CHAPTER IV

THE RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILY BACKGROUND

1. TYPES OF SCHOOLS OF RESPONDENTS
2. AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS
3. FAMILY - ITS TYPE AND COMPOSITION
4. CASTE STRUCTURE
5. RELIGION
6. DWELLING CONDITIONS
7. OCCUPATION OF PARENTS
8. ECONOMIC STATUS OF FAMILY
9. EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF PARENTS
THE RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILY

BACKGROUND

It has been said "Man is a socious in societas - an individual comrade in a group of community". An individual lives in the society of which family is a basic unit. The biosocial functions of a family begin with marriage followed by five stages; (i) adjustment, (ii) child bearing, (iii) child rearing, (iv) child launching and (v) aging. A family has to also meet the economic, protective and socialization needs of its members.¹

It is a well known fact that the family background i.e., family type and its composition, caste and religious beliefs, dwelling conditions, occupation, economic and educational status, etc. plays a very important role in the growth and development of a child. Its importance becomes more pronounced when the family has a child whose physical health is affected. It

has now been established that the postural defects in children interfere with their optimal development in all spheres of life i.e., health, personality, education etc.

It is, therefore, very important to ascertain the family background of the subjects selected for the study. Since the title of the research topic, "A study of relationship between family background and postural defects in primary school boys" deals with the boys of primary schools, it is worth mentioning their strengths in selected three types of schools and agewise distribution with factors of family background chosen for the study:

**TYPES OF SCHOOLS OF RESPONDENTS**

The term 'School' denotes a particular place where education is imparted in a definite way. Schools are found in every country of the world and the children come to schools from different strata of the society having different family background. Therefore, a school is also regarded as a society in miniature. The school education is becoming the major education now a days. The organisation and direction of the school have become the principal task of the state and society.
The school is a formal agency of education. Bedi (1985) in his book "A Hand Book of Social and Preventive Medicine" states that if education is imparted properly, it prepares a person to develop the spirit to live and assert his rights as a good citizen. The children learn the basics of life in schools and these learnings prepare the children to face the future bravely and magnanimously. The school also provides social efficiency. A school is not only the mirror of society but it also upholds an ideal for the proper functioning of society.

The present study involves three types of schools, which have been selected on the basis of their type of management i.e., Central Government, State Government and Private Management. Two schools from each type of management having different locations in Greater Gwalior were identified and have been shown in table 3. with the strength of boys in the three type of schools. Kendriya vidyalayas (nos. 1 & 4) were chosen from the Central Government type of management, Gorakhi school and J. P. Vidyalaya from the State Government type and from the Private Management type Wendy school and Ramkrishna Vidya Mandir were the two schools selected for the investigation.

\(^{2}\text{i}b\text{i}d., \ p.\text{504.}\)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>III Class No.</th>
<th>IV Class No.</th>
<th>V Class No.</th>
<th>Total No.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Central Govt. (Kendriya Vidyalayas Nos. 1 &amp; 4)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>37.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>State Govt. (Gorakhi School &amp; J. P. Vidyalaya)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>16.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Private Management (Wendy school &amp; Ramkrishna Vidyamandir)</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>45.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>259</strong></td>
<td><strong>396</strong></td>
<td><strong>414</strong></td>
<td><strong>1069</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table reveals the strength of boys selected in different types of schools with their educational classes. In schools managed by Central Government, 405 boys comprised for the study, out of which 102 boys were from class III, 158 from class IV and 145 boys were from class V.
In case of schools managed by the State Government out of a total of 180 boys examined, the numbers of boys for class III, IV and V were 44, 63 and 73 respectively.

In respect of Private Management schools a total of 484 boys were selected for the study and the maximum number i.e., 196 of the boys was from class V and the lowest number i.e., 113 was from class III, whereas 175 boys were selected for the study from class IV.

The percentages of boys investigated in selected three types of schools were 37.89, 16.84 and 45.27 for Central Government, State Government and Private Schools respectively.

The above table also shows that out of 1069 boys selected, the class III boys were 259, class IV boys were 396 and class V boys selected were 414 in number. The findings of the above table are graphically presented in fig. 2.

**AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS**

Age plays a very important role in the human life. It gives maturity to the individual as well as an understanding, acceptability and suggestibility in various walks of life.
Fig. 2. Percent Distribution of Boys in Selected Type of Schools.


