CHAPTER - II
METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH SETTING

Section 1 : Methodology
Section 2 : Research Setting
Section 3 : Basic Data
METHODOLOGY

The Problem:

Field studies in rural areas have found women play vital roles in family economies. Yet sex-typing and segregation of work by gender is also noted as a common feature. Inequality between men and women has been empirically established in most parts. Economic contributions by women, though considerable, do not always ensure them a status equal to that of men. While they are burdened with multiple roles in production, in running the home, in raising children and in care of all family members, paradoxically women's most roles remain invisible.

The most invisible are probably the women who work in their family farms as unpaid labour. Their labour does not bring any direct income, in cash or kind, to their family and hence perceived valueless. This study looks at their social and economic status, family and workforce roles and their power in family decisions. The study addresses itself to examining the interrelationships among women's status, roles and power in two rural settings for a comparative exposition.

Scope

Farm women are the least studied and understood in India. Recent inquiries in this realm have highlighted the inadequacy of the traditional definition
of women and their roles. The present investigation examines all the socially necessary activities they perform at home and in the farm. The approach in this sense is anthropological.

As the sexual division of labour is construed to be a major impediment to equality an attempt is made to find out the extent of segregation of tasks by gender in the two sets of rural communities - relatively isolated and less isolated.

Removal, or reduction at the least, of segregation implies equal participation by both the sexes in all major spheres. Hence, the extent to which men participate in the traditionally female tasks of household and childcare is explored in the present study.

Emphasis has over the decades been placed on the importance of equal access to decision-making for women. The present study attempts to find out the female participation in the economic, domestic and financial spheres.

The institution of marriage in traditional societies have a bearing on the interpersonal relationships and the application of status elements. Women in third world societies are subject to control by men partly due to his superiority of age. Status increases with age for men
as well as women. The husband is mostly older than his wife. Societies which permit cross-cousin marriages are found to confer a higher status to their women. Longer migration by women on their marriage is again seen associated with greater emotional and social deprivation. Forms of marriage, marriage distance, age at marriage, age difference and finally the influence of these variables on role participation are examined.

Objectives:

The study broadly attempts to measure and compare the status and role of farm women in the family division of labour and in the family decisions, in relatively isolated and less isolated villages.

Specifically it attempts:

To study the marriage system in relatively isolated and less isolated villages and identify inequalities arising from the system;

To measure the participation of farm women in production activities in isolated and less isolated villages;

To measure the involvement of women and men in family maintenance and childcare tasks;
To assess the role of farm women in income disposing tasks in the isolated and less isolated communities;

To identify the access for farm women to decision-making in the production sphere;

To examine the relative access for farm women to decision-making in the sphere of income disposal;

To identify the role of farm women in decisions on child care; and

To identify individual, farm and family variables that influence their participation in isolated and less isolated villages.

Operational definitions

**Status** - Status consists of a certain location in social groups to which are assigned a collection of rights and duties (Linton, 1936 : 113)

It is operationally defined as the social standing accorded to women, vis-a-vis men, in the family in terms of their access to participate in the family division of work.

**Role** - Role implies concrete activities which women perform irrespective of the cultural definitions.

**Power** - Power is the ability to influence decisions in a given sphere within the family system.
Family Farm - Family Farm is broadly defined as a farm owned and operated by a family that provides most of the management and financial resources for the operation of the farm.

Farm Women - Female members of a family which owns a farm and provides most of the management and financial resources for the operation of the farm.

The Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive and diagnostic design. It aims at portrayal of the characteristics of the units of study or at determining the frequency with which something occurs or the frequency with which it is associated with something else. Very specific hypotheses are not held at the start.

The direction in which some of the independent variables would act had so far no empirical evidence for the farm setting, though broad conjectures have been made. Age difference between spouses, for example, has been postulated to be a possible factor contributing to male dominance but it is not backed up by data.

Dichotomous classification of variables was avoided, to the extent possible, as any significant variation
along a curvilinear path would be nullified in dichotomy. With the same end in mind initial classifications were made with as many class intervals as the sample size would permit. The pattern of variation, rather than quartiles, was taken into account for grouping data.

Mean scores are presented along with Chi Square values for the tables to demonstrate the direction of the relationship.

