Income is the source of earning of an individual. It is a most important variable of economic status of individuals' families or groups. It has a direct and immediate influence in the life of a man irrespective of his political, social, religious, cultural and all sorts of boundaries. Such income may be in salaried and non-salaried form. Income and economic status are interrelated with each other. Economic status is a variable of fundamental importance in all branches of social sciences research. The term "economic status" refers to the meaning of destitution, poverty, deprivation, minimum adequacy, adequate, economic comfort, affluence and wealth. These indicate the degree of necessity in the life of man in terms of
physical necessities, than to the amenities and finally to the luxurious life. Such degree of necessities solely depend on the economic status of an individual or family.

Ogburn and Allen have beautifully explained the sociological importance of income.

"A higher material standard of living is one of the great desiderate of manking and ranks with better health, more education, happiness, the spiritual values of religion and the belief in a life after death. Indeed, in a monetary economy a larger per capita income helps us to get more education and to obtain better health, though it may be of little aid in our search for happiness and spiritual peace. The struggle of organised labour is largely for more income and most of those in business are there to make money. The peoples of the Far East and South East Asia have developed five year plans largely to obtain for themselves more of the good material things of life, that is, a higher standard of living".  

The income is the only one set of statistics which can adequately determine the level of material comfort in a population. In every nation, the amount which individuals or families receive is the most important and effective measure to assess the economic comfort or economic well-being of them. Because it directly influences the living standard and life style of individuals or families. It also affects the resources that the family possesses for its necessities of life, food, shelter, clothes and so on. But all the time it is not necessary that living standard and consumption behaviour solely or independently depend on income statistics. Sometimes a person earns more or having enough resources for consumption but he does not behave according to the traditional expectations. Similarly, a person earns less and have no enough resources to consume for his minimum necessities of life but does not behave accordingly. Such irregular acts are found due to differential thinking, thoughts, desires, aims and objectives of life of individuals or families. For instance, some families have higher income and they may squander their income for pleasure and non-essential things and live at a level of poverty, whereas, other
families have lower income and they may reduce themselves to a very low level of living in order to save as much as possible of their income in the hope of achieving some constructive future economic goals. Besides these, the average income earners rather spend in a more or less patterned way to provide the present and prosperous future needs. Hence, the income statistics or income distribution is the most important component of economic status.

It is very difficult to measure income accurately of individuals or families because income may be received in a variety of forms in the highly urbanised and industrialized societies. Income may be in the form of salary, wages, profits or return from one's investments, gifts, inheritance of property, pensions and some sort of financial assistance or support from governmental or private organisations. Income may be received directly or indirectly. It may be in the form of money or indirect benefits or services. For example, those who own their house are not required to pay rent and save their additional expenditure. Such income may be called as an indirect income. In the agricultural societies income is received in the form of farm products. In such societies it is more difficult task
to measure income statistics of individuals or families. Their income is highly depended on the types and quality of crops which they produce from their agricultural lands. Apart from this, the income of such societies also equally depends on the geographical area, irrigation facilities, transportation, market situation and so on. Their income may be measured by placing a money value on the "home-produced" or "farm produced" items on the basis of price rate of the market of a particular place or regions. The people of such society, sale their commodities into the market and receive cash amount to purchase the non-agricultural land products for their daily life. But it is quite difficult to measure their monthly and annual income is so great that it requires to generate accurate income statistics.

Income Inequality:

The sociological theories and philosophical orientation of inequality both viewed inequality as consequence necessary and inevitable or not of social organizational features and lazy or unlucky or both while others are talented, lucky, wealthy or industrious. Every sociological analysis of
inequality, such as functional or conflict and conservative or radical consider that the unequal distribution of social rewards and resources give rise to unequal and stratified population groups. These groups are termed as social classes in Marx's terminology, castes in traditional Hindu society, estates in medieval Europe and in general sociological term - social strata. Like social inequality, we also find inequality in income of individuals or families in the society. There are several reasons of disparity in income distribution among individuals or families which are predominantly prevalent in all societies. The degree of income inequality may differ from one society to another. Bogue and other social scientists consider that following factors are generally responsible for the inequality of income:

1. "people differ widely in their ability, training and drive to earn. As a result, some people are capable of creating much more value in the form of goods or services than other and are rewarded accordingly. Nations all over the world agree that the persons who work hard, who

who stay in school to obtain special skills and who are capable outstanding, original or highly skilled contributions should receive a greater monetary reward for their efforts than persons who perform the jobs that require little skill or intelligence.