Though every part of the life is very important, however, childhood is considered to be the golden age of the life. Today’s children are the future citizens of the nation. The future of a nation greatly depends upon the health status of its children. Mukherjee(1987)\(^3\) has expressed that about 42% of India’s total population was below the age of 15 years and therefore, it comprises the major part of the population.

The childhood is that stage of life in which it is easier to educate them about proper body-growth, physical alertness, discipline and health habits. It is easier to mould and correct their habits and physical faults before they are matured. Stafford (1950) also felt that the gross neglect of physical health of the elementary school children lead to the development of structural deformities in them which can only be corrected with great difficulty, and in many cases, not all.\(^4\)

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The school Health Committee (1961)\textsuperscript{5} appointed by the Government of India also recommended that the maximum emphasis in regard to their health care should be given to the primary school children between 6-11 years.

Therefore, the present research work involves a survey of five postural defects among the primary school boys of Greater Gwalior studying in classes III, IV and V. The following table clearly shows the distribution of boys in five age categories namely, upto 8 years, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, and 11-12 years:

### Table - 4

**AGEWISE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED BOYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Age (Years)</th>
<th>Number of Boys</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Upto 08</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>17.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>08 – 09</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>18.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>09 – 10</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>20.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>10 – 11</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>24.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>11 – 12</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>20.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1069</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table clearly shows the agewise distribution of primary school boys selected for the study. The highest number of the boys was 258 (24.13%) from the age group 10-11 years. The lowest number 183 (17.12%) fell for the boys upto 8 year age category. The percentages for 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, and 11-12 years age group boys were found to be 18.15%, 20.49%, and 20.11% respectively. The findings of the above table are graphically presented in fig. 3.
Family is a basic functional unit and the most important primary group in society. Historically, it has been considered to stem from the necessity of men to organize and control the division of labor. The family is a social institution which fulfills the various needs of its members. The family has been an elemental unit of social structure and is the starting point of the human race. It is a self-contained unit capable of producing its own offspring. The characteristic features of family as follows:

- Upto 8 yrs.
- 8 - 9 yrs.
- 9 - 10 yrs.
- 10 - 11 yrs.
- 11 - 12 yrs.

**Fig. 3. Percent Agewise Distribution of Selected Boys.**
FAMILY - ITS TYPE AND COMPOSITION

Family is a basic functional unit and the most important primary group in society. Historically, it has been transformed into a more or less self-contained unit, a definite and limited organization of minimum size consisting primarily of original contracting parties. Family is an inevitable social institution which maintains the structure of society. It is the fundamental institution that fulfills various human needs. Thus, a family is a socially approved organization in order to meet various needs of its members. The existence of family has been inevitable from time immemorial. The family has been in existence in one or the other form since the beginning of the human race and will continue for ever.

Mac Iver and Page (1981) defined family as "A group defined by the sex relationship, sufficiently precise and enduring, to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children". They have described the characteristic features of family as follows:

(1) It is a mating relationship determined by some form of marriage.

(2) It provides a system of reckoning the descent.

(3) The family must have some economic provision to meet the needs of the family.

(4) Family must have a common habitation.

The family maintains the stability of the society through social norms, and restricting and channelizing the sex desire of men in all the societies. The family also creates necessary environment for the best development of individual personality. The personality helps in primary socialization of children and the stabilization of adult personalities of the society. The family also keeps the culture alive throughout the process of socialization. Thus, family not only helps in the development of personality and socialization of its young members, but also provides economic support to its members for meeting various expenditure i.e., medical, social care to the sick, aged, pregnant mother and handicapped person.  

7Mukherjee, Dr. B.N. Ghosh's A Treatise on Preventive and Social Medicine, p.33.
There are two important family systems i.e., 'nuclear' and 'joint'. According to Mukherjee (1987) the basic grouping of mates and their children has been called as the nuclear or primary family. Nuclear family may also be called as conjugal family and includes the married couple and their children only, whereas joint family comprises parents (with or without consanguineous family parents), their married sons (in patriarchal systems) with their spouses, and their grand-children living together. Therefore, a joint or extended family in our country is a collection of more than one primary families on the basis of common blood-ties and common residence.