**Tool construction:**

Interview schedule was decided upon as the appropriate tool for data collection. A number of questions were left open-ended. It was pretested under similar farming and social conditions. Some of the items which could not be substantiated due to their limited applicability in the sample were deleted. Since most nuclear families had not had an occasion to make decisions on their children's marriage, this item had to be dropped. A very large percentage of the sample households are nuclear.

The schedule in Tamil, finalised after pretesting, had sections on personal characteristics, household particulars, the whole gamut of the social division of labour at the family level, access to resources like agricultural training, information contact and decisions in different spheres.
COIMBATORE DISTRICT — TAMILNADU

ISOLATED VILLAGES
1. Kembanoidankanpalayam
2. Pachagoundanur
3. Uthupalayam
4. Krishnagoundan Pudur
5. Pathuvampalli
6. Kumarapalayam

LESS-ISOLATED VILLAGES
7. Ravathur
8. Kannampalayam

MAP SHOWING THE STUDY VILLAGES
## STUDY VILLAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relatively Isolated</th>
<th>From Coimbatore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Kambanaickenpalayam</td>
<td>19 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pachagoundanur</td>
<td>25 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Uthupalayam</td>
<td>22 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Krishnagoundenpudur</td>
<td>24 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pathuvampalli</td>
<td>24 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Kumarapalayam</td>
<td>20 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less Isolated</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Ravathur</td>
<td>4 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Kannampalayam</td>
<td>5 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Methodology

Selection of the area

A few women studies conducted in Tamil nadu are confined to rice belts. Examination of women under different farming conditions would add considerably to the existing fund of knowledge. Farming in major parts of Coimbatore district in Tamilnadu depends on underground water and rains. Though primarily a millet region (ICSSR, 1976) lift irrigation with electric pumpsets is widely adopted and patches of multiproduct 'gardenland' farms are a common sight, Farming is carried on throughout the year as they do not depend on centrally controlled irrigation schemes for water. Crops are raised not bound by seasons. Cash crops like sugarcane, cotton, banana, flowers and turmeric are the predominant crops which require their attention continuously. Unlike in the paddy belts where labour requirement is very much seasonal and hence a farm family has to heavily depend upon hired labour on contract basis and the least labour input from the family, one comes across the entire family spending the whole day in some task or other.

More than three quarters of the farming families live in their farms. The above conditions offer ample scope for farm women not only to be active economic participants but also for inter-change of traditionally male and female tasks related to childcare, family maintenance
and financial management. They could as well be often involved in family decisions.

In view of these considerations Coimbatore district was chosen as the broad area for the study.

**Selection of the Community**

Velala Gounders are the most predominant agrarian caste in the entire Kongu region covering the present districts of Coimbatore, Periyar, Salem and the Western part of Trichy district. Members of this community own at least 80 percent of the land and they own it in small, individual holdings. Hence they are also the dominant community in this region (Beck, 1972). This community was decided upon as appropriate to examine the status of farm women.

**Selection of Villages:**

For a comparative analysis, certain factors should be controlled. Since cropping pattern and farm size are the most important variables influencing the extent of the involvement of family members in production activities, these criteria were applied in the selection of sample villages. The relevant particulars were gathered from the personnel of the department of agriculture.

The sample villages should be different with regard to the operational variable. A number of villages
with given cropping pattern were visited. Finally
six villages inhabited by the community and relatively
away from the influences of industrialization and urbani-
ization were purposively selected. Another set of two
villages, close to the city of Coimbatore and interacting
with the industrial system were again purposively selected.
A number of men were in industrial employment and small
industrial units were also operating locally. Both groups
of villages did not significantly differ with regard to
other infrastructural facilities.

Selection of households

Farm Families of the community were listed
from the records of the village level agricultural extension
personnel. A few of them were shown separately for revenue
purposes, though they were part of joint families. They
were corrected in consultation with the local leaders.
Five from the first group and seven from the second group
of villages were thus deleted. The fact of ownership of
gardenland was also verified. Single member households
were dropped and all the remaining households were included
for investigation: 144 in the isolated and 149 in less
isolated villages.

Married women in the households were the
respondents.
Data Collection

Interviewing was carried out by the investigator which lasted from July through December, 1983. All particulars excepting land area and income were elicited from women respondents. These data were obtained from menfolk.

The investigator spent a few days in each village to get acquainted with the people. Local leaders and former students helped establish rapport and in convincing the respondents about the purpose of the investigation. It was quite revealing to note that responses to questions on land owned was precise not even rounding to the closer whole number. An explanation on family income that it was excluding the farm input from the gross income helped get a fairly reliable data on this item.

