

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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The impetus for studying the nature of the higher class Bengalee school students of the Secondary Schools of West Bengal, had its origin in a strongly felt need to understand their perception that for a certain stretch of time were found to affect their attitude and, thereby, their adjustment pattern. Accordingly, an operational definition was formulated (page-26, Chapter III) and a device was constructed in consultation with the persons interested in students' welfare of the State in order to attain the objective of the present investigation, incorporated in the plan (page-22, Chapter II).

Bearing in mind, all the technicalities to construct a suitable device for the said purpose every possible steps were followed with great care after the suggestions of the experts like Travers, Darley, McNamara, Wang, Likert, Edwards, Kilpatrick, Bird, Goode and Hatt, mainly. In brief, the Social Morale Inventory (S.M.I.) was constructed during the present investigation by following the steps given below:

- i) Selection of ten important and undisputed areas (page-28, Chapter III) that usually build up the perspective of typical Bengalee student life in West Bengal.

- ii) Attitude statements were prepared on those ten selected areas following some criteria, mentioned in the pages 31 and 32, Chapter III.
- iii) A pre try-out study was conducted following the procedure described in the pages 32 to 35 (Chapter III), for fitting those attitude statements against five selected responses in the form of a questionnaire with proper instructions, explanatory notes and the general information regarding the students concerned.
- iv) After that a try-out study (pages 35 to 38, Chapter III) was conducted to develop a suitable scoring technique for the items along the five-point scale.
- v) Item analysis was then conducted with a random sample of 348 students of both sexes from the Urban, Semi-urban and Rural areas of the State. In accordance with the technique discussed in the pages 38 to 43 (Chapter III) the items were selected to develop the final form of the questionnaire. The rationale for the construction of a, single, set of questionnaire for both sexes was also described in the page-43, Chapter III.
- vi) The questionnaire obtained the final form with four scales — developed by Multiple-Group solution technique of factor analysis, the details of which have been described in the pages 43 to 50, Chapter III. These scales were : (i) Constitutional Factor Scale, (ii) Home Adjustment Factor Scale,

(iii) Personal-Social Adjustment Factor Scale, and
(iv) Personal-Societal Adjustment Factor Scale. The
qualitative description for the interpretation of
high and low scores along each scale have been
described in the pages 82 and 83.

As regards the reliability of the questionnaire or
the S.M.I., the reliability coefficients obtained from both
the Split-half and Test-retest methods spoke in favour of
significantly high internal consistency of the scales
(pages 52 and 53, Chapter III).

To testify the validity of the scales seven
personality-qualities, (i) initiativeness, (ii) trustworthi-
ness, (iii) persistency, (iv) leadership, (v) self-confidence,
(vi) emotional stability, and (vii) reliance on existing
social systems, were assumed to be the Social Morale
Imperatives, which might function as ~~the~~ external criteria to
estimate the validity of the scales of the S.M.I. The scores
of the Social Morale Imperatives of the different groups of
the selected students as rated by the class teachers have been
compared statistically (Table 35, Appendix-S). The results
explicitly highlighted in favour of the validity of the said
scales. To construct the suitable State Norms of the Social
Morale of the senior Bengalee student population of the State
of West Bengal altogether 146 schools of both sexes, and 1405
boys and 1404 girls were selected from the Urban, Semi-urban
and Rural areas of the State taking each of the 16 districts,
the details of which have been incorporated in the Chapter IV
(pages 56 to 85). The general characteristic features of the
sample and as well their nature in the homogeneity with the

item analysis sample were also discussed in the same chapter. The normative trend of the scores in different scales of the S.M.I. and as well as the comparison between Urban, Semi-urban and Rural components of the sample have been presented also in the Chapter IV. The standard score equivalents of the raw scores of the S.M.I. have also been presented in the Appendix-R and Fig. 9.

