CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

This study has been conducted with the purpose of gaining insight into the configuration of families of children with behaviour disorders. The main theme of the study is to establish the relationships, if any, between behaviour problems of children and family situation in terms of Family Structure, Family Functioning and Family Relationship. In order to make this more clear and specific, the researcher formulated a general objective and four specific objectives.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

The general-objective was to study the configuration of the families of children with varying degrees of behaviour disorders.

The first specific objective of the study was to specify and select the factors of Family Structure, Family Functioning and Family Relationship. These factors were identified, and selected by an extensive review of literature.

The factors selected under Family Structure were (1) Family Composition (2) Physical Environment of the family and (3) Social Network of the family.

The factors specified and selected under Family Functioning were (1) Communication (2) Role (3) Leadership (4) Social Support (5) Religious or Value Emphasis (6) Disciplining and (7) Intellectual and Cultural Orientation.
The factors of the Family Relationship selected constitute (1) Cohesion (2) Conflict (3) Expressiveness and (4) Neglect.

FAMILY STRUCTURE

The second specific objective was to measure and compare the structure of the families of children with behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

Family Structure has been studied in terms of Family Composition, Physical Environment of the Family and Social Network of the Family.

Family Composition

Family composition as the first factor of family structure has been studied on the basis of age, education, and occupation of their parents, their family income, number of children, and ordinal position of the identified child.

Age of Fathers:

Among the fathers, of the children 51% belonged to the age of 41-50 yrs, 21% each to 51-60 yrs and 31-40 yrs and 5% to above 60 yrs respectively.

In the groupwise distribution, 54% and 51.9% fathers of group I and group II belonged to the age group 41-50 yrs. In Group III, 50.8% of the fathers belonged to the age group 31-40 yrs.

Age of Mothers:

Regarding age of mothers, in Group I 54% of the mothers belonged to age group 31-40 yrs, 37% to 41-50 yrs and 4% to 51-60 yrs. In Group II 48% belonged to 31-40 yrs, 38.5% to 41-50 yrs and 11% to 51-60 yrs. In Group III, 68% of the mothers belonged to 31-40 yrs, 20% to 41-50 yrs and only 1 person to 51-60 yrs.
Education of Fathers:

Regarding education, in Group I, 52% of the fathers had primary education, 21% had secondary education and only 4% had college education. In Group II, 60% of the fathers had primary education, 20% had secondary education and only 1% had college education. In Group III, 32% of the fathers had secondary, 28% had primary, 13% had college, and 8.5% had post-graduate education.

Occupation of Fathers:

In Group I, 69% of the fathers had low income occupations like manual labour, and business like small pettysops, 10% had clerical jobs. In Group II, 73% had low income occupations and 10% had agricultural related occupations. In Group III, 31% of the fathers had low income occupations, 8.5% had high income jobs like managerial, professional occupations and 7% had middle income jobs.

Education of Mothers:

In Group I, 42% of the mothers had primary, 26% had secondary and the rest had no education. In Group II, 63% of the mothers had primary, 17% had secondary education and the rest had no education. But in Group III, 42% of the mothers had secondary education, 22% had primary education, 14% had professional education and 8.5% had college education.

Occupation of Mothers:

When compared the three groups of families, in Group I, 82% in Group II, 86% and in Group III, 81% of the mothers had no jobs except looking after the household activities. They functioned only as mothers and housewives. From the rest, 13% from Group I, 14% from Group II and 3.4% from Group
III had low income jobs like manual labour. Only 9 mothers, 2 from Group I and 7 from Group III had high income jobs like managerial and professional occupations.

Presence of step-father and step-mother were found only one each among all the families. Among the 263 families studied, only 16 families had grandfather and 30 families had grandmothers living with them.

**Monthly income of the family:**

Regarding monthly income of the family, 75% from Group I, 84% from Group II and 61% from Group III had a monthly income below Rs. 1000/-. In Group I 21%, Group II 14% and in Group III 25% had a family income between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 3000/-, per month. Only very few in Group I, 4%, in Group II, 2% and in Group III, 14% had income above Rs. 3000/- per month.

**Number of children in the family:**

With regard to the number of children, in the families, in Group I 62% had children between 3 and 5, 19% had children below 3 and 19% had children above 5. In Group II, 63% had children below 3 and 5, 19% had more than 5 and 17% had less than 3 children. In Group III, 54% of families had 1 or 2 children, 44% had 3-5 children and 2% had more than 5 children.