This phase of the study did not pose any difficult problem of getting the respondents as most families resided in the farm itself, excepting the problem of reaching them as they are dispersed.

Analysis of Data

Codes were prepared beforehand and the interview response sheets were coded accordingly. The codes were transferred to a master code sheet. The raw scores secured by respondents on individual items where pooled to arrive at indices related to given spheres. The
scores were then located on a participation scale. Translation of raw scores to appropriate positions on the participation scale was carried out for the following indices:

- Index of femaleness
- Index of segregation
- Index of task participation for individuals
- Index of decision participation for individuals

Since a large proportion of the distribution fell at the lowest end of the scale as in income disposal and likewise a heavy concentration at the higher end of the scale in case of household maintenance, quartiles could not be used in categorising the levels of participation. As to the levels of participation is decisions, the scores are whole numbers on a four point scale ranging from 0 to 3. Therefore, the quartile measure could not be applied to this sphere also.

A large number of respondents get the highest score of 3 for household expenses where neither quartile measures are useful nor any further classification is meaningful. Wherever sufficient, the arithmetic mean was used as a cut off point. Otherwise, respondents with scores 2 and 3 who constitute a small frequency were clubbed to form the high participation category.
Femaleness index for various tasks was worked out. It is arrived at by women as percentage of all men and women engaged in a given activity. A composite index of participation was arrived by giving equal weightage for each task in the given spheres - crop production, animal husbandry, income disposal, household maintenance and childcare.

Segregation index for the task is the amount of reallocation required to make the participation equal between the sexes. The maximum possible index is .5.

The respondents participation index is got by the number of tasks she performs as percentage of tasks performed by her plus the number of tasks performed by her spouse.

**Individual Variables:** Age, education and economic participation.

**Interpersonal variables:** age difference between spouses

**Economic variables:** Farm size and family income

**Social variables:** Forms of marriage, marriage distance, family structure, and dwelling place

Chi squares were worked out for the distribution to find out the association between independent and dependent variables.
For innovation decisions the following scores were assigned:

1 for involvement in discussion,
2 for seeking informal concurrence before implementing the decision,
3 for joint decision and
4 for predominantly female decision.

For other decisions: 1 for involvement in discussion, 2 for joint decision and 3 for predominantly female decision.
Research Setting

Tamilnadu, a State in southern part of India, is traditionally comprised of five great regions. These are Chola Nadu, Chera Nadu, Tontai Nadu, and Kongu Nadu respectively. The Kongu area is comprised of the present administrative units of Coimbatore and Periyar districts, Karur taluk of Tiruchirapalli district, Palani taluk of Madurai district, and Namakkal, Tiruchengodu and Sankari taluks of Salem district (Census of India, 1961).

Despite many small rivers, Kongu is essentially an extremely dry plain. Crops must be irrigated from precious water supplies. The mean rainfall is 23 inches. Rain is infrequent and less dependable than anywhere else in the State of Tamilnadu. Exceptions are a few canal irrigation schemes alongside the river banks. Most farmers still depend on deep open wells (Census of India, 1961).

Coimbatore district

Census reports and administrative reports by the British stress the hardwork by the peasants and their pride in their harsh living conditions. "The district of Coimbatore in which the city is located leads other districts by its agrarian and industrial development .... But its economy is based on its sound agriculture built up by its hardworking agriculturists...." (Census of India, 1964 : 1)
The Farming Community

The Tamil speaking Vellala Gounders constituted about 31 per cent of the Coimbatore district's general population (Census of India, 1921) and form one of the largest castes in the entire Kongu region (consisting of the districts of Periyar, Salem and Coimbatore and parts of Trichy and Madurai). Basically a landowning agricultural community, it is dominant in terms of local political power and controls much of daily labour and production activity. The members of this group claim status on account of their kinglike position and support their assertions by citing their local, territorial hegemony. Groups that are dependent on this community for employment will support their claims. On the other hand, subcastes following other independent occupations do not accept their claims. Instead they point to the inferior ritual position of the farmer and emphasize the ritual purity as the criterion (Beck, 1972).