The Indian social system had the joint family system and the nuclear family system prevailed in the industrialized western society. But now in India also there has been a sea change from joint family to nuclear family system. Even the rural societies are not left unaffected. Certain factors like changing social values, diminishing family responsibility, child rearing, and economic compulsions etc. could be held responsible for this change. It is becoming increasingly evident that the most of the old persons like the joint family system whereas, the younger people mostly prefer the nuclear family system.
Table - 5

FAMILY TYPES AND THEIR COMPOSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Family Type</th>
<th>Number of Families With %</th>
<th>Number of Members</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>851 (79.61%)</td>
<td>1702</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>218 (20.39%)</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table clearly shows the distribution of nuclear and joint families and the number of adults and children in the two types of families. Over a total of 1069 families surveyed, nuclear families were found to be 851(79.61%) whereas joint families were only 218 i.e., 20.39%. It is also evident that the mean nuclear family consisted of 2 adults and 2.21 children, while the mean joint family had 4.28 adults against 3.31 children. The findings of the above table are graphically shown in fig. 4.
Fig. 4. Percent Distribution of Family Types.
CASTE STRUCTURE

Caste is an institution of highly complex origin only found in India. Caste-system in ancient India was responsible for the solidarity of the Hindu culture as well the consolidation of our social and economic systems.

The word ‘Caste’ is derived from the Portuguese word ‘Casta’ signifying breed, race or kind. ‘homan de boa casta’ signifies a ‘man of good family’. Grecian Deorta gives the origin of caste from 1756 B.C. on the basis of colour and creed.

Caste can be defined as a hereditary as well as endogamous group, having a traditional association with a definite position and occupation in the caste-hierarchy. Risly defines caste as ‘a collection of families or groups of families bearing a common name; claiming a common descent from a mythical ancestor, human or divine; professing to follow the same hereditary calling; and regarded by those who are competent to give an opinion as forming a single homogenous community.’

According to Hutton’s(1973) book ‘Caste in India: Its nature, function and origins,’ Ketkar defines caste, “as a social group having two characteristics; (i) membership is confined to those who are born of
members, and includes all persons so born; (ii) the members are forbidden by an inexorable social law to marry outside the group”.

N.K. Dutt (1973) describes features of caste; members of a caste can not marry outside it; there are similar but less rigid restrictions on eating and drinking with a member of another caste; there is some hierarchical gradation of caste, the best recognized position being that of the Brahmans at the top; birth determines a man’s caste for life unless he be expelled for violation of its rules; otherwise transition from one caste to another is not possible; the whole system turns on the prestige of the Brahman.  

The traditional caste-hierarchy of Indian society is based on ‘chaturvarna’ i.e., four orders consisting of (i) Brahmans, (ii) Khatriyas, (iii) Vaishyas and (iv) Shudras. With the pace of changing society a good number of scientific and industrial impacts have been seen in the present caste-structure in India. Resultantly four varunas have been divided into major castes which, in the modern times have further been converted into major

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groups of castes and are shown in the following table in the form of Savarnas, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities as identified during the investigation.

Table - 6

CASTE-GROUP WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED BOYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Caste Group</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Savarna</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>52.85 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Scheduled Castes</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>14.31 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Scheduled Tribes</td>
<td>012</td>
<td>01.12 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Other Backward Classes</td>
<td>054</td>
<td>05.54 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Minorities</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>26.67 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1069</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00 %</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 6 clearly shows the distribution of selected boys according to their caste group. The highest number of the boys i.e., 565 (52.85%) was from the savarna castes and the lowest number
12 (1.12%) belonged to scheduled tribes category. Minorities category which included Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Jains were found to be 26.67%. 153(14.13%) boys represented the scheduled castes category and only 5.05% boys fell into the category of other backward classes. The findings of the above table are graphically exhibited in fig. 5.

**RELIGION**

Acharya Tulasi (1969) considers religion as nature of substance. The nature of soul is religion. What is not its nature is not religion. The soul possesses knowledge, perception, bliss and power. The harmony among the knowledge, perception, blissfulness and power is religion. 9

Religions are always regarded as the products of civilization. It is the human response to the apprehension of the unknown or a power which is supernatural and supersensory. All religions, primitive or modern have the base of ritual and belief. All religions require us to look upon life as an opportunity for self realization. They call upon us to strive incessantly and wrest the immortal from the mortal. God is the universal reality, wisdom and love and we are His children irrespective of race or religious belief.

