CHAPTER 3

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

3.1 General Profile of the respondents

The sample for the present study is drawn from women workers in the Bombay Municipal Corporation. It consists of 225 respondents. They are all women in the fertile age group 30 to 49. They have all been employed before their marriage and have been continuously employed since then. They are all currently married women, married only once and having at least one live born surviving child.

As the purpose behind this exploratory study is to analyse the comparative effect of women’s employment in different occupations and at different occupational levels on their fertility, equal number of respondents are selected from three different occupations - Teaching, medical and office work. Thus, there are 75 workers from each occupation. Three levels in all the three occupations are considered. The high, the middle and low described as level I, II and III respectively. Equal number of respondents are selected from each level. The following table gives the categorywise distribution of the respondents.
TABLE 1

Distribution of Respondents by Occupation & Occupational Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number of Respondents in different occupational levels</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High (33.3)</td>
<td>Middle (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Work</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present age of the respondents

The mean age of the respondents at the time of interview is 39.1 years. Though the respondents are selected from the age group 30 to 49 special attention was paid to prefer respondents above 35 so that most of them would have completed their family size. Thus there are only 33 respondents below age of 35 (less than 15% of the sample). On the other hand, though respondents in the age group 45 to 49 are also included in the sample as that age group is also included in the fertile age group by U.N.O., this category was not preferred as their fertility history
is comparatively old and there can be a recall gap in the response. The fecundity level of this age group is also very low. Hence the age group 45-49 is not preferred and there are only 37 respondents from this age group (16.4% of the sample). All the remaining respondents (68.9%) belong to age group 35 to 44.

Roughly it can be said that around 70% of the sample respondents are between 35 to 44 years of age. Of the total sample of 225, 130 belong to age group of 30 to 39 and 95 belong to the age group 40 to 49.

Years of Education

Respondents mean years of education is 15.9 years. As the respondents have education in different faculties it was decided to take into consideration the years of education for the purpose of comparison. The modal years of education are 15 years. (The first graduation) 83 (36.9%) respondents belong to this category. Another 67 (29.8%) have education for 16 to 20 years. Only 26 respondents (11.6%) have education more than 20 years and 47 respondents (21.4%) have education between 11 to 14 years. There is only one solitary case of a respondent with 9 years of education (Final with PTC). Barring this case the sample consists of educated respondents with
qualifications equal to S.S.C. and above and more than 75% of the respondents have education equal to graduation and above.

Religion

The sample mainly consists of Hindu respondents. There are 207 (92%) Hindus, 14 (6.2%) Christians, 3 Muslims (1.3%) and only one (0.4%) Boudha. Thus the sample is more or less homogeneous with respect to religion and 'religion' is not therefore used in further analysis.

Caste

The caste distribution of respondents is as follows: The majority consists of higher caste Hindus (185 respondents or 82% of the sample respondents), 14 respondents belonging to scheduled caste, 2 belonging to scheduled tribes and 6 belonging to other backward caste. The remaining 18 respondents belonging to religion other than Hindu mentioned that they belong to no caste. As 82% of the respondents belong to higher castes, caste factor is not considered in further analysis.

Type of family

Seventy two percent of the respondents presently live in nuclear family and twenty
eight percent in non-nuclear family. However, many of
the respondents presently living in the nuclear family
have been in a non-nuclear family for some period after
their marriage.

**Respondents own monthly income**

As the respondents belong to the
low, medium and high level employment their income
ranges from Rs.1400 to Rs.6000 per month. The modal
salary for the entire group is Rs.2500 per month. Only
40 respondents (11.8%) have a monthly salary of Rs.4000
and above and only 11 (6.7%) have monthly salary of
less than Rs.2000.

**Respondents Husband's monthly income**

Respondent's husbands' income show
a much wider variation. There are 3 respondents whose
husbands are retired and presently get no income. So
the range of husband's income is from zero to about
Rs.15000. Husbands of 87 (39.1%) respondents get a
salary above Rs.4000 per month. This may indicate the
practice of marrying husband with a higher earning
capacity or part of it can be explained by the
seniority of service due to the higher age of the
husband. Husbands of 2 respondents who are doctors and
private practitioners are earning around Rs.15000 per
month. However, there are cases where respondents have married husbands with lower salary. There are 10 cases in which husbands are earning less than Rs.1400 per month.

3.2 Profile of the respondents by occupation and by occupational level

As the sample is to be used for the comparative study of the three occupations - Medical, teaching and office work and for the comparative study of three occupational levels namely "low", "middle" and "high", it is desirable to study the comparative profile of the respondents from the respective category.

Age of respondents at the time of interview

The mean age of respondents at the time of interview is 39.6 years and 39.8 years for respondents from the occupation of teaching and office work respectively. It is 38 years for respondents from medical profession. The mean present age by occupational levels is 36.6 years for the 'lower', 39.7 years for the 'middle' and 41.1 years for the 'high' occupational level.

Years of Education (by occupation)

With respect to years of education
the lowest mean is found for the respondents from the occupation of office workers. It is 13.8 years. Thus the mean years of education for office worker are lower than those required to be completed for graduation. For both the remaining occupation, viz., medical and teaching it is above graduation. It is 16.3 years in the case of teaching and 17.6 years in the case of medical occupation.

**Years of education (by occupational level)**

With respect to the occupational level the mean years of education are low for low occupational level, middle for middle occupational level and high for high occupational level. They are 15.2 years and 18.5 years respectively. Thus the respondents from low occupational level on an average have education below graduation while the respondents from the other two occupational levels have education above graduation on an average.

**The "own monthly income"**

The mean "own monthly income" is Rs.2592 for the respondents from teaching occupation, Rs.2844 for office workers and Rs.3237 for the respondents from the medical profession.
The mean with respect to the occupational level is Rs.2857 for low, Rs.3465 for the middle and Rs.4296 for the high occupational level.

The "Joint Monthly Income"

The mean "joint monthly income" is the highest for respondents from medical occupation, followed by office workers, followed by teachers. (It is Rs.7125, Rs.6208 and Rs.5951 per month for respondents from medical occupation, office work and teaching respectively).

The mean joint income per month is low for low occupational level (Rs.5051) followed by middle occupational level (Rs.6047) followed by high occupational level (Rs.8187)

Duration of service before marriage

Respondents from the medical occupation and from teaching have almost the same mean duration of service before marriage, 3.9 years and 4 years respectively. For office workers it is slightly higher - 4.3 years.

When the duration of service before marriage is considered with respect to occupational level it is the lowest for the high occupational level (3.8 years), followed closely by low occupational level
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(4 years). The middle occupational level has the highest duration of service before marriage. It is 4.4 years.

Duration of Married life

The mean duration of married life is the lowest for the medical occupation followed by teaching followed by office worker. It is 11.3 years, 13.8 years and 14.8 years for respondents from medical, teaching and office work respectively.

Considered by occupational level the average duration of married life is the lowest for the respondents from the "low" occupational level, followed by the "middle" occupational level, followed by the high occupational level. It is 11.8 years 13.3 years and 15.6 years for the "low", "middle" and "high" occupational level respectively.