(2) Various types of work command a different price in the labour market. Certain types of work are paid handsomely, while other types of works, even though they may include a great deal of skill, are much more poorly paid. For example, few people are capable of composing music or painting pictures, yet the average income received by artists and music composers is quite small. In contrast, persons in certain other occupations, such as physicians or dentists, receive very high incomes. Also occupations involving business management are highly rewarding in wealth or power.

(3) Inheritance of wealth, prestige, or influence is widely asserted to be the major explanation for receipt of unusually large incomes. Parents in all societies attempt to transfer a part or all of their wealth and influence their
off springs. Much of this transfer may take the form of superior education and careful upbringing to hold a high status occupation. But the transfer from generation to generation of material wealth permits some persons to have much higher economic status than they could achieve in the open labour market on the basis of their education and work abilities alone.

(4) Labour turnover and part-time and part-year employment are responsible for many small incomes. Most workers are able to work continuously throughout the year, but some are laid off for several weeks or months because of seasonal or other fluctuations. Among those who suffer greatly from part-year work are forestry workers, lumbermen, workers in the construction industry and in many countries farmers. Many jobs are offered to people on a part-time basis, allowing them to work only a few days a week. The mining industry is an example of this. Other examples are part-time jobs that students hold while attending school, baby sitting work and the work that older men frequently do as night-watchmen or "handymen" in office or a business establishment. Still
other workers are unable to get in a full work year because of labour turnover. Persons who are just entering the labour force or who have recently left the labour force may have worked only for a portion of a year and may have a low annual income for this reason.

(5) The system of social organisation, with its accompanying power structure and traditions, also influences the pattern of income distribution. The way in which the total personal disposable income of a nation is divided among the population is determined not completely by economic laws but to a large extent by the structure of the society and by customs and traditions. The amount of income to be awarded to each participant is to a certain extent determined by past history and by widely accepted standards of what constitutes "economic justice". Also involved is the "bargaining power" of the various groups. Among the factors of custom and tradition are laws concerning inheritance of wealth; the dominance over the economy achieved
by either management or workers in an industry by virtue of the facts that they are organised into unions or associations that further the economic interests of the members; the general social status and esteem that people who hold a particular occupation (such as physicians) have in the society; The political philosophy that a society holds concerning the degrees of income differential that are morally allowable; the comparative willingness of a society to close its eyes to the economic suffering of those who are destitute; and the prevalence of humanitarian sentiments to share income in order to put a floor under human deprivation. The tax structure of the national, state and local governments also effects income distribution; if the rate of taxation gets progressively greater as income rises, the effect is to redistribute income after taxes more evenly among the tax payers.

(6) The physical and mental health of workers is also an important factor influencing income. Workers who are under nourished, who have physical impairments or who are otherwise in poor health are able to earn less. Workers vary widely in the state of their health. This is
especially true after the age 40 is reached. Many workers receive modest incomes because they have impaired health and must hold jobs that represent less than the attainment they would otherwise have. Many other workers suffer from neurosis or other mental disorders and for this reason are unable to hold jobs for which they are otherwise qualified. Inability to work cooperatively with others, alcoholism outbursts of temper and other behaviours that interfere with the work routine force the mentally ill person to accept menial jobs that pay low wages."

Consequences of Income:

Income has many consequences in the life of men. It has a close link with wealth and poverty, freedom and justice and other sources of legal inequality. Income directly or indirectly or one way or the other way affect the upward or downward social or occupational mobility of individuals or families. It is one of the most potential element and important indicator of individual or individual's social status. It is quite observable in the daily market situation or life, how,
wealth, poverty, freedom of will or choice, justice and all sort of legal inequalities are closely related to the level of individual's income. The poor are not "free" to buy costly housing rather their option is to have low cost housing. They cannot enjoy medical care, better education of children, education of expensive colleges or Universities, enough amenities and adequate basic needs of life. Thus most of their freedom of choice or will are quite circumscribed. It happens due to the imbalance between the level of income and the level of expenditure of their basic requirements of life. But, in case of rich, they are "free" to buy and enjoy all their basic needs as well as essentials and non-essential things or good and their freedom of will and choice are not circumscribed at all. This happens due to their high level of income sources and resources. Apart from these, the people of affluent society are welcomed in the finest hotels, cabaret centres, discotheque centres, restaurants but the poor may be turned away, even if they prepared to pay the bill. Similarly, rich are always invited to join clubs, boards and commities and also called for planning and decision making while the poor are never
invited nor welcomed in any of these things. Rather, sometime, decisions and plans are made for them without their participation or without their consent and approval. In this connection Mintz and Cohen\(^3\) have rightly stated that:

