CHAPTER X

ANALYSIS OF THE REASONS FOR INTERRUPTION OF STUDIES

Interruption of studies understood in the broad sense which was explained in the introduction includes any delay in the progress towards graduation for any reason other than failure, i.e. mere absence from the examination, "dropping" in local, jargon, or withdrawal of the examination form by the college authorities.

In this section no special analysis will be made of the reasons for interruption by factors, as it was done in previous sections, because the data are not sufficient for such study. However, pertinent remarks will be made as occasion offers.

FACULTY OF ARTS

Analysis of the reasons for interruption

The students of this faculty in response to the questionnaire gave 221 reasons to explain their interruption of studies. These reasons were given by 201 men and 20 women.

Financial problems. The highest number of cases of interruption of studies both among men and among women
(20 and 6 respectively) were due to financial problems. Of all these cases, 15 men and 1 woman had to bear the responsibilities of maintaining the family, 2 had financial problems on account of their marriage and 1 woman had to take charge of the family following the death of her father and the subsequent discontinuance of the pension he was receiving. Among the students who interrupted studies because of financial problems there were some who had obtained good results in the S. S. C. There was also in this group a higher proportion of married students, of students who came originally from rural areas and of students who had graduated from urban schools.

**Failure.** Although only three students said they had interrupted studies because of their disappointment on account of their failure in the examinations, it may be presumed that the other 16 students who also interrupted studies immediately after their failure suffered from the same disappointment. Besides these 19 students there were many others who interrupted studies either before or after failure. Of these 45 gave the same reason to explain the two phenomena distributed thus: financial problems 26 students; marriage 8; work 7; family problems 3 cases; illness 1 student.
Finding work. Very many young men join college in order to prepare themselves for employment or to make a good use of their time while in search of a good job. On finding permanent employment many of these students discontinue studies, but others merely interrupt them for a time hoping to graduate at leisure and so obtain a promotion after graduation. To this last group belong the 45 students (42 men and 3 women) who reported interruption of studies following their permanent employment.

Marriage. Marriage was the reason for 22 men and 4 women interrupting studies. Of these, 3 men were so worried by their responsibilities as married persons that they could not study and so interrupted. A rather high proportion of the students who interrupted because of marriage had originally come from rural areas. On the other hand students who graduated from urban schools gave this reason more frequently than those who graduated from schools situated in rural areas.

Refusal of leave. Some employers do not like their employees to study. They fear that studies will interfere with efficiency in their work. One way to discourage employees from studying is to refuse them leave they ask either for the preparation of the examinations or for the examinations themselves. 25 men and 2 women said they
have been refused leave on this count and so had to interrupt their studies.

Other reasons. Besides the reasons analysed family problems were the cause of 9 cases of interruption. In 13 other cases the reasons mentioned were: business, long distance from any college, difficulties in studies - mainly change of medium - and finally opposition of the parents to their graduation.

2 Analysis of the combinations of reasons for interruption of studies

The Arts students who interrupted studies gave very few combinations of reasons in comparison with the students who failed in the examinations. However, for the sake of completeness it may be of interest to study the patterns these combinations offer, as was done in the previous chapter.

The combination most frequently mentioned was by far that of financial problems and finding a job (20 cases). Next in importance is the combination of financial problems and refusal of leave to prepare the examinations (11 cases). Thus financial problems and work are mentioned together in one way or other 31 times by the students who interrupted studies. Finding a job and not being given leave to prepare the examination are mentioned together 8 times. Thus the
combinations most frequently mentioned by the Arts students are those in which either financial problems or work are one of the contributory reasons, while other combinations are mentioned by very few students.

Faculty of Commerce

1 Analysis of the reasons for interruption

Financial problems. Financial problems as a reason for interruption of studies were mentioned by 21 students of the Faculty of Commerce. Of these, 5 students said they had to support their families because they were the eldest sons. Of all the students who interrupted studies on account of financial problems nearly one half were employed, and most of them belonged to the lowest income-group.

Failure. Failure in the examinations accounted for 14 cases of interruption. Of the students who interrupted because of failure one said that he felt so disappointed with the results of his studies that he interrupted them for one year. All these students who failed and interrupted their studies were as a whole young in age, and two of them had obtained between 60 and 64 per cent of the total marks in the S. S. C. Examination.
Finding a job. The students who interrupted studies on finding a job number 20 in all. All these students were older in age than those who interrupted studies on account of failure; and their percentage at the S. S. C. Examination was lower.

Other reasons. The remaining reasons were mentioned very seldom by the students who interrupted. The number of cases for each one of these reasons were: illness 5 cases; marriage 2 cases; refusal of leave 4 cases; family problems 7 cases and other various reasons 7 cases. No details were given concerning the nature of these reasons.

2 Analysis of the combinations of reasons for interruption

The combinations of reasons for interruption of studies given by the Commerce students are still fewer and less varied than those given by students of the Faculty of Arts. The combination most frequently mentioned, is financial problems and finding a job (9 cases). Again combinations in which financial problems are one of the contributing reasons are mentioned oftener than other.