CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY

The present study was undertaken to determine the attitudes towards the girl child in respect of rearing of girls versus boys. Specifically, an attempt was made to determine the discrimination as practised against the girl child and as expressed through the attitudes of girl children themselves and their parents.

It was hypothesized that (1) the girls would report more discrimination against the girl child than what their parents would report and (2) the girls and their parents from the rural area would report more discrimination against the girl child than those from the urban area.

In order to test the hypotheses, an A x B factorial design (A denoting subjects and B areas, with each variable at two levels: girls and mothers, and urban and rural areas, respectively) and 50 replicates in each cell (N=200), was employed to study the differences on the main effects and their interaction.

One hundred girls (50 urban and 50 rural) ranging from seven to 13 years of age and those having brothers were selected along with their mothers. Their responses were obtained on the two Attitude Scales (one meant for the girl child and the other for the parent) having
fairly high test-retest reliability and criterion-related validity. These responses were verified by an interview of the subjects taken later on. The attitude scores of subjects, computed as per standard procedure, were subjected to statistical tests to determine differences in discrimination.

The results showed the F-ratio calculated for the main effect A (girls and their mothers) to be highly significant, which indicated a clear difference between the attitudes of girls and their mothers and confirmed the first hypothesis. The F-ratio for the main effect B, i.e., the urban and rural areas, was also found to be highly significant, indicating a positive difference in discrimination in both the areas and thus confirming the second hypothesis. The significant interaction effect implied an interdependent relationship between the two effects.

Individual responses of sub-groups of subjects, arranged in different categories, were also compared and subjected to the chi-square analyses. These analyses, supplementing the main analyses, indicated that the girls were discriminated against by their parents and more so in the rural area.