compare children amongst each other on trails like intelligence and fairness, thus causing some rejection towards one of the children or more.
2) **Carelessness Vs over protection:**

This dimension indicates carelessness means Unconcerned, thoughtless, negligent, inaccurate behavior of parents towards their children. Over protection means parental uncared, pampering, indulgence, excessive physical contact, prevention of independence, over solicitude, shielding behavior towards children.

The post hoc comparisons indicate that on Over protection the one child family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium sized and large families.

A higher mean difference was observed in small families for over protection than in large families. This may be because attention and responsibilities are shared with other family members in large families while they are concentrated on the parents in small families. Many a times a problem of the child never reaches the parents and is sorted out by other family members in large families, while the child approaches the parents with the most trivial problems in small families.

3) **Negligence vs over indulgence:**

This dimension indicates negligence as least attentive, non co-operative, avoiding, leaving uncared for: behavior of parents. And over indulgence means parental behavior of endeavor even on the whims of children, yielding to the demands of children, failure to exercise needed constraint.
The post hoc comparisons indicate that on over indulgence the one child family has significantly higher mean difference than the small family. The medium size family has significantly higher mean difference than the small families.

With only one child in the family, there is a natural tendency for parents to display over indulgence in medium sized families, because the no. of members is relatively more, a small amount of Indulgence by all members adds up to a significantly high amount of indulgence overall. But in small sized families, the no. of members is relatively small and indulgence gets equally distributed in the children, thus keeping it low.

4) **Strong realism vs Utopian expectations:**

This dimension indicates adapting to outsides, relations, tolerating, objective realities or non fantastic oriented behavior of parents towards their children. The Utopian expectation means parental demands of higher quality performance than is permitted or higher expectation from their children even on their limitations. Parental demand of imaginary perfection from their children.

The post hoc comparison indicate than on Utopian expectation the one child family has significantly
higher mean difference than the small and large families. Tolchin, (1959) also found similar results.

Utopian expectations are often idealistic, because of only child the parents of one child family always expect more from their child. They may have more awareness compared to small and large families. They may be anxious about the future of their children. In small or large families the situation is different. Due to more children the parents may believe that another child may fulfill their expectation if the first one does not. So small and large families have less Utopian expectations compared to one child family.

Despite that in all four types of families the expectation are almost high therefore utopian expectation takes place.

5) Marital conflict vs Marital Adjustment:

Marital conflict means conflicts between the father and mother usually witnessed by children with a non-palatable taste and damaging temperament. Marital adjustment means mutual understanding, soliditary and congenial atmosphere between the father and the mother providing an atmosphere of peace and propriety to children.
The post hoc comparisons indicate that on Marital Adjustment the one child family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium size family. The small sized family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium sized family, the large family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium size family.

In one child and small family parents have an awareness that there is no third person in the family except the child/children. Because of higher education they may take precautions to avoid conflict. And hence marital adjustment is high. They may also have an awareness of the ill effects of conflicts. In short less people in the family lead to less interpersonal interactions and hence the chances of conflict are reduced.

On the other hand medium size family have more interpersonal interactions, envy amongst family members. This may lead to lowered Marital adjustments.

6) Faulty role expectations vs Realistic role expectations

This dimension indicates faulty role expectation means emotion instability and ego weakness among parents leading them to unexpected obedient roles and appearing always a problem for their children to follow suit. Realistic role expectation means emotional
stability, consistency in thought and action of parents present them as sufficiently effective, inspiring model for their children to follow.

The post hoc comparison indicate that on Realistic role expectation the one child family, small family and large family has significantly higher mean difference than the medium size family.

In one child family and small size family, parents have to play specific roles. They may get habitual with that role and so realistic role expectation is high. In large family there are more responsibilities to be shared within the family, so responsibilities may get distributed according to the abilities and capacities of individual members. Naturally due to distribution of responsibilities family members can play the role properly and realistic role expectation takes place.

On the other hand in medium sized family there are more number of children and hence responsibilities are more for father and mother. They may not be able to play every role effectively. So realistic role expectation may be less.
Table No.11

The examination of table indicates that the differences between the means of rural subjects and urban subjects are significant for psychoticism (tough mindedness) and neuroticism (emotionality). The effect sizes for tough-mindedness is high whereas effect size for emotionality are into low to medium range. The difference between the means of rural and urban subjects is not significant for extraversion.

Nowadays in rural society also having such facilities like transport, T.V., telephone, computer etc. It influence on every ones life. By that the children for rural area losing their shyness and inferiority complex and the change produces highly extrovert qualities. These all being seen in urban society. Therefore researcher has not found significant difference on extraversion from both areas.

Tough-mindedness and emotionality having higher mean in urban areas compared with rural area. In rural areas style of living is very simple, everybody knows everyone, affinity is there and important is they have cordial relations. Due to that they have lower tough-mindedness and emotionality.

Background as the independent variable the effect size for tough-mindedness is high. We can say that after all tough mindedness is a response to avoid conflict and it secure every ones ego in both areas. But we can’t deny this tough-
mindedness is a causal factor to improve the psychotic tendency. So effect size may be high.

On the other hand emotionality also has effect size at low to medium range. As we now see nowadays that there is a materialistic tendency among people in the society. As a result there may be great pressure to achieve the goal. The result is increased level of anxiety. Hence the effect size of emotionality is in the low to medium range.

**Table No.12**

The examination of table indicates that the difference between the means of rural subjects and urban subjects are significant for school security (at = .001 level) and study context security (at = .001 level). The rural subjects have significantly higher means for school security and study context security than the urban subjects. The effect sizes for school security and study context security are in the low to medium range.