Social Morale Status of the students belonging to the districts — Murshidabad, Birbhum, Purulia, Midnapore, Malda and West Dinajpur (Above State Norms) : Regarding the students of the districts graded above State norms they are occupying localities that amounts to approximately 40% of the total area of the State, with premoninancy of agricultural livelihood of the families with lesser impact of industrial life and significant percentages of illeteracy. Greater majority of the people of these areas, not to speak of the students only, started receiving the exposure of modern life following the on-set of Community Development programme (under a three-stage Block Development Scheme) since 1953.

Dynamics of child rearing process in the family and interactional trends of community-living bear no imprint of visible repulsions, rather speak in favour of ties and affinities facilitatory for coping. Such emotional anchorage creates affectivity to inculcate all the facets of democratic life — described in terms of qualities like loyalty, cooperative spirit, faith in the dignity of others and group belongingness. The students of this group being processed through guided group participation programme during school life

will be enriched with skills for democratic living. They may be given sufficient opportunities to be acquainted with important aspects of national life for developing effective identification with the ideologies and objectives of nation. Efforts should be made to protect them from undesirable indoctrination and undue imposition, at the same time, under name of education. Having provided with scientifically sound educative exposures, meant for democratising the personality, they may be oriented into an effective force for the progress and enrichment of the society. They were found with high social morale potentials.

Social Morale Status of the students of Calcutta, 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Burdwan (Below State Norms): The students of the districts under this category are inhabitants of the gangetic planes of West Bengal occupying localities of about 30% of the total area of the State, predominantly an industrial belt, along the banks of the River Hooghly. This area claimed to be the eldest developed area of the State, since the start of British colonisation, in particular. It has a peculiar coverage, in terms of complexities, of social life ranging from a much sophisticated life of Calcutta Metropolis down to a yet-developing rural area under Block Development Scheme. The population statistics also show similar variation along a pretty long range, with all possible heterogeneities. Still, the population of Bengalee community is unquestionably the major most. The inhabitants of this area are engaged in all possible types of livelihood of the State with varying modes. Another wonder is the main bulk

of total begger population lived in this area. The economic classification of the earning group varies from multimillionaire to daily wage earner, and so also the great variation in the literacy status.

Dynamics of child rearing process in the family and interactional trends of community-living bear imprints of visible repulsions — rather speak not in favour of ties and affinities facilitatory for coping — an obvious effect of extremely polarised life encompassing evils of richness at the one end and miseries of poverty and scarcity on the other. The children are reared up in the families either with affluency or with anxities for meeting mere subsistence. In adolescence they are processed through a community life ranging from sufficiency of social prestige, social power and social recognition, down to gradual absence of these. Within these complicated network it is very difficult to identify the main modes of interactional pattern whose permutation and combination have not yet been tried with by the social scientists of our country.

In order to explore the nature of the emotional anchorage of this group the students should be subjected to further investigation under well defined small groups. Present findings revealed a clear picture predominating ill effects of emotional starvation in their attitude in regard to family life and gloomy frustration in regard to the fulfilment of expectation of life — may be much of these have rooted in their imaginary plane. Irrespective of their problems of social life, real or imaginary, they expediently need counselling and guidance for developing a balanced outlook.

As appraised, they have not lost yet their confidence to get back well-knit community life, family warmth, climates of affection and a favourable social environment in fulfilling their ambition -- may be overshadowed for the present. For their orientation in pursuit of democratising the personalities, they should be subjected to clinically oriented service programme for minimising their unrest-potentials and eliminating their tension generating factors as far as practicable. Through a planned group-guidance programme, as physical education programme implies, they should be made free from ill effects of frustration centering around problems of ego-autonomy and learned the true spirit of the liberty and licence of democratic citizen. This group indicates an obvious effects of rapidly changing political society and inability of the various social controls in keeping pace with the said swift change. They are not spent-up energies; they are burning -- radiating energies unharnessed, either dissipating or directing that contrarily. This might be considered as the cause of their low scores on the scales of S.M.I. They must be made glowing by providing appropriate safeguards to harness their energies to flow in the right direction. Drawing up a sound welfare programme for them is a challenging field for both psychologists and educationists of our country, if not for the whole team of social scientists.

The findings of the State Norms of the student population concerned have been discussed in the pages 83 to 85.

