Chapter 7

CONCLUSION
Traditional as well as modern societies show that they constitute a continuum with tradition at one end and modernity at the other. Most societies are in some form of transition today. But this is not just a matter of 'changing with seasons' so to speak. Certain phenomena must take place and it is a slow, difficult passage from tradition to modernity.

The problem of relationship between tradition and modernity is of very great importance in the Indian context, since here in our country we have a rich traditional inheritance of value systems; ideas; images; pattern of behaviour, modes and methods of expression etc; symbols, thoughts, by which today we find ourselves confronted with a new set of all characteristics that constitute modern society.

Indian society might be termed as a developing society; it has deep rooted traditions, but it also aims at becoming modern, so that the Indian society is passing through a period of transition. The old traditional and modern attitudes are working side by side, and this creates a dilemma in the minds of the Indian people. On the one hand, there is a deep influence of the age old traditions, yet they are the powerful determinants of social action. On the other hand, modern influences which have come in the form of western education, new political and administrative system, new economy and industrialisation, growth of urban centres and scientific attitudes are also playing a very important role in bringing about changes in our attitudes and views.

Especially the Indian youth who constitute a large part of our population and who will influence the society of tomorrow and determine the
destiny of the nation, today they live in a state of conclusion because in their times they are passing through a transitional period. In other words, they are compromising between traditionalism and modernity. On the one hand, they are adopting traditional views and, on the other hand, they are trying to accept the modern way of thinking.

On the basis of the present study we can say that some kind of changes are taking place in the attitudes of the college going students, relating to their social, religious, political and economic spheres of life. However, in some spheres of life, students are favouring traditional institutions and attitudes, while in other spheres, they are adopting modern attitudes. Thus, they are neither absolutely traditional nor exactly modern.

Changes in Students' Attitudes Towards Social Aspects of Life

Joint family is considered as a traditional type of family. In the modern society we find only nuclear type of family, where only father, mother and their children live together. But in this study generally we find that the joint family is still popular among the educated people. On the whole the students are in favour of joint family. According to the majority of students, joint family is helpful in the development of personality and in solving the economic problems of the members of the joint family. And to some extent, not fully, joint family is also helpful in giving the emotional security to its members and again, to some extent, it creates a hinderance in the process of modern developments. However, there is not much difference of opinion between the male and female students in this regard. As far as the helpfulness of joint family in the development
of personality and emotional security is concerned, there is a difference of opinion between male and female students. According to boys, joint family is helpful in the development of personality and in giving emotional security to its members. But according to girls joint family creates hindrance in the development of personality and only to a little extent it is helpful in giving emotional security to its members. However, the interesting trend is that those students who are living in the joint family are, of course, in favour of joint family while those who are living in nuclear family are not fully in favour of joint family. It means that they do not want to go back to the joint family system again.

Traditionally, parents select the life partners for their children while the spouses have no say in this matter. But in modern society young generation demands the right of selecting a life partner on its own choice for marriage. Today in India we find that students are neither traditional nor modern. They are still faithful to their old bonds. Hence, little less than three fourth of the responding students, both boys and girls, favour the selection of the spouses by their parents with a consideration for the consent of the concerned boys and girls. The students, by and large, do not demand self-selection in marriage. Only a small number of students likes to marry according to its own choice. Only few students desire to depend on their parents for the choice of their spouses. As far as the self selection is concerned the number of boys is higher than the girls.

Love marriages are very common in modern society. But in this study the majority of students, both boys and girls, are against this type of
marriage. The greatest drawback of love marriages, in their opinion, is that they are generally unsuccessful and frequently end into divorce or unhappy married life. Another drawback is that no support is available from the parents in difficult days while it is also not acceptable to the society. In contrast to this, the small number of students, favouring love marriages feel that adjustment is easier because both of them are familiar with each other which becomes a promise for a happy conjugal life. Some favour such marriages due to social reasons that the practice may obliterate the malpractice of dowry and thus lessen the worries and financial burden of the parents. It also breaks the barrier of caste system. Few students have also abstained from expressing their opinion about love marriage. In comparison to girls, boys are more interested in love marriages. Mostly the girls are against such type of marriages.

