CHAPTER II

RESEARCH DESIGN

Roughly speaking, studies are said to be of two major types: exploratory and hypothesis-testing. The exploratory study attempts to see what is there rather than to predict the relationships that will be found. From its findings may come knowledge about important relationships between variables, but the more definite proof of these relationships comes from hypothesis-testing. The present study is of the second type that is for testing the hypothesis.

The main objective of this study is to test the hypothesis that the fertility of women is negatively correlated with the social status. For testing this hypothesis, as already mentioned, it was decided to take four different categories of women, namely, highly educated working, highly educated non-working, less educated non-working and less educated working.

Since the women were divided into four different categories, the study required a universe of women including a sufficient number of women in these various categories. It was, therefore, considered necessary to

---

select a community that possesses all these characteristics. Hence Chandigarh was selected for the purpose.

It was also decided to restrict the study only to the urban area as it is more responsive to changing conditions than the rural areas are. Therefore, Chandigarh city was considered adequate for the purpose in hand.

Chandigarh being a new and complex modern community, there are women having all such characteristics. In other words, it is a city in which all types of working and non-working women are available. But it was not possible to take a sample from the total universe because of the limited time and resources at the disposal of the investigator. However, a 10 per cent, sample of the women from the city was available from the study of 'The Social Structure of a Planned City, Chandigarh,' which was completed under the Research Programme Committee in 1967. This sample was convenient to use as a sampling frame but it was not adequate to draw a complete sample for the study as the present study required an adequate number of married working and non-working women. In this sampling frame the number of working women was too small as only 4.06 per cent of the females were in the working

force. Hence it was decided to take two sub-universes, one for the working and the other for the non-working women.

**Drawing the Sample**

The Universe includes married women of 20 years of age or above. It must be mentioned here that widows, divorcees and separated women were not taken into consideration.

Since the women to be studied were already divided into four categories, it was decided to select a stratified sample, the criteria of stratification being education and employment.

The first sample was drawn from the study of 'Social Structure of a Planned City, Chandigarh,' This sample was used only for two categories of women, namely, highly educated and less educated non-working women.

According to this sampling frame there were 1532 highly educated and less educated non-working married women above the age of 20 years. In order to keep the groups in the sample sufficiently large, it was decided to have 75 women from each strata and so they were randomly selected from this sampling frame.

A different procedure was adopted for selecting the categories of working women. For this purpose certain organizations like Colleges, the University, Hospitals, the Secretariat, Schools, Telephone Exchanges and Factories etc. which employ such highly educated as well as less educated women were selected. And a list was obtained of all the married women working in these institutions.

There were in all 141 highly educated and 75 less educated married women working in these institutions. And all these were chosen for the purposes of the study. However, finally only 95 highly educated and 66 less educated women could be approached for the completion of interviews. The original sample in these categories was reduced for the following reasons.

From the highly educated group, out of 141 women, 106 were available for the purposes of interview as the remaining 35 were either away on leave or refused to cooperate with the investigator. Hence, of the 106 available women, 95 married women were above the age of 20 years and so they were interviewed.

From the less educated group, there were 75 women working as factory workers, peons, sweepresses, maidservants and midwives etc. in these very institutions. Of these 75 women, 9 were not available for the purposes of the interview as they, too, were either on leave or
refused to cooperate with the investigator. Hence the remaining 66 women were interviewed.

Thus, in total, 311 married women were interviewed from different sections of the population.

Technique

The interview schedule seemed to be the only suitable technique for the data collection. The nature of the study required the sample population to represent women from different socio-economic strata comprising illiterates to highly educated, working as well as non-working. Hence questionnaire could not be administered. Moreover, the interview schedule provides scope for the investigator to read subliminal clues of respondents besides their replies.

Hence an interview schedule was prepared and it included a large number of questions pertaining to fertility, morality, age at marriage and family planning practices of the women (the Schedule is appended at the end).

The working women were interviewed at their places of work and non-working in their homes.