The comparison of scores of the student population belonging to the districts Nadia, Bankura, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Cooch Behar, with that of State Norms revealed no statistically significant difference and hence they have maintained their status at par with the State Norms. Due to this fact, their qualitative descriptions have not further elaborated for brevity's sake. A few words have been stated below further, regarding the West Bengal student population as a whole, and as well as the student community of the districts that maintaining their status at par, statistically, with the former.

It became implied that they were found encountering barriers that created a disparity between belief and attitude, which if persists might convert them otherwise. The findings revealed that the barriers affecting their coping, were present in the fields of personal-societal adjustment, more, and home adjustment, comparatively less. In brief, it may be said that the findings, as a whole, indicated that the present student generation of our State was passing through a change in regard to ideas, outlooks, concepts, values and styles of life. At this transitional stage, educational programme should be so planned that the student generation gets sufficient opportunity to participate in such group activities where their attitude should be built up adhering to their beliefs.

The main objectives of such programme should be inculcation of democratic skills, and not imposition of the same, for democratising their personality, truly, as has been expressed in a recent seminar held in Poona, dated 18th June, 1976 (Photostat copy inserted in the page 101).

A research findings may reveal any unpleasant truth but a researcher has to maintain certain reservation in expressing that publicly, due to obvious limitations. The objectives of the present investigation are, as described under plan, developing an instrument for understanding the nature of Bengalee senior school students' social morale status in terms of State Norms and appraising the position of districtwise student population with reference to said norms. After a construct, the said objectives were achieved, as described in the foregoing pages. The present investigator incorporated also a diagnostic interpretation of the three modal pattern of scores (pages 93 to 96) that helped to classify the sixteen districts into three groups — at par with State norms, above State norms and below State norms. The State norms revealed such signs in the attitude of the population that spoke that being characterised with those the student generation cannot keep up high morale in working for the society, under the directives of legally constituted authorities. Such condition was detected under

appraisal but assessment of its gravity remained beyond the means of the present investigator and also beyond the purview of the present investigation. But its concurrence can be detected in the press cutting "PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS EMERGENCY" and the relevant text of Prime Minister's Broadcast given below :

".....The President has proclaimed emergency. This is nothing to panic about. In the name of democracy it has been sought to negate the very functioning of democracy. The forces of disintegration are in full play.threatening our unity. Now we learn of new programmes challenging law and order throughout the country with a view to disrupting normal functioning. The actions of a few are endangering the rights of the vast majority.The nation's integrity demands firm action.

The threat to internal stability also affects production and prospects of economic development.We have been actively considering further measures to strengthen the economy and to relieve the hardship of various sections, including the poor and vulnerable, and those with fixed incomes. I shall announce these soon."

— Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, Broadcast dated June 27, 1975.

PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS EMERGENCY

Internal Security In Danger, Says P.M.

NEW DELHI, June 26.—The President, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Khan, has declared a state of emergency this morning in order to maintain the internal security of the country due to the breakdown of law and order.

W. BENGAL CABINET MEETS Implications Of Emergency Explained By Ray

By Our Special Representative
The West Bengal Cabinet met in Calcutta on Thursday evening to discuss the implications of emergency and to take necessary steps to maintain law and order in the State.

WEST BENGAL CLP SAYS... Declaration Of Emergency A Timely And Bold Step

By Our Special Representative
The West Bengal Communist Party (CLP) has welcomed the declaration of emergency as a timely and bold step taken by the Government to maintain law and order in the country.

TEXT OF P.M.'S SPEECH

(Continued from Page 1)
I should like to assure you that the new emergency proclamation will in no way affect the rights of law-abiding citizens. I am confident that the emergency will be dispensed with as soon as possible.

The time has come to ensure that the emergency is not a permanent feature of our life. We must ensure that the emergency is dispensed with as soon as possible.