The religion is an essential feature of human life without which attainment and full integration of human personality is not possible. Man has been on the mercy of the nature and so the elements of nature have become a part of religion. Religion may also affect the parents' attitude towards a normal or a defective child. Farber (1959) stated that Catholic parents are better able to accept a subnormal child. This may be true also in view of the fact that various beliefs and customs also have deep roots. Customs not only pertain to dieting food items. Customs not only pertain to dieting food items but also concern to food preparations and tools. For example, various foods may be avoided in certain periods of time. Children may be avoided to eat for pregnant mothers, for boys, etc. A few examples are:

- Savarna
- Sch. Castes
- Sch. Tribes
- O. B. C.
- Minorities

**Fig. 5. Percent Distribution of Caste-groups of Selected Boys.**

The religion is an essential feature of human life without which attainment and full integration of human personality is not possible. Man has been living on the mercy of the nature and so the elements of nature have become a part of religion. Religion may also affect the parental attitude to accept their subnormal or a defective child. Farber (1959) stated that Catholic parents may be better able to accept a subnormal child.\(^{10}\) This may be true for all religions which adopt the philosophy of 'Prarabdha' or Destiny and see a Divine hand in pre-determining the destiny of an individual and, thus, prepare the parents to accept even a subnormal or a defected child.

The religious beliefs and customs also have deep rooted notions and superstitions regarding food items. Customs not only pertain to foods which should or should not be eaten but also, concern to food preparations and time of eating. Certain foods may be avoided in certain cultures, e.g. papaya is said not to be good for pregnant mothers for the fear of abortion. Similarly, buffalo milk is said to blunt the intelligence.

Among several religions prevalent in India Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Jainism are most popular.\textsuperscript{11} The following table shows the religion wise distribution of families surveyed:

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{llrr}
\hline
S.No. & Religion & Number of Families & Percentage (\%) \\
\hline
01 & Hindu & 784 & 73.34 \% \\
02 & Muslim & 058 & 05.43 \% \\
03 & Christian & 066 & 06.17 \% \\
04 & Sikh & 037 & 03.46 \% \\
05 & Jain & 124 & 11.60 \% \\
\hline
Total & & 1069 & 100.00 \% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

The foregoing table reveals the religion wise distribution of 1069 families surveyed. Out of total, the Hindu families were the highest in number, i.e., 784(73.34%) whereas the Sikh families were the lowest i.e., 037(3.46%). The boys belonging to the Jain, Muslim and Christian families were found to be 124(11.60%), 58(5.43%) and 66(6.17%) respectively. The findings of the above table are graphically exhibited in fig. 6.

**DWELLING CONDITIONS**

Dwelling or housing is considered as one of three basic needs of man, alongwith the food and clothing. Jerath(1970) in his book entitled "Synopsis of Social and Preventive Medicine" has defined 'housing is the physical structure that man uses for shelter and the environs of that structure including all necessary services, facilities, equipment and devices needed or desired for the physical and mental health and social well-being of the family and individual.'

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Fig. 6. Percent Distribution of Religion of Families.
A home is required to protect the man from the vagaries of
nature and for comfortable living. A dwelling place is an important aspect of
every human society. The location and type of house indicates art, culture
and level of development of the family in particular, and the community in
general.

There have been rapid changes in the outlook aspect of the
housing. Now a days every family wants to live in a most comfortable and at
least a tiled house which reflects the prestige of the family in the society.

The dwelling or housing conditions also affect the health and
posture of all the family members living in it. Its importance becomes more
pronounced for the young children who have to still grow and develop in
their physical health. There seems to be a direct relationship between
housing conditions and the general outlook and atmosphere of family. Bedi
(1985)\textsuperscript{13} has stated that unhygienic houses and overcrowding of family
members create an environment which is not so conducive to healthful living,
whereas good housing conditions leave a positive, healthy and optimistic
impact on the

\textsuperscript{13}Bedi, \textit{A Handbook of Social and Preventive Medicine},
p.501.
dwellers of the house. A well-ventilated house has less impact of disease and vice-versa. Therefore, the housing conditions do have an influence on the posture and physical health of those living in it. The table 8 shows the dwelling conditions wise distribution of surveyed families:

Table - 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Type of House</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Kutcha</td>
<td>066</td>
<td>06.17 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Pukka</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>93.83 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>100.00 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the present study, out of total 1069 families surveyed, only 66 families (6.17%) were living in kutcha houses whereas 1003 (93.83%) boys represented the families which were found to be living in pukka houses. The findings of the above table are graphically shown in fig. 7.
Fig. 7. Percent Distribution of Families According to their Dwelling Conditions.
OCCUPATION OF PARENTS

"Occupations determine the ways people earn their livelihood and also their ultimate economic goals for their life". Occupation literally indicates towards the proficiency of the trade. It signifies the sources of livelihood of an individual of which one earns money for maintenance. Sociologically, the term occupation is closely related to profession of an individual who satisfies the basic needs of the family members.