"Poor drunks stand a good chance of arrest and prosecution for loitering, vagrancy or drunkenness; rich drunks may suffer (or enjoy) inebriation without fear of such humiliation. Rich ladies and their daughters have always been able to have abortions undisturbed by the indignation and arm of the law; poor ladies and their daughters undergoing abortions have had to risk detection and prosecution as well as the dangers of cut-rate operation. Dishonest big businessmen have often enjoyed not only the profits of large scale cheating and tax-evasion but also effective immunity from investigation or prosecution, while less affluent disquents are often hounded into repeat violations and

stigmatised for life by investigation, prosecution and harsh sentences".

Although income is not the only factor which is solely responsible for differential inequality in amount of wealth, poverty, freedom, self-determination and justice. Besides these, sex, race, colour, religion, political affairs and immigrants and non-immigrants also play important role in determining the equality and inequality in society.

Keeping in view the importance of income of an individual or family data are also collected and analysed from the population under the present study. The information about the respondents' monthly income and family monthly income will help the researcher to assess its role and influence in the occupational mobility. The data relating to the respondents monthly and family monthly income are presented in table 7.1 and 7.2.

The table 7.1 shows that among Rickshaw Pullers majority of respondents' monthly income is Rs. 500-700/- and lowest percentage (16.67) of respondents' monthly income have Rs. 700-900/-. Among them 35 percent respondents' monthly income is Rs. 300-500/-. Among coolies highest percentage (41.67) of respondents
### Table 7.1

**Respondents' Monthly Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Groups</th>
<th>Mid Value</th>
<th>Economic Status</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100-300</td>
<td>300-500</td>
<td>500-700</td>
<td>700-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rickshaw Puller</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coolie</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweeper</td>
<td>8 (13.33)</td>
<td>6 (10.00)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peon</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopkeeper</td>
<td>3 (5.00)</td>
<td>7 (11.67)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11 (3.67)</td>
<td>57 (19.00)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
belong the income group of Rs. 500-700/- while lowest percentage (20.00) belong to the income group of Rs. 700-900/- and 38.33 percent belong to income group of Rs. 300-500/-. Among Sweepers, highest percentage (35.00) belong to the income group of Rs. 700-900/-, while lowest percentage (6.67) belong to the income group of Rs. 1100-1300/-. Apart from this 18.33 percent, 16.67, 13.33 and 10.00 percent respondents' monthly incomes are Rs. 500-700/-, Rs. 900-1100/-, Rs. 100-300/- and Rs. 300-500/- respectively. Among peons, highest percentage (45.00) of respondents' monthly income is Rs. 900-1100/-. Besides this, 30.00, 15.00 and 10.00 percent respondents' monthly income is Rs. 700-900/-, Rs. 500-700/- and Rs. 1100-1300/- respectively. Among Shopkeepers, highest percentage (26.66) of respondents' monthly income is Rs. 700-900/- and second highest percentage (25.00) of their monthly income is Rs. 1100-1300/-. Besides these, 21.67, 11.67, 10.00 and 5.00 percent respondents' monthly income is Rs. 500-700/-, Rs. 300-500/-, Rs. 900-1100/- and 100-300/- respectively. An overall analysis indicate that shopkeepers have better monthly income than the remaining four occupational groups. Apart from this, the analysis also shows that majority (29.00) percent
of the total respondents' monthly income is Rs. 500-700/- and second highest percentage (25.67) of respondents' monthly income is Rs. 700-900/-. Apart from these, 19.00, 14.00, 8.33 and 3.67 percent respondents' monthly income is Rs. 300-500/-, Rs. 900-1100/-, Rs. 1100-1300/- and Rs. 100-300/- respectively. The mean monthly income of five occupational groups are Rs. 563.33/-, Rs. 563.33/-, Rs. 703.33/-, Rs. 900/- and Rs. 800/-. The mean monthly income of the total population is Rs. 706.00/-. The $X^2$ test (for frequency distribution data) has been adopted to assess the significance and association between monthly income of respondents and occupational mobility.

\[
X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} \\
\text{d.f.} = (r-1) \\
O = \text{Observed value} \\
E = \text{Expected value} \\
\text{d.f.} = \text{degree of freedom} \\
r = \text{row} \\
P < 0.001.
\]

$X^2 = 86.84$ significant (Here $r =$ category of income at $0.01\%$ level or $P < 0.001$.

