CHAPTER - III

METHODOLOGY
Since the control of aggression has always been an important problem for human beings, aggressive behavior and its causes have great significance for social scientists. Theorists have attempted to explain human aggressiveness at many different levels. Whatever may be the theory, sexual dimorphism in the expression of human aggression is a widely accepted idea. But, recent research suggests that the relatively low level of aggression expressed by women may be due to their belief that such behavior may be viewed as sex inappropriate by others. In situations, where such restraints are absent differences between the sexes may decrease or even totally vanish. (Frodi, Macaulay and Thomas 1977; Richardson, Bernstein and Taylor 1979, Baron and Berney, 1974). But there is not enough research to suggest the effect of gender-role standards on the expression of aggression among the two genders.

Particularly in Indian set up specific gender-role standards have been present since the post vedic times. In traditional Indian families, roles of women are clearly defined and separated from that of men. Men always attached to the tasks out side the household, where as women had a complex constellation of roles as manager of the house hold caretaker of the children and the distributor of love and affection. Though there is significant social change, an average Indian women still routinely perform tasks as cleaning, sweeping and decorating the house, washing vessels, cooking and serving food, looking after children

In a series of experiments conducted by Richardson and Raymond (1974) over a period of 10 years, changes were found in cultural climate and gender-role stereotypes due to introduction of new ideas deleting sex biased child rearing practices through mass media. So the gender-role stereotype which were imbibed by the child through the process of gender typing influence almost all dimensions of personality, including aggressive behavior. The differences between men and women in their expression of aggression which can be observed very early in life are mostly due to the different social sanctions and reinforcements they get from the society. (Hoyenga and Hoyenga, 1979; Hyde and Rosenberg, 1980.)

Since the impact of social standards will be different for men and women at different age levels, the pattern of expression of aggression among them may be different at different periods of life span. Further, economic status is an important factor which affects social standards and restraints. Social standards and expectation of upper class people are significantly different from that of lower class
people. This may be a possible reason for the significant difference among different economic groups. Especially upper class people are in need of social approval and express aggression in more subtle and indirect ways and economically low class people who may not be very cautious of their social status may express aggression in direct and active forms. Hence it would be worthwhile to study the effects of economic status or human expression of aggression.

Thus human aggressive behaviors is a complex phenomenon which is influenced by many variables. Hence to understand the dynamics of human aggression it is necessary to study the independent and interactive effects of these variables. In the present work it is aimed to study the effect of some important variables like gender, age, economic status and gender-role orientations on human aggression and an attempt is made to answer the following questions.

1. How do men and women differ in different dimensions of expression of aggression?

2. What is the impact of age on human expression of aggression?

3. How gender-role orientation influence human expression of aggression?

4. What is the impact of economic status on human expression of aggression?

5. How do gender, age, gender-role orientation and economic status interact among themselves and influence human aggression.
Variables and Hypotheses: In the present study, gender, age, economic status and gender-role orientation constituted the explanatory variables and the expression of aggression the criterion variable and following hypotheses were formulated for the investigation.

1. Gender, Age, Economic status and gender-role orientation show significant effect on expression of aggression.
   a. There is a significant difference between men and women in expression of aggression men showing more direct and active forms of aggression than women.
   b. There are significant differences among the four age levels on human expression of aggression with increase in age there is a decrease in the direct and active forms of expression of aggression.
   c. There is a significant difference between different levels of economic status on human expression of aggression, lower economic status group showing more direct and active forms of aggression, than higher economic groups.
   d. There are significant differences among the four gender-role orientations on human expression of aggression, masculine and androgynus groups showing more direct and active forms of aggression them female and undifferentiated groups.

2. There is a significant interaction effect among gender, age, economic status and gender-role orientations on human expression of aggression.
Tools:

As a first step towards testing the hypotheses, an economic status scale, Gender-role inventory, human aggressiveness scale and situational aggression scale were developed all in Telugu the regional language.

Development of Human aggressiveness scale:— There are several methods of measuring human aggression like laboratory tasks, projective techniques and questionnaires. Most of the laboratory tasks involve delivering electric shocks (Buss, 1961, Taylor, 1967) Among the projective techniques the Rosenzwing picture Frustration Test (Rosenzwing, 1948), the Thematic Apperception Test (Murray 1938) and the Rorschach Ink block Test (Finevey, 1964) are a few that have achieved most popularity as measures of human aggressiveness. Though aggressiveness question are frequently referred to as measures of hostility or aggression, they are used implicitly as a means of measuring human aggressiveness.

But measurement of human aggressiveness has not been taken up seriously in India. Though a few measures like A.G. Questionnaire by Pati, (1976), Restandardized Buss-Durkee Inventory, (Ujjwala Rani and Ramavani, 1989) were developed a good measure of human aggressiveness in regional language has not been taken up seriously. An item pool consisting different dimensions of aggression was collected making a use of existing literature, a few relevant tests and informal interviews with Indian men and women. The
present study has taken up development of a human aggressiveness scale in Telugu, the regional language. The initial form consists of 83 items. Five alternatives namely a. completely applicable b. generally applicable c. undecided d. generally not applicable and e. completely not applicable were given for each item. The above alternatives were given a weightage of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The inventory was designed to assess different forms of aggression and hostility representing the following sub-scales based on the classification given by Buss (1961).