The occupation also determines a person’s prestige in the society, and provides decisive direction to social growth and change in the society. Mukherjee(1987) has said that in western countries, occupation is being widely used as a means of determining social status of the individuals simply because it is a potential factor which provides certain privileges like economic stability, wages and degree of living status of an individual. He further described the five commonly used stratifications of occupation in the west as, (i) Professional, (ii) Managerial, (iii) Clerical and skilled workers, (iv) Semi-skilled workers, and (v) Unskilled workers.

14 Mukherjee, Dr. B.N. Ghosh’s A Treatise on Preventive and Social Medicine, p.34.
A number of social factors may influence an individual’s choice for a particular occupation or profession. These factors include the community background (rural or urban), parent’s occupation and educational level, income and social status of the family etc.

The working capacity of an individual is affected by his health. A healthy person contributes towards addition of more assets to a society whereas a sick person is a liability\(^\text{15}\).

Park (1995) has stated that “many ungainful and unproductive employments are said to show a higher incidence of ill health and death”.\(^\text{16}\)

In many cultures, the wage earners receive a high priority in nutrition in their families, and the vulnerable groups like mothers and children may suffer from under-nutrition.

In the surveyed area, the major five types of occupations are prevalent in the form of Government Service, Private Service, Business, Agriculture and Workers. The following table gives the occupational distribution of the parents surveyed:


### Table - 9

**OCCUPATION WISE DISTRIBUTION OF PARENTS SURVEYED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number of Parents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Government Service</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>51.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Private service</td>
<td>059</td>
<td>05.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>21.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>029</td>
<td>02.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>18.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1069</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is obvious from the above table that majority of surveyed parents i.e., 51.64% were employed in government service. The parents involved in business and workers categories were found to be 21.33% and 18.80% respectively. 5.52% parents of the boys were engaged in private service whereas only 2.71% parents were found to be involved in agriculture. The findings of the above table are presented graphically in fig. 8.
The economic status plays a very important role in determining the quality of life, purchasing power and standard of living. To quote, "Social Anthropology (1957) defined economic organisation as follows, "It consists in the distribution and organization of human relations and human effort, in such a manner as many of the necessities of the day to day life in possible in the expenditure of minimum efforts. It is an attempt to achieve maximum satisfaction of a limited number through adopting limited means to unlimited ends in the best possible manner."

This basic economic truth for all societies holds good for any society. It is the economic effort that determines the number of what is regarded as necessary and the number of what is regarded as luxury. As the personal income status increased, human attention was devoted not only to meet the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, but also to the refinement of the manner in which these primary and other derived needs are satisfied.

Fig. 8. Percent Occupational Distribution of Parents.

D.N. Majumdar and T.N. Madan, Social Anthropology (Calcutta: Asia Publishing House, 1957), p.188.
ECONOMIC STATUS OF FAMILY

The economic status plays a very important role in determining the quality of life, purchasing power and standard of living. To some extent it also controls the size of the family. Prof. Majumdar in his book entitled “Social Anthropology” (1957) defined economic organization as follows, “It consists of the ordering and organization of human relations and human efforts, in order to procure as many of the necessities of the day to day life as possible, with the expenditure of minimum efforts. It is an attempt to secure maximum satisfaction possible through adopting limited means to unlimited ends in an organized manner”.17 This definition holds true for all societies at all times, but the conception of what is regarded as necessary and what as luxury for life differs from people to people, and also for different societies.

The present complex economic organization started with the food gathering and hunting cultures of olden times. As the financial and monetary status increased, human attention was devoted not only to meet the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, but also to the refinement of the manner in which these primary and other derived needs are satisfied.

17 D.N. Majumdar and T.N. Madan, Social Anthropology (Calcutta : Asia Publishing House, 1957), p.188.
There is no doubt that in many developing countries, the economic progress that has been made, has been a major factor in increasing the life expectancy, improving the quality of life and reducing the morbidity. The economic conditions may also affect the patterns of various diseases.

Therefore, the economic status of the family is one of the most important factors which enables its members to seek and therefore, avail the health care in general and the treatment and correction of postural defects in children in particular.

The following table shows the distribution of surveyed families according to their economic status in six different economic classes namely, higher (above Rs. 6000), upper-middle (Rs. 5,000 - 6,000), middle-middle (Rs. 3,000 - 5,000), lower-middle (Rs. 2,000 - 3,000) upper-lower (Rs. 1,000 - 2,000) and lower-lower (below Rs. 1,000).

