

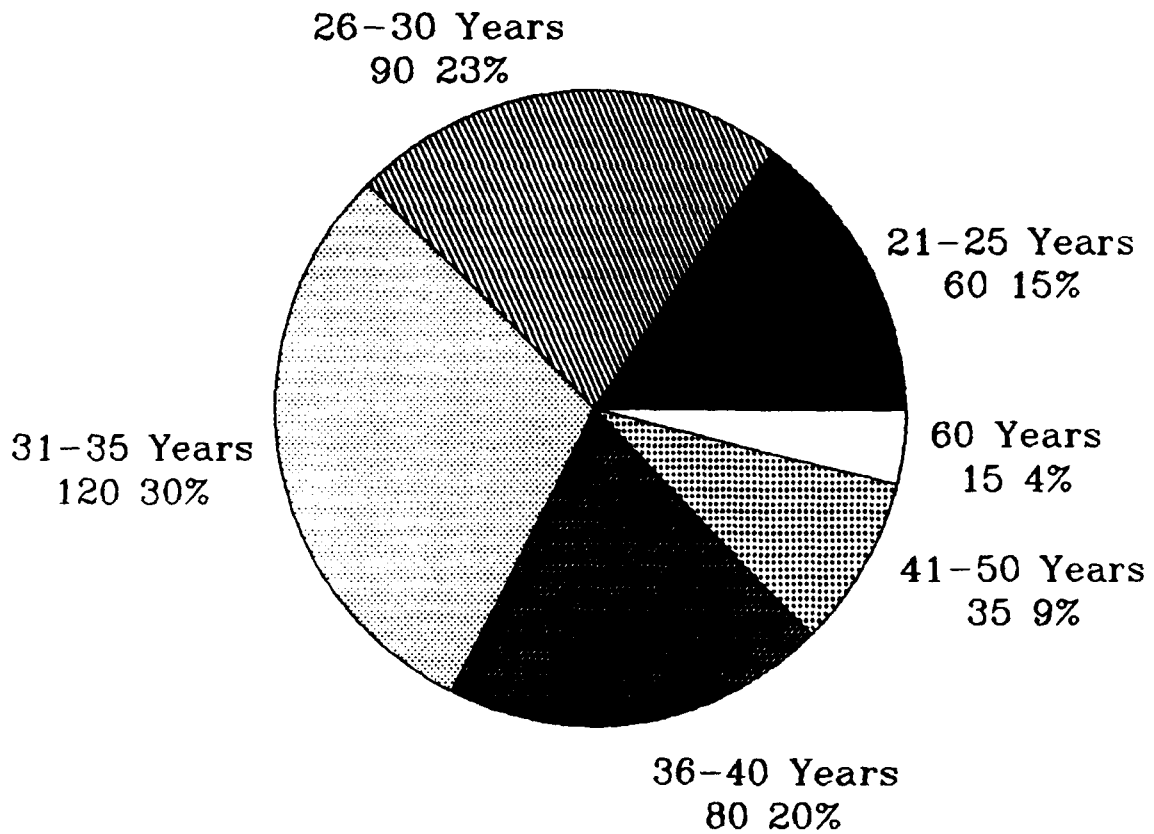
CHAPTER - III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

In this section data concerning the socio-economic background of the respondents have been analyzed. The aim is to characterise the composition of the respondents and to find out how it reflects the social heterogeneity and diffuseness of the respondents.

AGE: Age is one of the most important variable in the understanding of woman's role in society. The role and status of women changes with the change in age. The younger women as compared to older have different social and familial functions to perform. Moreover, age signifies experience. Again, the factor of age is extremely important in dealing with the question of conflict and accommodation in the minds of married working women because the role and responsibilities of women vary significantly in different periods of their life. It has been observed that in the first few years of marriage they have to face maximum difficulties as they are not familiar with the domestic atmosphere of their in-laws, children are small and feel scared of parents-in-law. With the passage of time such things disappear from the

TABLE 3.1
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS



science, so that the tension and conflict cases to a large extent.

In the sample for present investigation, the women from different age groups were included in order to trace out how far their problems are different. It was found that young working women have greater problems in carrying dual roles. As it reflects from table 3.1 most of the respondents belong to middle age group followed by the younger age group. The number of working women with age of forty and fifty is lower.