The $X^2$ test shows that the respondents' monthly income highly influence occupational mobility and it has a positive relation with mobility.
Since the $X^2$ value (86.84) is much higher than tabulated value (20.51). Therefore the result is highly significant at 0.01% level or $P < 0.001$. Thus, we may conclude that the income level of respondents and occupational mobility have positive association with each other.

Table 7.2 gives the information about the family monthly income of respondents. The table shows that among Rickshaw Pullers, highest percentage (68.33) respondents' family monthly income is Rs. 500-900/- and 20.00 percent have Rs. 100-500/- and 11.67 percent have Rs. 900-1300/-. Among Coolies majority (63.33) of the respondents belong the income group of Rs. 500-900/- and 21.67 and 15.00 percent respondents family monthly income is Rs. 100-500/- and Rs. 900-1300/- respectively. Among Sweepers, majority (43.33) percent of the respondents' family monthly income is Rs. 900-1300. Besides this, 20.00 percent belong to the income group of Rs. 100-500/- and equal percentage of it have Rs. 1300-1700/-. Among Peons, highest percentage (46.67) belong to the family income group of Rs. 900-1300/-, while 38.33 and 15.00 percent belong to the income group of Rs. 1300-1700/- and Rs. 500-900/-respectively. Among shopkeepers, highest
### Table 7.2

**Respondents' Family Monthly Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Groups</th>
<th>100-500</th>
<th>500-700</th>
<th>900-1100</th>
<th>1300-1700</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30C</td>
<td>70C</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rickshaw Puller</td>
<td>12 (20.00)</td>
<td>41 (68.33)</td>
<td>07 (11.67)</td>
<td>0 -</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>566.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coolie</td>
<td>13 (21.67)</td>
<td>38 (63.33)</td>
<td>09 (15.00)</td>
<td>0 -</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>572.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweeper</td>
<td>12 (20.00)</td>
<td>16 (16.67)</td>
<td>28 (43.33)</td>
<td>12 (20.00)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>553.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peon</td>
<td>0 -</td>
<td>05 (15.00)</td>
<td>28 (46.67)</td>
<td>23 (38.33)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>513.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopkeeper</td>
<td>5 (8.33)</td>
<td>14 (23.33)</td>
<td>16 (26.67)</td>
<td>25 (41.67)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>505.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42 (14.00)</td>
<td>112 (37.33)</td>
<td>86 (28.67)</td>
<td>60 (20.00)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>913.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
percentag (41.67) of the respondents' family income is ₹ 1300-1700, while 26.67, 23.33 and 8.33 percent family income is ₹ 900-1300/-, ₹ 500-900/- and ₹ 100-500/- respectively. An overall analysis of the total population shows that highest percentage (37.33) of respondents family monthly income is ₹ 500-900/-. Apart from this, 28.67, 20.00, and 14.00 percent belong to the income group of ₹ 900-1300/-, 1300-1700/- and ₹ 100-500/- respectively. The mean family monthly income of the five occupational groups (i.e. Rickshaw Puller, Coolie, Sweeper, Peon and Shopkeeper) are ₹ 666.67/-, 673.33/-, ₹ 953.33/-, ₹ 1193.33/- and ₹ 1106.67/-. The mean family monthly income of the total population is ₹ 918.67/-.  

The $X^2$ test (for frequency distribution data) has been used to assess the significance of family monthly income of respondents and its association with occupational mobility.

$$X^2 = \sum \left( \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} \right) \quad O = \text{Observed value}$$

$$d.f. = (r-1) \quad E = \text{Expected value}$$

$$d.f. = \text{degree of freedom}$$

$$r = \text{Column}$$

$$X^2 = 37.38 \text{ significant (Here } r = \text{category of income}}$$

at 0.01% level or

$$P < 0.001.$$
The $X^2$ test shows that the family monthly income of respondents is highly significant and it has a positive relation with occupational mobility.

Since the $X^2$ value (37.88) is greater than the tabulated value (16.27), therefore, the result is highly significant at 0.01% level or $P < 0.001$. Thus, we may conclude that family monthly income also influence occupational mobility. It may also be assumed that family income and mobility have positive relation.