In rural areas children do not take much education. They are not aware of the importance of the education. Parents are busy in farming activities and are not in a position to pay much attention towards the education of their children. Schools are run by Zilla parishad or local management committee. People in these institution do not show much seriousness about quality education, because lack of funds & a competitive environment. So children from rural areas lack motivation to get education and pursue there studies.
seriously in school. They are unaware about the outside world. They feel secure in the school.

As children face constant pressure to do house hold work and other duties from parents in rural areas, school security is more in rural subjects as compared to urban subjects.

On the other hand we observe here in urban areas both parent and students are aware of the importance of education. Load of school bags, competitive environment, discipline, distance of school from home and related expenses are all responsible for increasing school insecurity among urban subjects.

Researcher found study context security has also a higher mean among rural subjects than the urban subjects. In rural areas students do not show much seriousness about school and study activities, because of lack of discipline, lack of guidance and counseling. As a result they have higher study context security than the urban subjects. Effect size is also in low to medium range.

**Table No.13 & 14**

The examination of table indicates that the difference between the means of rural and urban subjects are significant for protecting (at .05 level); symbolic punishment (at .005 level); symbolic reward (at .005 level), loving (at .001 level), Object reward (at .001 level), and Neglecting (at .05 level). Rural subjects have significantly higher mean for protecting, symbolic punishment, symbolic reward, loving, object reward and Neglecting than urban subjects.
In rural areas people mostly have traditional background. They are not aware of the importance of education, because of illiteracy. Due to the traditional and close knit social structure in rural areas children feel greater level of protection. On the contrary in urban areas there is uncertainty with regard to future, population size is large and life is hectic. Because of the prevalence of these conditions parents are not able to protect their children all the time. They can't provide object reward due to financial constraints. They spent maximum time out of home to remedy their financial condition. And when they return home with worries and anxiety they are not able to give symbolic reward and loving to the children.

**Table No.15 & 16**

The examination of table indicates that the differences between the means of rural subjects and urban subjects are significant for carelessness vs protection ((at .05 level), strong realism Vs utopian expectation (at .005 level), lenient standards vs severe moralism (at .05 level), and Total freedom Vs severe discipline (at .05 level).

The urban subjects have significantly higher means for over protection and severe moralism than rural subjects. Rural subjects have significantly higher means for Utopian expectations and severe moralism than the urban subjects.
In urban society parents have more conscious about their children. They are having middle class mentality and related understanding. So they may over protect. Even though they are drifting from morality they have such understanding due to middle class mentality.

But in rural area parents may not have that type of mentality. Parents from rural areas having much expectations from their children. They may feel like that after education child will be a officer and so on. To fulfill that expectation sometime severe punishment may take place hence the difference may be there.

**Table No.17**

The examination of table indicates that the differences between the means of female subjects and male subjects are significant for psychoticism (at .001 level). The male subject have significantly higher mean for psychoticism than the female subjects. The effect size for psychoticism is in low to medium range.

Today we are seeing that young blood is facing much more problems like job opportunities, quality education lack of proper guidance, counseling & lack of values etc. They are wondering in the indirective phase. Because of that young blood may have more anxiety and worries about their future. They can't decide what to do and not to do.
The above discussion brings out that females have less responsibilities compared to male subjects. Indian’s have a paternalistic society even in the 21st century. The girls are viewed from narrow perspectives and there is existence of gender differences as well. Parents feel that the girl will be the responsibility of her husband and in-laws. And they need to look after her only till her marriage. Therefore the differences might occur.

Table No.18

The examination of table indicates that the differences between the means of females subjects and male subjects are significant for abilities (at .05 level) & beliefs and conviction (at .005 level) the female subjects have significantly higher mean for abilities beliefs and convictions than the male subjects. The effect size for abilities, beliefs and convictions are in the low to medium range.

Nowadays as there is no discrimination against the females, their abilities appear to have been enhanced. These abilities have always been there. But because of enjoyment equal status with males they have been magnified. Females are inherently religious and quiet by nature. Parents always insists and expects females to follow their beliefs and religiousness practices. Such a pressure is not much evident on the males due to paternalistic social setup. Because of her greater dependence on the family leads her to adopt the more
religious and traditional self concept. As a result we found higher means for beliefs.

Table No.19

The examinations of table indicates that the difference between the means of female subjects & male subjects insignificant for school security (at .001 level the female subjects have significantly higher mean for school security than male subjects. The effect size for school security is in the low to medium range.

In rural areas parent can't afford educational expenses because of poor economic condition. Govt. is providing free education for females. Nowadays parents too insist on females to learn and to go to school. They are told that they will be able to secure a good life partner if they manage to get some decent education. Another reason females feel more secure in the school is that they are able to escape the house hold charges that they may be asked to do by being in school. Hence females school security is higher than male subjects.

On the other hand males don't want to go school because of home work, discipline, competition and exhaustion leading him to feel insecure.
The examination of table indicates that the differences between that mean of female subjects and male subjects are significant for rejecting (at .005 level) symbolic reward (at .005 level) loving (.005 level) and object reward (at .05 level).

The females subjects have significantly higher means for symbolic reward, object reward and for loving and lower mean for rejecting than the male subjects.

In Indian society we observe father & girl enjoy a healthy relationship, compare to a father son relationship. A father always pays attention towards a girl. According to Freud girl is attracted to her father. Father knows one day she will get married and go to her in-laws home. Girls are inherently sincere, loving and helping by nature which enables them to get symbolic, object rewards and loving. Now it is observed that, males and females enjoy equal status both in urban and rural society. As a result rejecting is less toward female.

On the other hand male subjects don’t do as well as female. As they are not serious about their future. They are also punished often by their father. In contrast female subjects are always occupied and seriously helping in their mother’s work etc. Male spent their time wandering in indirective field lack of sincerity which leaves them with lower means for symbolic, object reward and loving and higher mean for rejecting.