TABLE 3.1
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
21-25 Years	60	15%
26-30 Years	90	22.5%
31-35 Years	120	30%
36-40 Years	80	20%
41-50 Years	35	8.25%
60 Years	15	3.75%
	400	100.00%

There were 37.5 per cent respondents who belonged to the age group 21-30 years and 50% of the respondents

belonged to the age group 31-40 years. A small proportion of the respondents belonged to older generation. Among these 8.75% were from the age group 41-50 and 3.75 per cent were more than 50 years old.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

The level of education is an important factor in the life of a working woman. Her job prospects depend upon it. It determines the additional income she can make for the family. It is also related to a women's aspirations, sense of fulfilment etc.

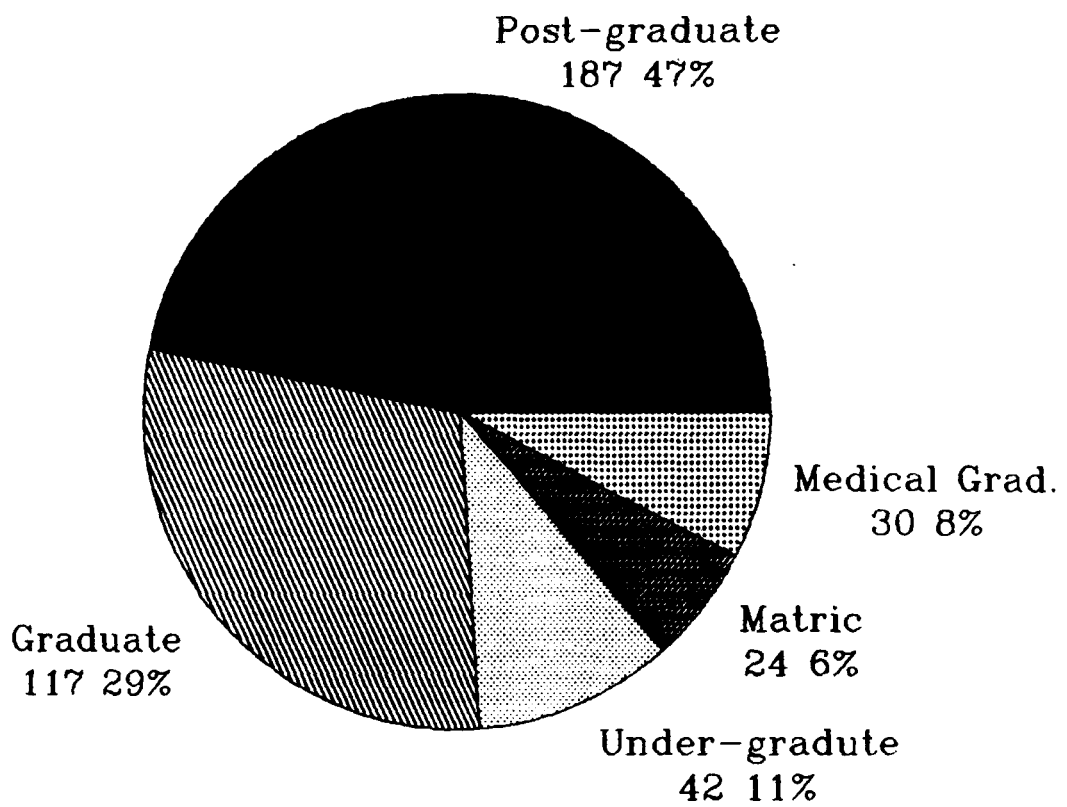
TABLE 3.2

DISTRIBUTION BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Post-graduate	187	46.5%
Graduate	117	29.5%
Under-graduate	42	10.5%
Matric	24	6.0%
Medical Graduate	30	7.5%
	400	100.00%

As revealed by Table 3.2 maximum number of respondents are post-graduate which highlights the fact

TABLE 3.2
DISTRIBUTION BY EDUCATIONAL
QUALIFICATION



that the women are very much attracted to receive higher education. The thinking and situation is changing and more and more women are trying to receive post-graduate education. Though the minimum qualification required for a school teacher is only to be a trained graduate, but in the present study we find that a great number of school teachers had a post-graduate degree. Many post-graduate women were serving in middle and primary schools.