Members of this farming community spend much time interacting with those whose labour they oversee. "It is by their very involvement in local affairs, and by their willingness to perform technically polluting tasks such as ploughing, that the Kavundars, succeed in maintaining their position of dominance" (Beck : 9). "In order to speak of a dominant caste in an area, that group must generally have more households owning or managing moderate amounts of land than any other group in the
area" (Beck : 16). There is no problem of rivalry for dominance based on secular criteria. This community owns at least eighty per cent of the land and they own it in small, individual holdings.

**Work Participation**

British ethnographers and administrators since the last century have admired this farming community for their hard work. Both men and women of the family go to the fields and supervise the farm operations. While their men take pride in ploughing even wealthy women will help with sowing, weeding and transplanting. Women take a keen interest in economic matters and one often comes across a woman accusing her husband for lack of economic achievements compared to his brothers and other kinsfolk.

**Kinship**

It is patriarchal, patrilineal and patrilocal. They have a preference for marriage with cross-cousins, both mother's brother's daughters and father's sister's daughters. Marriage with ego's elder sister's daughter is also common. Since they are tied to the land, they prefer to reinforce their local position by selecting brides whose families reside within walking distance. The married daughter is invited along with her husband by her parents to share even small pleasures. Formal dowry is not in order though gifts are made to her on minor
and major life-cycle ceremonies. Even after her parents' life-time her brothers are obliged to continue the assistance. There is a high degree of informality between the two families unlike in most parts of northern India. Her parents would stay for many days with her marital family. It is interesting to compare this with the customs in north India where a daughter is married off to a place forty or fifty miles away but her parents, when they visit her, are not expected to take food. A clear demarcation between bride-givers and bride-seekers in their status equation is almost totally absent.

Farming system

The district of Coimbatore is by and large a millet region (Kusum chopra) Sorghum, Ragi, Cumbu, gingelly and groundnut are the major crops grown in dry lands. Yet the back bone of agricultural economy is the commercial crop. Sugarcane, tobacco, cotton, banana, flowers and turmeric are cultivated in garden lands exploiting the groundwater for irrigation. Wells upto 150 feet in depth is common. Cropping pattern depends on the underground water potential during different seasons. Each farmer decides his crops reading the water potential. Much of the agricultural wealth of the region consists of these wells and the garden patches that surround them.
It may be emphasized that the above factors lead to one consequence: most farms are multiproduct farms. Yearlong lift irrigation with electric pumpset coupled with multiple crops provide ample opportunities for continuous utilisation of family labour. Thus family heads have a deep commitment to labour maximisation rather than profit maximisation.

Profile

The profile includes some of the basic conditions of the study population which would have a bearing on the role and status of women discussed in the coming chapters.

Table 2.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of holdings (acres)</th>
<th>Isolated No.</th>
<th>Sample %</th>
<th>Less Isolated No.</th>
<th>Sample %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15.28</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25.69</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>42.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>35.42</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23.61</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.1 shows that about 41 percent of the farms in isolated Villages and 56 per cent of those
in less isolated villages are of 5 or less acres. In the former 35.42 percent range from 6 to 10 acres and 23.61 percent between 11 and 15 acres. In the latter 26.85 and 16.78 percent of farms belong to the 6-10 acres and 11-15 acres categories respectively.

Residence

Settlement pattern till recently has been oriented to nucleated villages. There is a dramatic change in the recent past in dwelling place among the farmers. Roughly 85 percent of the farming families live in their own farms.

Table 2.2

Dwelling place of the farm families in the sample communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dwelling Place</th>
<th>Isolated No.</th>
<th>Sample %</th>
<th>Less Isolated No.</th>
<th>Total No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>86.81</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13.19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.2 clearly shows that farm residence is the most predominant pattern.

Many factors have promoted this change. Scarcity of water in the village for drinking and other domestic purposes is one of the important factors that motivated these families to move to their farms. The
community wells or private wells in villages are dry now. Due to over-exploitation of underground water all around for irrigation the water table has been getting lower and lower. The State Government has banned institutional loans for deepening irrigation wells in the entire district.

Secondly, shift in residence is also a function of the emerging family structure. More than three quarters of the households are nuclear leaving only one adult woman in a family. Carrying water from the surrounding irrigation wells and carrying food for men and labour to the farm, along with other household chores is too much for her to cope with.

The third factor, closely related with the second, is the universal school education in farm families for girls and boys, depriving the housewife of the traditional assistance she received in household and childcare.