**Ordinal position of the identified children:**

When examined the ordinal position of the identified children in Group I, 46% of the children were middle child, 27% were last child and 25% were first child. In Group II, 47% were middle child, 31% were last child, 20% were first child. In Group III, 56% were first child 20% were last child, and 11.9% were middle child.
The above findings reveal the family composition of the families under study. Based on these findings, the researcher could bring out the conclusion that, majority of the fathers of the children belonged to the age group of 41-50 years and 51-60 yrs. Majority of them had primary or secondary education, and occupations which yield low income. With regard to mothers, majority belonged to the age group 31-40 yrs, and 41-50 yrs respectively. Most of the mothers had primary or secondary education, very few had higher education and most of them had occupations which yield only low income. The family income of the majority of the families were below Rs. 1000/- and followed by income between Rs. 1000 and Rs. 3000 per month.

With regard to the number of children, majority of the families had accepted a small family norm and very few families had more than 5 children. Regarding ordinal position of children, majority of the children without behaviour problems and with mild behaviour problems were middle child and among the children with severe behaviour problems, 56% of them were first child and 27% of them were last child.

Physical Facilities of the Family:

The second factor of Family Structure studied was the physical facilities of the families. It included the location of the residence, description of the house, including cleanliness and orderliness of the house, type of people residing in the locality and change of residence.

It is found that 90% of the families reside at rural areas and 10% at urban areas, 98% had their own houses, 58% had pucca but small houses and only 26% had pucca good houses. Majority of the houses were very clean and moderately clean, and 64% of the families lived in a place where people of
the locality were moderately rich and 33% were poor. Most of the families did not change their residence, because they had their own houses, and among the respondents who changed residence, it was only once when they constructed a new house of their own.

From the above findings regarding the physical facilities of the houses, the researcher could conclude that, majority of the families under this study were rural based, having small but pucca houses, kept neat and tidy living in a locality where people of low class and lower middle class live and having a permanent residential area with very little or no change of residence.

Social Network of the Family:

The third factor of the family structure studied was the social network of the family in terms of the membership of the parents in social and political organizations, and sociopathology of the parents.

It is found that, 84% of the fathers had no membership in social and political organisations. Among the 16% of the parents who had membership were in political parties and trade unions. Those who had membership, majority of them had ordinary membership, very few were in responsible positions like President, Secretary or Treasurer.

Most of the mothers had no membership in social organizations, political parties or trade unions, but very few had membership in religious organizations. So majority of the parents are available to their children and other family members, most of the time, especially after their job.

Sociopathology of the family members were studied in terms of their alcoholism, drug addiction and criminal behaviour.
It is found that among the fathers, 59 of them had the habit of taking alcohol but none of them had the tendencies of drug addiction and criminal behaviour. None of the mothers had the habit of alcoholism, drug addiction or criminal behaviour. Regarding sociopathology of other family members, none of the family members had sociopathological behaviour. So it is inferred that the children under this study in general were not influenced by any of the sociopathological behaviour of their parents and other family members.

Thus, the findings regarding Family Structure revealed that, majority of the families belonged to a low or lower middle class group, with small families, rural based, lived in small but good houses in moderately clean surroundings, neighbourhood people were of similar socio-economic background, without any socio-pathic tendencies. Hence it is found that, the structural aspects of the families were considerably strong and had very little influence on the behaviour problems of the children.

FAMILY FUNCTIONING:

The third objective of the study was to study and measure the levels of Family Functioning, in terms of Communication, Role, Leadership, Social Support, Religious or Value Emphasis, Disciplining and Intellectual-Cultural Orientations in the families of children with severe behaviours and to compare that with the family functioning in terms of the above factors in the families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

In order to study this objective the investigator formulated a hypothesis as given below.
Hypothesis No. I: There is a significant variation in the family functioning of more among the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The variable Family Functioning has been studied in terms of seven factors mentioned in the third objective. To study the variation in the factor communication clarity in the three group of families, the investigator, formed the following sub hypothesis.

Hypothesis I a: There is significant variation in the clarity of communication in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders, with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The communication clarity has been measured by seven items and the total scores in the families belonged to each group has been measured and compared using t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance or ANOVA.

The results of the t-test revealed that, there is significant variation between group I and group III, (t-value = 3.21, P = 0.002 at 0.05 level) and group II and group III (t-value = 3.54, P = 0.001 at 0.05 level) and there is no significant variation between group I and group II regarding communication clarity.

To ascertain these results, a One Way ANOVA test has been conducted.
The result of the ANOVA revealed that (F-ratio = 7.0526 P = 0.0010 at 0.05 level) the hypothesis is proved and accepted and the children in the three groups of families experience varying degrees of communication clarity.