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18 Park, *Park’s Textbook: Preventive and Social Medicine*, p.16
Table - 10

ECONOMIC STATUS OF SELECTED FAMILIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Economic Class</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Higher (Above Rs.6,000)</td>
<td>098</td>
<td>09.17 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Upper- Middle (Rs.5,000 to 6,000)</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>12.25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Middle- Middle (Rs.3,000 to 5,000)</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>27.69 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Lower- Middle (Rs.2,000 to 3,000)</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>31.52 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Upper- Lower (Rs.1,000 to 2,000)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>10.67 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Lower- Lower (Below Rs. 1,000)</td>
<td>093</td>
<td>08.70 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>100.00 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is evident from the foregoing table that out of 1069 families of primary school boys surveyed, majority of families i.e., 337 (31.52%) and 296 (27.69%) belonged to the lower-middle and middle-middle economic classes respectively. Only 98 families (9.17%) and 93 families (8.70%) were found to be in the category of higher and lower-lower economic classes respectively. In the upper middle class the number of families surveyed was 131 (12.25%), whereas 114 (10.67%) families fell into the category of upper-lower economic class. The amount shown in rupees in the table indicates the monthly income for that economic class. The findings of the above table are graphically shown in fig. 9.

**EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF PARENTS**

Education is considered as one of major factors which influences the shaping and development of a society. Mahatma Gandhi defined education as, “By education, I mean all round development of child and man in body, mind and spirit.” Education plays a very important role to socialize an individual in the society. “Better the education, more the prosperity and understanding” is a universally acknowledged proverb. In a broader sense, education refers to a process which continues throughout the life and which is promoted by almost every experience in the life.
Fig. 9. Percent Distribution of Families According to Economic Status.
Mackenzie (1994) stated “It comes from the problems of life with which we have to deal, from the influences and suggestions of nature, from intercourse with our fellow men, often from our failures and sufferings.”

In a narrow sense, education refers to a consciously directed activity or effort to develop and cultivate our power. The instructions being imparted and received in schools and colleges fall under this definition. Education also plays an important role in the improvement of thinking and decision making process, which ultimately helps the family achieve its goals. It helps to solve many complicated family problems in crucial or adverse situations.

Education brings more awareness among the family towards prevention, treatment and correction of many communicable and other diseases. It is therefore a powerful factor affecting the health status of the entire family. Park (1995) stated that illiteracy closely coincides with poverty, malnutrition, ill health, high infant and child mortality rates. The small state of Kerala in India is a striking example which had an estimated infant mortality rate of 17, compared to 80 for all India in 1990. A major factor in the low infant mortality of Kerala is its highest female literacy rate
of 86.93%, compared to 39.42% for all India.\textsuperscript{19} Studies further indicate that the education, to some extent, compensates the effects of poverty on health, irrespective of the availability of health facilities.

Therefore, the educational level of parents, particularly of the mother plays a very important role in early identification of various postural defects in their children and accordingly, appropriate preventive and corrective measures can be sought for.

The following table shows the educational level of parents being surveyed:

\textsuperscript{19} Health Information of India, Government of India (1986), Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, DGHS, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, cited by Park, \textit{Park's Text Book: Preventive and Social Medicine}, p.16.
### Table - 11

**EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOL BOYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Educational Status</th>
<th>Father</th>
<th>Mother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>028</td>
<td>02.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>043</td>
<td>04.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>036</td>
<td>03.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>High School/Higher Secondary</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>21.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>34.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Post-Graduation and Above</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>31.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>022</td>
<td>02.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table 11 clearly shows that educational status of fathers was much higher than mothers. Only 2.62% of the total fathers were found to be illiterate. Among the literate fathers the largest number had education upto graduation i.e., 34.70% and post-graduation and above i.e., 31.34%. 21.89% fathers fell into the category of high school/higher secondary level education. The percentages for primary and middle educated fathers were found to be only 4.02, and 3.37 respectively. 2.06% fathers did not fall in any of the categories mentioned above. On the other hand, 6.45% mothers were found to be illiterate and a majority of mothers i.e., 38.45% were educated up to high school/higher secondary level. The percentages for primary, middle class and graduate mothers were 8.79%, 14.22% and 22.26% respectively. Only 6.17% mothers had acquired post-graduation and above education whereas, 3.65% of the total mothers surveyed did not belong to any of the categories mentioned in the table. The findings of the above table are represented graphically in fig. 10.
Fig. 10. Educational Status of Fathers and Mothers of Selected School Boys.