SUMMARY

Much of a man's life is spent in coordinated interaction with other people. A man is born, lives in and consequently becomes the member of different social groups. These groups are webs of social relationships. Social relations are established through the interaction between the various members of a group. To understand the nature of human interpersonal behaviour, has been the concern of thinkers over centuries. Philosophers have expressed a keen interest in the nature and origins of human social behaviour. Indeed, Plato and Aristotle paid considerable attention to many aspects of social interactions.

However, the systematic investigation of group structure and the individuals place in it had its origin in the work of Moreno, "Who Shall Survive"? The technique of sociometry developed by him is used for identifying certain clique structures within groups, and also for assessing an individual's social status in a given group. Thus, an individual can be a popular, a neglectee or an isolate (Moreno, 1944). An interesting era in the field, however, began when several important variables were related to the sociometric status of the individual. Empirical studies have shown that physical attractiveness, intelligence, age, sex, social class, race, interests, values and personality characteristics have
significant relationships with the sociometric status of an individual (Jennings, 1952; Weber, 1956; Borg, 1958; Hartip, 1976; Gottman, 1977 etc.).

Reviewing the literature, one wonders that person perception processes — processes by which man comes to know and to think about other persons, their characteristics, qualities and inner states — has been ignored. Our perceptions of other persons set the stage for our later interactions with them. That is, our perceptions of their feelings, motives, intentions and characteristics strongly affect the way we react to and with them. Indeed, it is hard to imagine any aspect of our social which is 'not' strongly affected by such perceptions. In the process of having impressions of themselves and others, and in expressing the impressions in the form of ratings, raters are found to make different kinds of errors e.g., leniency error, halo-effect and rater-trait interaction error. The magnitude of errors may be logically expected to be related to certain psychological variables.

It was surmised that popularity in social groups may be due to acquiring of various personality traits which are admired in the society. In other words populars may be aware of the traits considered to be desirable, important and rare,
and this awareness enables them to inculcate in their personalities the traits which are required for their nomination as populars. It was expected that there may be difference among the three groups regarding the biased components viz., leniency error, halo-effect and rater-trait interaction. Consequently, the present study was conducted with the following objectives:

a) To find out the differences in self and others' perception of populars, neglectees and isolates;

b) To discover differences among the three groups with respect to the evaluation of traits in terms of their social desirability, importance and rareness; and

c) To discover the differences among the three groups with regard to the biased components viz., leniency error, halo-effect and rater-trait interaction in their ratings.

**Methodology:**

**Sample:**

Three sociometric groups, each comprising of 50 subjects, identified from among the four hundred and fifty students of class 9th and 10th from three schools, made the sample for the 1st phase of the study. For the second phase of the study, sample consisted of three sociometric groups, each comprising of 30 subjects.
Procedure:

The present study was conducted in two phases. First of all three sociometric groups were identified. Sociometric status of each subject was determined by the administration of a sociometric test using three choices and three criteria. For the 1st phase of the study, a 16 pairs adjective list was used to measure the self and others' perception. These 16 pairs were then detached to have 32 adjectives, and were used for the trait evaluation measurement. The 2nd phase of the study was concerned with the measurement of bias components viz., leniency error, halo-effect and rater-trait interaction. The study of bias components was confined to their operation in the ratings on 4 pairs of adjectives. The pairs were those eight polar opposites which were evaluated differently by the three sociometric groups viz., populars, neglectees and isolates in all respects i.e. importance, desirability and rareness.

Statistics:

The data was analysed with the help of the following statistical techniques:

a) The t-test was used for the significance of differences in self and others' perception of the three groups and
also for the significance of difference among the evaluative ratings of three groups.

b) Guilford's formula was used to detect the errors and the extension of median-test was used to find out the significant difference among the three groups.

Results:

The analysis of the data has revealed that there is difference in self as well as others' perception of populars, neglectees and isolates. Difference has also been found among the three groups with regard to the trait evaluation. As far as biased components are concerned, the difference is found only in the case of leniency error. Populars have rated themselves and other populars positively, whereas neglectees and isolates have been rated negatively by them. Neglectees and isolates have rated themselves as well as other neglectees and isolates negatively. Those traits which populars suppose are present in them, have been evaluated as important, desirable and uncommon by them; whereas, the traits which neglectees and isolates suppose are present in them, have been perceived as unimportant, undesirable and uncommon by them. Populars have rated themselves as well as others leniently, whereas, neglectees and isolates have rated themselves as well as others strictly.
No difference is, however, found among the three groups regarding the halo-effect and rater-trait interaction.

The results of the study support the logical expectations that: (i) popularity in social groups may be due to the acquiring of those traits, which are admired in the society, (ii) there may be difference among populars, neglectees and isolates regarding the evaluation of traits. The logical expectation regarding the difference of biased components is, however, partially supported.