Hypothesis I b: There is significant variation in the role performance in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders, with that of families of children with mild no behaviour disorders.
The role clarity has been measured by five items and the total scores were tested using t-test for significant variation. The results of the t-test revealed that there is no significant variation between the three groups. So the hypothesis was rejected and the investigator concluded that, there is no difference in the role performance in the three groups of families of children with varying degrees of behaviour disorders.

**Hypothesis I c:** There is significant variation in the leadership pattern in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of the families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

Leadership pattern in the three groups of families were measured using thirteen items. The variation in the total scores has been tested using t-test and One Way ANOVA.

The t-test results between group I and group III, are (t-value = 4.98, P = 0.000 at 0.05 level), group II and group III are (t-value = 3.73, P = 0.000 at 0.05 level) respectively.

To ascertain these results, One Way ANOVA has been conducted and the result (F-ratio = 12.8386, P = 0.000 at 0.05 level) shows that, the three groups of families vary significantly in their leadership pattern. Hence the testing of hypothesis I c shows that, there is significant variation in the leadership pattern between the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that families of the children with mild and no behaviour disorders has been accepted. This shows that the children in the three groups of families experience varying degrees of leadership pattern, and that might have a relationship with the severity of their behaviour disorders.
**Hypothesis 1 d:** There is significant variation in the degree of social support provided by the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The social support rendered by the family to its members has been measured by seven items. The total scores obtained in the three groups of families were treated by t-test and one way ANOVA.

The results of the t-test between group I and group III are (t-value = 5.70, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) and group II and group III are (t-value = 4.53, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) respectively; suggesting a significant variation in social support among the three groups of families.

To ascertain this result, a one-way ANOVA has been conducted. The results of the ANOVA (F-ratio = 18.568, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) shows that, there is significant variation in the social support rendered in the three groups of families. This result help us to accept the hypothesis to prove that, there is significant difference in the level of social support experienced by children in the three groups of families in their family environment.

**Hypothesis 1 e:** There is significant variation in the degree of religious or value emphasis provided in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

To compare the variations in the scores on religious or value emphasis in the three groups of families, t-test has been conducted and found that there is no significant variation, thus, rejected the research hypothesis.
**Hypothesis 1 f** There is significant variation in the degree of disciplining in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

To compare the variation in the scores on disciplining in the three groups of families, t-test and one way ANOVA has been conducted.

The results of the t-test between group I and group III are \( t = 3.67, \quad P = 0.000 \) at 0.05 level) and between group II and group III are \( t = 2.84, \quad P = 0.000 \) at 0.05 level) respectively, suggesting a significant variation in the degree of disciplining among the three groups of families.

To ascertain this result, one way ANOVA has been conducted. The result of ANOVA \( F = 69771, \quad P = 0.001 \) at 0.05 level) shows that there is a significant variation in the disciplining procedures adopted by the three groups of families. Thus the hypothesis is tenable and the children in the three groups of families experience varying degrees of disciplinary procedures.

**Hypothesis 1 g** There is significant variation in the level of intellectual-cultural orientation provided by the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The intellectual-cultural orientation provided by the family to the children has been measured using six items. The total score obtained in the three groups of families were treated by t-test and one way analysis of variance.
The results of the t-test between group I and group III are (t-value = 3.38, P = 0.001 at 0.05 level) and group II and group III are (t-value = 2.17, P = 0.032 at 0.05 level) respectively. These results reject the null hypothesis and accept the research hypothesis.

Results of the ANOVA shows that (the f-ratio = 5.8834, P = 0.0032 at 0.05 level). There is significant variation in the intellectual cultural orientation in the three groups of families, accepting the research hypothesis. Thus, the children in the three groups of families experience varying degrees of intellectual-cultural orientation in their families.

**FAMILY RELATIONSHIP**

The fourth objective of the study was to measure and compare the variation if any, in the Family Relationship in terms of Cohesion, Conflict, Expressiveness and Neglect in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with the Family Relationship in terms of the above factors in the families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

In order to study this objective, the researcher has formulated the following hypothesis.

**Hypothesis No.2** There is significant variation in the Family Relationship among the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of the families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The factors of family relationship were Cohesion, Conflict, Expressiveness and Neglect. In order to find out the variations in the factors of family relationship, with regard to the three groups of families, sub-hypotheses were formulated for each factor of family relationship.
**Hypothesis No. 2 a** There is significant variation in the degree of cohesion experienced in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The cohesion experienced by the family members has been measured using five items. The total scores attained in the three groups of families were treated by t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance.

The results of the t-test between Group I and Group III are (t-value =5.08, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) and Group II and Group III are (t-value =4.50, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) respectively. These results reject the null hypothesis and accept the research hypothesis.