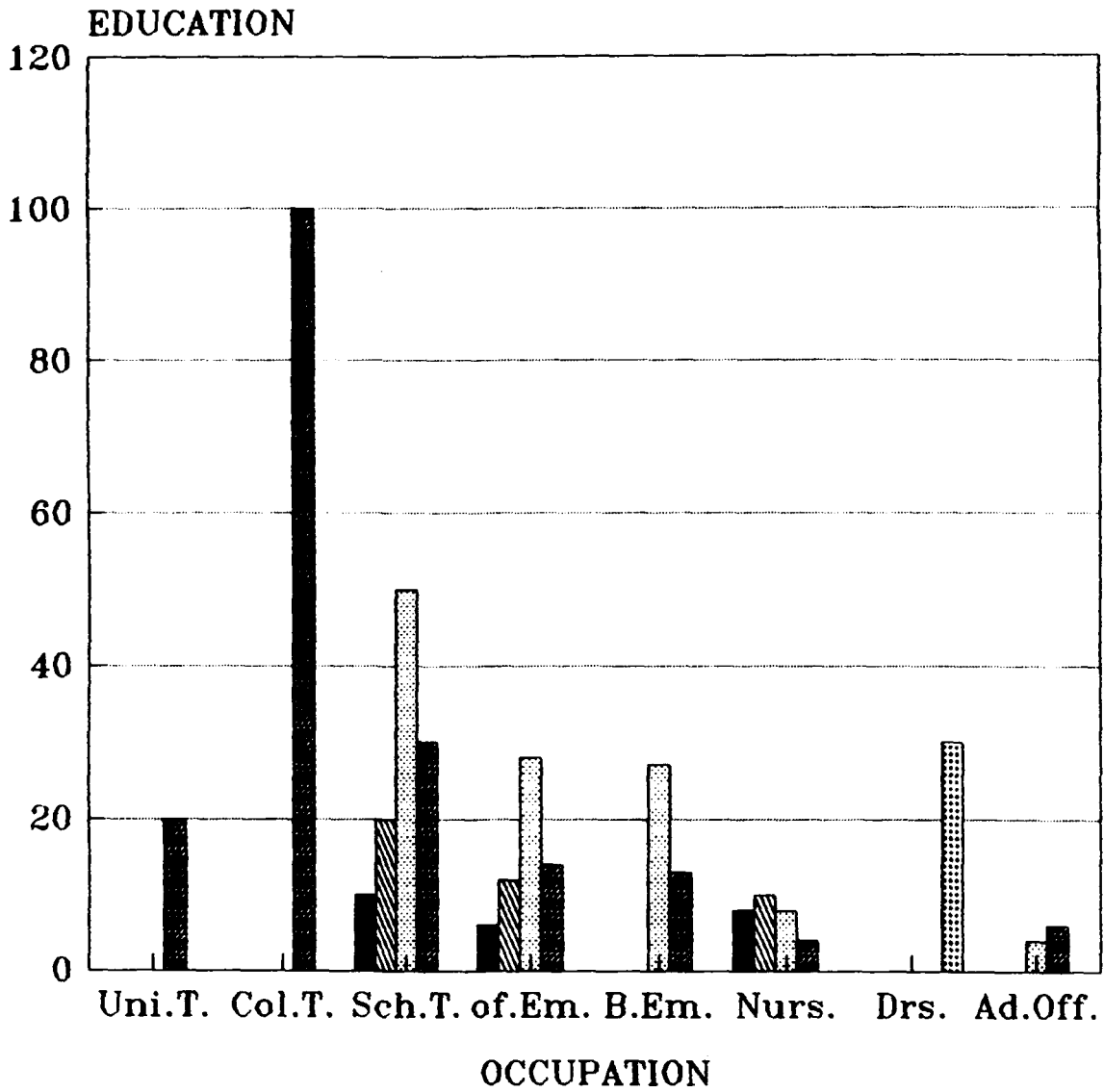
The general trend was found that women prefer to get absorbed in job even at poor salary, as they regard it better than sitting at home confined only to household duties. This shows that financial gain is not the only reason for taking up jobs. Qualified women are keen to work and earn something even if the job does not benefit their qualification.

OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND:

In the sample of the present study, women with different occupational backgrounds were included. The following table 3.3 gives the occupational distribution of the respondents.

The analysis reveals certain very significant facts about the choice of occupation by the women.

TABLE 3.3
RESPONDENT'S OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION



Matric	Under-gradu	Graduate
Post-gradu.	Medical Graduate	

There are only certain professions in which women are attracted. Teaching is considered as the most respectable and popular occupation amongst the women. This is the profession which attracts and exceedingly higher number of educated women than other professions.