The last factor relates to the labour front. For centuries farming families employed agricultural labour on yearly basis. This 'farm servant' was on the farm during day and night excepting one or two hours he may take off for his night food. This relationship existed between families for generations. Farm servant is a phenomenon of the past and the presence at least one member of the family has become a necessity. Commercial
modern farming requires very frequent outside visits by the man to arrange for inputs and finance or for marketing the produces. It is the wife now who could step in to take over farm supervision at these times.

Farmstead residence has certain significant implications to the role integration by the womenfolk. The bifurcation of work and residence may be reduced to a great extent. The household and maternal obligations could be integrated with farm work without much difficulty. Second, as explained already, by eliminating the need for the arduous tasks of carrying food to the farm and the long trek in carrying water, farm residence places at her disposal more time which could be spent on more gainful tasks.

Family Structure

Brenda Beck (1972) in her study 'Peasant Society in Konku' states that the proportion of joint and supplemented nuclear households in the Kankayam area (Kongu region) is quite low when compared to other parts of India. She reports of 15 per cent of the households of Gounders in her sample as joint.

The distribution of households in table 2.3 shows that joint households with two or more couples constitute 19.45 percent of the 293 households.
In the isolated villages they represent 22.22 per cent and in the less isolated sample 16.77 per cent.

Table 2.3

Household types in the sample villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Type</th>
<th>Isolated Sample</th>
<th>Less Isolated Sample</th>
<th>Total No.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear, Sub-nuclear and supplemented nuclear</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>77.78</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>83.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineal, Collateral and supplemented joint</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>22.22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Material conditions

Material conditions reflect the standard of living on the one hand and the exposure to modern influences. They also serve as an index of the world outlook of the population, including their values and attitudes. One set of artefacts relate to their general life while the second set is related to the access of women to modern gadgets which are considered as time-saving devices, relieving women from their drudgery.
Table 2.4
Material possessions in the sample populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Isolated Sample</th>
<th>Less Isolated Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timer</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>91.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>92.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>95.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Wheeler</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tractor</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A larger percentage of households in the second sample hold timers than in the first. This is explained by the requirement of industrial occupation in the former. Regarding all other materials families in the first sample out-number those in the second. The difference is significant for the items of radio, 2-wheeler, car and tractor.

Household Gadgets

Conflict theorists are of the strong view that household work should be mechanised in the attempt to remove discrimination against women. Industrialisation so far has failed to achieve this in many societies.
Table 2.5

Household gadgets in the sample Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Isolated Sample</th>
<th>Less Isolated Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biogas</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stove</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooker</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Grinder</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixie</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water tap</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The only domestic gadget possessed by a larger percentage of households in the second sample is Kerosene stove. Their menfolk in industrial employment are to be served food at odd times since many of them go to the factory in shifts. To meet this need 26.17 percent are keeping the stove. But we come across a relatively greater proportion of families in the first sample have extended the facilities of biogas, cooker, wet grinder and mixie. However, this proportion is less than one tenth excepting wet grinder which is found with 13.89 per cent and water tap provided in 17.36 per cent.
Age Structure

Table 2.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Isolated Sample</th>
<th>Less Isolated Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34</td>
<td>49 34.03</td>
<td>41 27.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>38 26.39</td>
<td>52 34.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59</td>
<td>48 33.33</td>
<td>49 32.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>9 6.25</td>
<td>7 4.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>144 100.00</td>
<td>149 100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the isolated villages 34 percent of respondents are between 20 and 34 in age, 26.39 per cent are in the age group 35-44, 33.33 per cent in the 45-59 age and 6.25 per cent above sixty but below seventy years.

In the less isolated sample 27.52 per cent of our respondents are aged between 20 and 34. Of the remaining 34.90 per cent are in the 35-44 age group, 32.89 per cent in the 45-59 and 4.69 per cent in the 60-69 age group.
## Educational Status

### Table 2.7

**Educational Status of Respondents in the Sample Villages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Schooling</th>
<th>Isolated Sample</th>
<th>Less Isolated Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>44.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>36.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>144</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we see in table 2.7, 44.44 per cent of the respondents in isolated villages and 42.28 per cent of those in less isolated villages are illiterates. Among the literates 36.81 per cent have had one to five years of schooling, 11.81 per cent six to ten years and 6.94 per cent 11-12 years in the isolated sample. In the other group 33.56 per cent have attended the primary school, 16.78 per cent high school and 7.38 per cent higher secondary.