PROBLEM AND HYPOTHESES
Depression is not only the theoretically challenging but it is diagnostically complex also. In the clinically context depression refers not only simply to a state of depressed mood, but to a syndrome comprising mood disorder, psychomotor changes, and a variety of somatic and vegetative disturbances. (A.P.A. 1980). Depression as caused by negative thoughts about the self, about ongoing experience and about the future, it is also caused by the expectation of future helplessness. In particular, there are sex difference in the expression of depressive responses (Hammen et al 1977). Depressed males were more likely to report inability to cry, loss of social interest, a some of failure, and romantic complaints, while females were characterized by indecisiveness and self dislike. Depressed subjects had a more negative evaluation of present circumstances and poor memory for feedback and their self-evaluation after feedback significantly more than did nondepressed subjects. (Davis and Sally 1982). Highest level of problem behaviour was found in deprived boys, whose parents were incompatible before the depression and the lowest level in subjects whose parents were compatible (Rockwell, Elders and Richared, 1982). The exogenous variables of SES, age and sex affected the constructs of physical illness and depression. There is reciprocal relationship between depression and physical
illness. Female Ss generally suffered greater depression than male Ss. Lower class Ss tended to suffer more anxiety than their upper class peers, who reported experiencing more sadness than depression. Lower class female Ss reported greater feeling of depression connected with divorce, crime, suicide and illness (D.G.D R. 1984). Depressive symptoms are significantly higher in persons of lower SES than in persons of higher socio-economic class (Weissman and Hadas, 1983, Radloff, 1985). Depression was particularly strong for subjects who belong to middle class homes. Low SES and poor discipline were also associated with this disorder (Robins et al 1988). Poverty, depression and the relationship between them remained stable over time. Not only did depression tend to persist, but its relationship to low SES also tended to endure (Richard, Donald and oliver, 1991). Psychological distress shows that girls from rural setting suffered from more depressive symptomatology, poor self-esteem, and greater psychological distress than did other subjects, where as boys from both rural and urban locations experienced more hostility (Hung et al 1993).

On the basis of review of literature it is clear that the recent increase in psychological research on depression owes its production outcome to the wide spread use of sex, socio-economic status and social caste among college students. Neumerous studies that used mildly depressed college
students on the basis of their scores of self-report instruments of depression reported their findings as being specific to depression.

Recent studies, however critically questioned that the effect of socio-economic status, sex, and social caste affected the constructs of physical illness and depression, because there is a consistency in the reciprocal relationship between depression and physical caste (Anesheusel, George and Corol, 1984). It is proposed that depression in males and females differ significantly. Studies indicate that female subjects generally suffered greater depressive than male subjects. Lower class female subjects reported greater feelings of depression connected with divorce, crime, drunkenness and illness, while upper class female subjects listed divorce, cancer, suicide, madness and death as a causes of depression. Males were significantly higher in loneliness, while females were significantly higher in depression (Diaz, Rogelis-1984, Wiseman and Hardes 1996).

The problem of the present investigation was formulated in the following manner:

Study of general depression among college students in relation to their sex, caste and socio-economic status.

"On the basis fo the previously conducted studies it
was hypothesised that:

1. Female subjects would show high general depression than male subjects.

2. Low caste subjects would show high general depression than upper caste subjects.

3. Subjects with low socio economic status would show high general depression than the subjects with high SES.

4. There would be a significant interactive effect of sex, caste & SES on general depression.

We may now pass on to the next chapter dealing with design and methodology.