TABLE 3.3

RESPONDENT'S OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION

Occupation	EDUCATION					Total
	Matric	under graduate	Gra- duate	Post graduate	Medical graduate	
University Teacher	-	-	-	20	-	20
College teacher	-	-	-	100	-	100
School Teacher	10	20	50	30	-	110
Office Employees	6	12	28	14	-	60
Bank Employees	-	-	27	13	-	40
Nurses	8	10	8	4	-	30
Doctor	-	-	-	-	30	30
Administrative Officer	-	-	4	6	-	10
Total	24	42	117	187	30	400
Percentage	6%	10%	29.25%	46.75%	7.5%	100%

The analysis points out that a great number is of school teachers. It is obvious that this job is most suitable for women. However, it has been accepted by the respondents that this job is somewhat strenuous for married women specially who have small children. But at the same time it is suitable for those women who have school going children. Now women prefer to complete

their post-graduate degree and also go for higher studies and thus lay claims for the post of college teachers. This job is more suitable for women than school teaching. They have to spend only three to four hours in the college and for rest of the time they are free to perform their household duties. In this job, life is peaceful and married women with children manage both roles.

The analysis points out a new significant trend pertaining to extension of occupational choice. Bank employment is becoming popular among educated women. A few years back this job was not regarded as a good job for married women. But with the passage of time thinking is being changed and presently a substantial proportion of women are in this job.

The profession of medicine is very common among women and it is very popular. In Srinagar, there are a large number of lady doctors thirty of whom were included in the sample. It was seen that for a married lady doctor, it is very difficult to carry on her profession along with her household jobs and children. Majority of them had facilities at home and there was someone to look after the household and children with

the result they were carrying on their profession successfully.

As for as nursing profession is concerned, it attracts a good number of low educated women. Though it is considered not a very respectable profession for the women, yet it provides security for them who are not highly educated and without proper familial support. Married women in this profession are not able to carry on their two roles satisfactorily due to their complicated duty hours.

Married working women are also found scattered in other white collar jobs in various 'Govt' offices. They work as Typists, stenographers, clerks, private assistants etc. Similarly new in roads have been made into jobs of technical nature. A good number of women also work as technicians especially in health department. Now women are also keen to compete for civil service and thus lay claim for administrative posts.

Thus, in the present study, the bulk of the women is engaged in teaching profession but there is a very definite trend towards diffuseness of occupational choice. More and more women are seeking new jobs which

were hitherto forbidden for them. It has been observed that educated women want to take up any sort of white collar job than to remain unemployed.

INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS:

In the present study respondents from different income brackets were included in order to trace out the nature of conflict and accommodation in the. The information about the income of the working women (Table 3.4) reveals that most of them 28.75% respondents were earning in the income bracket of Rs. 2700-3000. There were 15.5% respondents whose monthly income ranged from Rs. 1000-2000 and only 1% respondents earned upto Rs. 1000. Thus, on the whole 45.25% respondents fall in lower income group i.e. whose monthly income is upto Rs. 3000. As regards the higher income group 24.5% respondents were earning above Rs. 5000 per month. There were 17.5% respondents whose monthly income ranged from Rs. 4100-5000 and 12.5% respondents income was Rs. 3100-4000 per month. Thus on the whole there were 54.75 per cent respondents whose monthly income was more than Rs. 3000 per month.

The inquiry reveals that the earning of women in the sample are lower than their class status. But taken

together the earnings of their husbands, it adds to raise the economic status of their family.

HUSBAND'S OCCUPATION:

It is the occupation of the breadwinner which determines the status of family and in most cases husbands are the major breadwinners. So it is essential to discuss the occupation of husbands which would also determine the status of the respondents.