Assault (A): - Physical violence against human beings including fighting but excluding destruction of property (17 items).

Indirect Aggression (IA): Malicious gossip, practical jokes and temper tantrums (7 items).

Irritability (I): Readiness to anger including quick temper and rudeness (7 items).

Negativism (NE): Oppositional behaviour including refusal to co-operate, non-compliance and rebellion (7 items).

Resentment (R): Jealousy and hatred of others (7 items).

Suspicion (S): Distrust, wariness and projection of hostility on to others; in extreme forms this becomes Paranoia (7 items).

Verbal Aggression (V): Arguing, shouting, threatening and cursing (7 items).

The inventory was administered on a representative sample from Tirupati, (Andhra pradesh, India) consisting of
one hundred and ten men and one hundred and ten women with
an age range of 20-60 years representing all the three
economic groups. For the purpose of determining the degree
to which each item in the scale discriminates between
individuals with high and low levels of aggression an item
analysis was carried out using extreme groups. The items
with significant "t" value barring on man difference between
the two groups were calculated, discriminated and selected
for inclusion in the scale. The resulted in a 60 item which
were factor analysis resulting in a 49 item scale valuing 7
division of human aggressiveness, represented by equal number
of items. The final form has a split half reliability of
0.94 and a test retest reliability of 0.90. The original and
final forms are enclosed in the appendices.

Development of Gender -role Inventory- By careful study of
literature and study of few related tests (Bern. 1961) and
informal interviews with Indian men and women an item pool
consisting 193 traits of men and women were collected. The
items were written in regional language were given to a
representative sample from Tirupati consisting of One
hundred and ten men and One hundred and ten women with an
age range of 20-60 years representing all the three economic
groups. with a request to underline the traits that they
expects an Indian man should possess. Similar sample was
asked to identify the traits that they expect an Indian
women should possess. After Item analysis making use of
the "t" ratios, 100 item were retained.
After factor analysis for 50 masculine and 50 feminine items, 10 masculine and 10 feminine item were retained. The inventory with 20 items has a split half reliability of 0.83 and a test retest reliability of 0.87. The original and final forms are enclosed in the appendix.

Situational aggression scale: Making use of existing literature relevant tests and informal interviews with Indian men and women. An item pool was collected consisting of 30 items in Telugu the regional language consisting of aggression provoking situations which can elicit different forms of aggression. Each item has eight different types of responses representing 7 dimensions of aggression namely, ASS,IA,I,NE,R,S,VA (Buss, 1961) and eighth one of no aggression response. In selecting the items both with in the family context and outside the family context aggression provoking situations were given. To deal with the problem of social desirability, two methods were employed in item writing. 1. to assume that aggression provoking situation has been encountered and enquiring merely what form of response was and 2. the response options describing behaviour in terms of what the person will do rather than what he should do. The items were screened at two levels. In the first instance the items were shown to four judges who were professionals in Psychology with a request to reform the statements and see whether the items were appropriate or not for the measurement of expression of aggression. The inter-rater agreement made it possible to include all the...
items for empirical try out. At the second stage, items were tried one empirically. A representative sample from Tirupati, (Andhra pradesh, India) consisting of one hundred and ten men and one hundred and ten women with an age range of 20-60 years representing all the three economic groups, were administered the situational aggression scale and the respondents expression of aggression was measured. Since all the items were able to elicit more or less equal proportion of all the eight responses, all the 30 items were retained. After Factor analysis a scale with 28 items was resulted. The test-retest reliability Scores are 0.8, 0.8, 0.76 0.83, 0.81, 0.85, 0.92 and .83The original and final forms are enclosed in the appendices.

Economic status scale: An economic status scale was developed to know about the particulars of the economic standard of the respondents. Using the scale the subjects were classified into three economic status groups, Upper, Middle and Lower following Indian gazette of economics. The Upper, Middle and Lower classification was done according to the classification done by Indian Government.

The respondents :- The sample of the study consisting of representative sample of 276 men and 276 women from four age groups namely 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50-59 years, representing all the three economic groups was taken. The distribution of the sample is shown in the form of diagram.
As a first step towards testing the hypothesis the respondents were personally met and an economic status scale was administered to each respondent. It took approximately fifteen minutes to complete the economic status scale for each respondent. Basing on the scores of the economic status scale the respondents were classified into Upper, Middle and Lower classes.

In the next session all the respondents were individually administered gender-role inventory. Though there was no time limit, it took 15 minutes complete the inventory. Basing on the scores of the gender-role inventory the respondents were divided into four groups i.e., Masculine, Feminine, Audrogyanous and undifferentiated.

In the third session which took approximately half an hour two aggression measures namely Human Aggressiveness Scale and Situational Aggression Scale were administered. Though the scores on human aggressiveness scale provide evidence to accept the hypothesis the situational aggression scale was used as a marker variable on the same sample to strengthen the evidence. Though all the four tools were self administering instruction were given to each respondent and care was taken too see that all the items of the tool were understood and properly responded.

To assess the influence of age, gender, economic status and gender role orientation, the statistical techniques like $2 \times 4 \times 3 \times 4$ analysis of variance and Bonferroni
significant test were used to explain the effect of and relationship among the explanatory variables on the scores of the aggression measure.