**20-POINT PROGRAMME
TOUCHES YOUR LIFE AT MANY**

POINTS

365 days

Of discipline

**Country saved
from ruin**

Findings of the present investigation revealed that the undercurrent of a faith in the social belief were present but there were clouds of apprehension over economic system, legal system, and educational system. The Prime Minister hinted those over in the speech broadcasted, as quoted in the page 99. As promised by her, she launched a 20-point Programme during emergency period and which is still in vogue. In the said programme all attempts have been made (i) to improve economic condition of people, (ii) to revitalise the vigilance of legal system for ensuring the safety and security of people, and (iii) to reorganise educational system for building up a disciplined student generation with all skills for enriching a democratic social life. The above mentioned discussions possibly speak in favour of an implied validity of the findings of the present investigation and the device, too.

Prominent academicians met recently and agreed that the long-felt need of reshaping the educational system for building up a smiling student generation would be achieved through the programme launched

during "national emergency". With the fond hope that the students' social morale would be improved in near future the investigator has simply attached here a photostat copy of the decision taken by the said body of prominent academicians :

Emergency will reshape education system

PAUNAR (Wardha), June 19. A delegation of 22 prominent academicians of the country headed by Dr. V. P. Dutt, M.P., and chairman of the national forum of teachers yesterday told Acharya Vinoba Bhave that the climate of discipline created by the emergency had become necessary to save the education system.

This climate of peace and discipline, they said, should be maintained until its gains have been fully realised and consolidated. Any de-emphasis of this discipline at this stage would be a national catastrophe, they added.

The members of the delegation also apprised the Acharya of the views of the convention of academicians held at Delhi in April last to take stock of the national situation specially which prevailed in the universities, Dr. Dutt told Samachar.

'ALARMING'

The delegation also informed Acharya Bhave that the convention of academicians felt that the situation in the country, particularly in the educational institutions during the last two or three years, had become alarming. It was a situation of utter lawlessness and total indiscipline.

The delegation pointed out that the convention felt that the educational institutions, instead of being seats of learning had become a battlefields for agitations, threats, intimidations and plain gangsterism. A small group of self-seekers in the educational institutions were dominating and bullying everybody else. Their motto was 'neither shall we study, nor shall we allow anyone else to study'.

The academicians told Acharya Bhave that the discipline indulged by the emergency had brought calm and relief to the educational institutions.

But the fundamental question was how to maintain a minimum standard of conduct which would benefit these institutions. That was why the convention was of the view that this climate of discipline must be continued until its gains had been consolidated.

The delegation also told Acharya Bhave that the educationists were well aware of the need for reforms, but reforms would not be carried out in an atmosphere of violence and intimidation.

OPPORTUNITY

The educationists were of the view that this opportunity should be utilised to restructure the contents and methods of education so as to eliminate communal, caste and obscurantist ideas. They were of the view that there should be a pyramidal structure of educational development, with school education as the base and high education as the apex.

Mrs. Gandhi has said that although the Emergency has brought a greater sense of discipline and improved conditions, "this discipline has not become a part of the people's life. It is still there because we say it should be there."

"We have to find a method by which democratic discipline becomes the normal thing and the people have a feeling of participation."

While the investigator was busy in writing the concluding remarks of the present work the statement, given in next page, of our Prime Minister got flashed by press.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

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Discipline must be part of people's life
P. M. warns against threat of internal subversion

YEAR OF DISCIPLINE

**'there must be
a continuous
search**

for programmes benefiting the poor and the weak and a constant endeavour to improve on the quality of implementation of such programmes. 9

—Indira Gandhi

AND DETERMINATION

Present Difficulties Will Pass

An attitude research programme is not an end in itself; it may be utilised as a continuous programme for meeting the needs of the society. The inventory that has been described during the present investigation is expected to be utilised for a future investigation purpose, with some required modifications, if necessary, for appraising students' Social Morale at this on going stage of transition.

The investigator finds no hesitation to admit that the discipline will be restored in near future and it is implied that the determinant attitudes in favour will be built up in the minds of student population of the State of West Bengal, when further attempt will be made by the present investigator to collect further set of data over West Bengal sample by the same Social Morale Inventory for comparing the results, provided the Omnipotent embraces it.