TABLE 3.4
RESPONDENT'S INCOME AND OCCUPATION

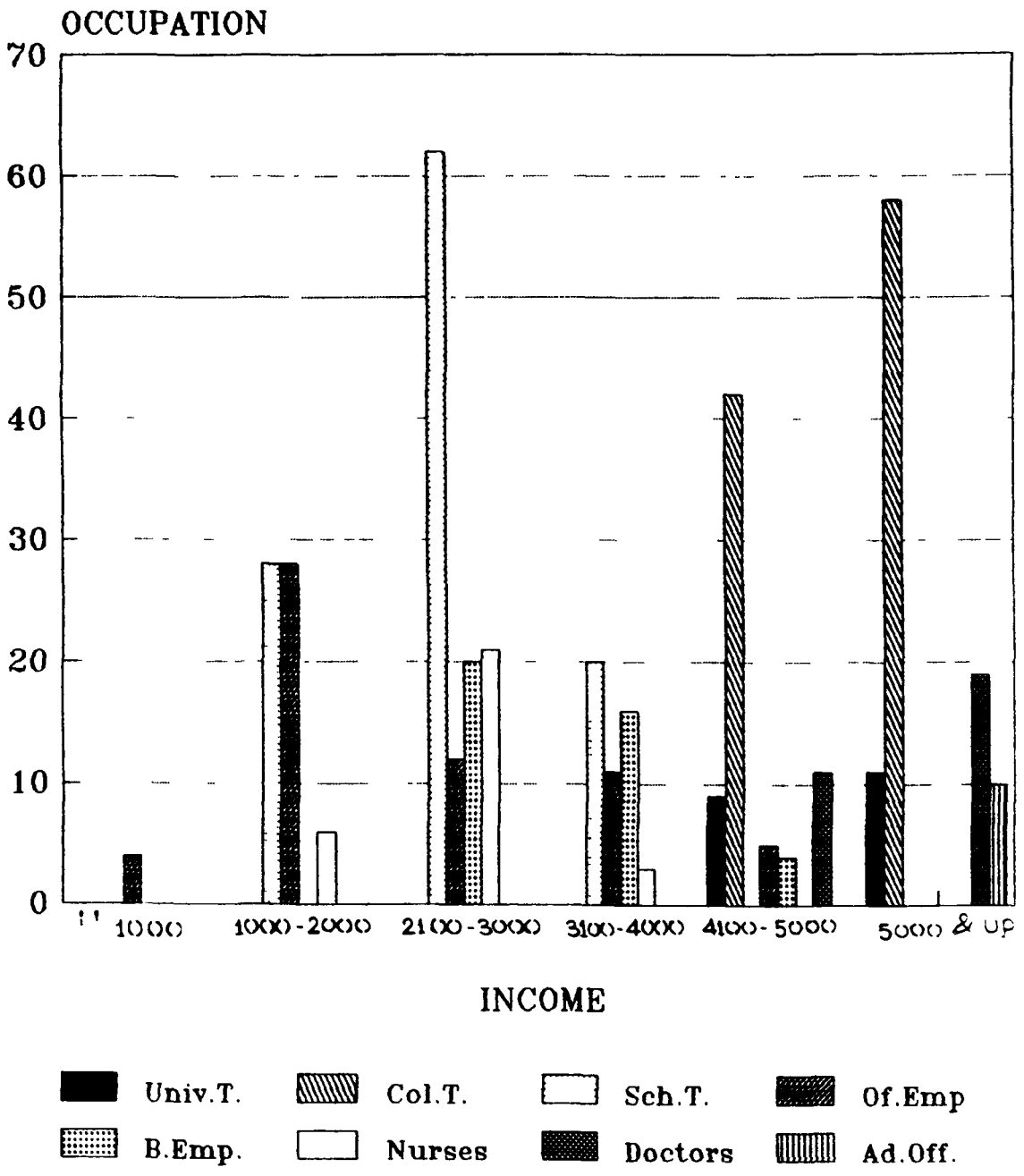


TABLE 3.4

RESPONDENT'S INCOME AND OCCUPATION

Income	OCCUPATION								Total	Percentage
	Univer- Teacher	College Teacher	School Teacher	Office Employ- ees	Bank Employ- ees	Nurses	Doctos	Adm. Officers		
Upto Rs.1000	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	1%
Rs.1000-2000	-	-	20	20	-	6	-	-	62	15.5%
Rs.2100-3000	-	-	62	12	20	21	-	-	115	28.75%
Rs.3100-4000	-	-	20	11	16	3	-	-	50	12.5%
Rs.4100-5000	9	42	-	5	4	-	11	-	71	17.75%
Rs.5000- & above	11	58	-	-	-	-	19	10	98	24.5%
Total	20	100	110	60	40	70	30	10	400	100%

TABLE 3.5
RESPONDENTS HUSBAND'S OCCUPATION

Occupation	Number	Percentage
Officer	106	26.5%
Businessmen	78	19.5%
Ministerial Post	52	13.0%
Doctor	48	12.0%
Engineer	42	10.5%
Teaching (College, University)	36	9.0%
Lawyer	20	5.0%
School teacher	12	3.0%
Other professions (Legal)	06	1.5%
	400	100.00%

It is revealed by the analysis Table 3.5 that most of the respondent's husbands were engaged in urban occupations. Service especially in government offices is the most popular among them. The number of officers is the highest in the sample which indicates a trend among the views of the officers to work. Officers prefer to have educated wives and the later want to utilise their education. As officers get handsome salary they can

afford to meet the family expenditure nicely. Financial gain is not the main incentive for them, but there is the consciousness of self-earning which gives pleasure and pride.