In order to ascertain the results of t-test, One Way ANOVA has been conducted. Results of ANOVA (F-ratio=16.2943, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) reveal that, this hypothesis is tenable and there is significant variation in the cohesion experienced by the children in the three groups of families with varying degrees of behaviour problems.

**Hypothesis No. 2b :** There is significant variation in the degree of conflict among the family members in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

The conflict experienced by the family members were measured using four items. The total scores obtained in the three groups of families were treated by t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance.
The results of the t-test between group I and group III are (t-value=-5.35, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) and between Group II and Group III are (t-value=-4.77, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) respectively suggesting a significant variation in conflict between the three groups of families, thus accepting the hypothesis.

To ascertain this result, a One Way ANOVA has been conducted. The results of the ANOVA (F-ratio=15.43, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) show that, there is significant variation in conflict experienced in the three groups of families. Thus, these results prove that the research hypothesis is tenable and there is a considerable degree of difference in the level of conflict experienced by the children in the three groups of families in their family environment.

**Hypothesis No. 2 c:** There is a significant variation in the degree of expressiveness in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of the families of children with mild behaviour disorders and no behaviour disorders.

Expressiveness experienced by the family members were measured using five items. The total scores obtained by the three groups of families were compared using t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance.

The results of the t-test between Group I and Group III are (t-value=4.47, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) and Group II and Group III are (t-value=4.52, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) respectively suggesting variation in expressiveness among the three groups of families.

To ascertain the results of t-test, One Way ANOVA has been conducted. The results of ANOVA (F-ratio=13.6483, P=0.000 at 0.05 level) shows that, hypothesis can be accepted. Thus the results establishes that, there is a
significant variation in the degree of expressiveness experienced by the children in the three groups of families in their respective family environment.

**Hypothesis No. 2 d:** There is significant variation in the degree of neglect experienced by children in the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

Neglect in the families were measured by six items. The total scores obtained in the three groups of families were compared by t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance.

The results of the t-test between Group I and Group III show that (t-value= -3.37, P=0.0001 at 0.05 level) between Group II and Group III shows that (t-value = -2.26, P=0.025, at 0.05 level) respectively, suggesting a significant variation in neglect among the three groups of families studied.

In order to ascertain these results a One Way ANOVA has been conducted. The results of ANOVA (F-ratio=6.1379, P=0.0025, at 0.05 level) show that there is a significant variation in the degree of neglect among the three groups of families such as families of children with no behaviour disorders, children with mild behaviour disorders and children with severe behaviour disorders. Thus the hypothesis is found to be tenable and accepted proving that, the children in the three groups of families may experience varying degrees of neglect and that may be the reason for varying degrees of severity of their behaviour disorders.
Based on the findings of the four sub-hypothesis No. 2, it is proved that, there is a significant difference in the degree of relationship among the families of children with severe behaviour disorders with that of families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH:**

1) The major findings emerged from the study is that, the families of children with severe behaviour disorders and the families of children with mild and no behaviour disorders differ significantly in their family functioning and family relationship. Hence the factors influencing the family functioning and family relationship should be changed in a progressive direction to gain good communication clarity, role performance, leadership social support and disciplining.

There should be increased cohesion and decrease in conflict, and the family members should be able to express themselves freely in the families, and the children should experience unconditional acceptance from the family members to improve their behaviour pattern. This kind of family functioning and family relationship will help the children to develop healthy interpersonal relationship and socially approved and appropriate behaviour patterns.

2) This study brought out the various factors of family functioning and family relationship which has a clear bearing on the behaviour disorders of the children. In order to help the families to overcome their difficulties in their functioning and relationship, each factor should be taken into consideration and an indepth or qualitative study may be undertaken.
3) The qualitative study of the families of children with no behaviour disorders may yield results which will help the therapists and psychiatric social workers to develop appropriate intervention strategies for the families of children with severe behaviour disorders.

4) The findings of the study did not reveal any significant difference in the family structure in the development of behaviour disorders among children. Even then, the structural aspects of the families of children with severe behaviour disorders showed variation in some of the structural aspects of their families, even though they were not significant. Hence the parents should be helped by the professionals to strengthen the structural aspects of the families through various preventive measures.

5) Even though the importance of the family in the development of individual behaviour pattern is well recognised and appreciated by social scientists and other researchers, the research studies in the area of family are very limited in India and especially in Kerala, where the educational and health status is high compared to the other states of India. Hence the social researchers in Kerala should take more interest to conduct more research studies in this area and to suggest measures and intervention strategies to strengthen the structural, functional and relationship aspects of the families in Kerala, which is undergoing rapid changes on par with the Western countries.