Husbands of a large number of respondents are engaged in business. The wives of businessmen mostly opined that they take up jobs to spend spare time usefully. Those who were talented and enterprising, were engaged in high professions such as medical, engineering and teaching professions. The doctors however, prefer to have medico wives. Husbands in teaching jobs prefer to have educated wives. Such wives want to have the job do not object to their wives being in employment, as it supplement their income. Some do not object in order to keep the harmony in the family.

It may be further pointed out that the nature of occupations followed by respondent's husbands is typical of the middle class people in India. The tendency of middle class people in India is towards adoption of white collar jobs. Rural or blue collar jobs are rarely found among them.

HUSBAND'S INCOME LEVEL:

In case of working woman, it is important to have information about the income of the husbands as it determines whether the wife is working due to financial stress.

TABLE 3.6

RESPONDENT'S HUSBAND'S INCOME AND OCCUPATION

Income	OCCUPATION									Total	percen- tage	
	Officers	Business man	Minis- terial post	Doctor	Engi- neer	Teaching (college Univ.)	Lawyer	School Teacher	Other Profe- ssion			
Below Rs.2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rs. 2100-3000	-	0	18	-	-	-	-	5	2	24	24	9.5%
Rs. 3100-4000	-	18	20	4	7	-	5	7	1	62	62	19.5%
Rs. 4100-5000	19	17	14	12	14	16	10	-	2	107	107	25.75%
Rs. 5000-6000	42	16	-	19	10	18	2	-	1	108	108	27.00%
Rs. 6000 & above	46	19	-	13	11	2	7	-	-	97	97	23.25%
Total	106	79	52	48	42	36	20	12	6	400	400	100%
Percentage	26.5%	19.5%	13%	12%	10.5%	9%	5%	3%	1.5%			

As revealed by Table 3.6 the vast majority of husbands of the respondents earn enough to meet, the expenses of the household. This indicates that majority of the respondents do not work under financial stress but there is some other motive behind their job. The information about husbands income revealed that 27% of them has an income above Rs. 5000 i.e. their income bracket was Rs. 5100-6000 and 25.75 respondents earned above Rs. 4000 per month in the income bracket Rs. 4100-5000. Even 23.25% has an income of Rs. 6000 and above per month. These three categories fall in the higher income group. The analysis also points out that none of the respondent's husband has a monthly income of below Rs. 2000. 8.5 percent husbands earned in the income bracket of Rs. 2100-3000 while as 15.5 percent earned in the income bracket of Rs. 3100-4000.

The analysis reveals that most of the respondent's husbands possessed higher middle class economic background.

FAMILY PATTERN

In dealing with the question of role conflict and accomodation in case of working woman, it is very important to get information about the family pattern

of working woman. It is believed that the nature and extent of role conflict experienced by working woman is very much dependent on the type of family she belongs to. In the present study attempt was made to include respondents from nuclear, joint and joint extended families in order to trace out the difference in the extent of role conflict in different patterns of families.

The joint family system has been the most important structural unit of Indian society. In modern times, however, the traditional family is breaking up and new type of family organisation is coming up. In between these two dichotomous patterns of family organisation, certain variations in the nuclear as well as joint family are found. These families may be termed as nuclear extended and joint extended families. Nuclear extended family denotes that family in which a part form husband wife and their children, some other close relatives such as sister or brother also live together. Joint extended family is that family whose members, on account of business or service are scattered and living at different places but on ceremonial occasions they gather where their original family resides.

TABLE 3.7
THE FAMILY PATTERN

Family	Number	Percentage
Nuclear	162	40.5%
Joint	178	44.5%
Nuclear Extended	28	7.0%
Joint extended	32	8.0%
	400	100 %

In the present sample as is evident from the Table 3.7 majority of the respondents live in joint families whose percentage is 44.5 percent and 40.5 percent live in nuclear families followed by 8 percent in joint extended and 7 percent in nuclear extended families.

Thus, the chapter dealt with the socio-economic background of the respondents who reside in Srinager. All the respondents in the present study are Muslim married women. Their minimum educational qualification is high school standard and all of them belong to middle class economic background. The information about the socio-cultural characteristics of the respondents thus suggests that educated middle class working women are a heterogenous group of people. Their family background, economic status, educational background etc. are etc., are widely varied.