However, in the past, the bridegroom belonging to respectable or wealthy family was preferred over others by the parents of the daughters. But now the situation is somewhat different. In this study mostly the students have given their first preference to education followed by family background, wealth and impressiveness. It means that to some extent traditional factors like family background and financial position are not much emphasised now. In this respect, there is no much difference of opinion between male and female students.

In the traditional context the selection of bride was based on the bride's skill in household affairs. Generally people preferred such brides who were either well versed in household affairs or were considered charming and beautiful. People also preferred the good family background of
of the bride. But, now, the criteria is somewhat changed. Mostly the students have given their first preference to educated girls followed by girls' skill in household affairs, while they lay little emphasis on beauty and charm, family background as well as girls qualification for taking up a job. In this study, the unique feature is that the students have although preferred an educated girls on an uneducated one, but they shown little appreciation for a working girl.

Dowry system is an evil gift presented by the past to the existing society. However, in this study it appears that a large number of the students are against this custom. Generally, both boys and girls do not approve of these customs, and in this sense they are to some extent, progressive. But, the students cannot resist themselves from accepting dowry if it is offered to them without demand. As far as the continuation, modification or abolishing of dowry system is concerned, the majority of students are in favour of the abolition this malpractice. However, girls are, comparatively, more in favour of abolishing this system than the male students. According to the majority of boys, it requires some kind of modification. They also think that by legislation and its strict enforcement it is possible to abolish dowry system.

In the traditional Hindu society divorce is not in practice. Once the couple is married, there is little chance for separation if the marriage proves unhappy. It is said that marriages are made in the Heaven; as such, people have no right to break the bond, no matter to whatever extent they suffer in this sacramental union. But, today the legal sanction has been given for the first time to the Hindu society. If people find
adjustment impossible; they need not continue, the marriage bond. Irrespective
of the legal sanction, divorce is still not so frequent in Hindu society
as it could have been. In this study also the majority of students are
against the divorce. They think that divorce lowers the moral standard
and, for the stability of the society, it is essential to discourage it.
However, these students justify it only in the conditions that all efforts
for maintaining good relations between the spouses fail and no solution
except divorce becomes practicable. In this matter the views of boys and
girls are, to some extent, similar.

Caste system is the most striking feature of Indian culture. In the
past as well as, to some extent, in the present society, it has its roots
in the minds of Indian people. Traditionally it is said that one who does
not follow and uphold the dictates of the caste system, he is doomed to
loose status in the next life. And caste is considered as a powerful
regulator of social mobility, and behaviour. But now, there is a general
opinion that caste system is fastly loosing its prominence and hold in the
Hindu society. In this present study it appears that the majority of
students are against the caste system. They do not like to marry within
their own castes. In comparison to boys girls are more in favour of
marrying out side their castes. Boys are divided in this respect. So
far as mixing with other castes is concerned, a large number of students
is in favour of free mixing with persons belonging to different castes.
They also do not like to work according to the traditional occupation of
their own castes. Students, both boys and girls, feel that, in their opinion,
all the castes should be placed on equal status.

In the traditional Hindu society, apart from the four readily identifiable castes placed in a hierarchy, a fifth distinct group is called the 'untouchables or outcastes', who are not only outside the pale of Hindu society but form its bottom rank, and are rigidly bound by the caste system rules. But, now, the Indian Constitution has outlawed untouchability. In the Constitution it is laid down that untouchability has been abolished and its practice in any form is punishable under law. Now, the attitudes of the people towards untouchability are fastly changing. According to this study, it appears that students have a sympathetic attitude towards scheduled castes. They think that the special privileges should be given to the members of low caste people and they should be allowed to take admission in schools and college. In the traditional society, children of the scheduled castes were not allowed to attend the classes with the children of high castes, but now situation is not so.

From traditional point of view women have a position inferior to men. She does enjoy rights equal to man in many spheres of life as political, social, domestic and recreation. However, modernity is symbolized by equality of sexes and participation in wider social life by women. In this study, majority of the students are in favour of equality between men and women as well as higher education for women. In response to the question, to which extent freedom is to be given to women, majority of the students are in favour of giving freedom to women equal to that of men. But the boys in comparison with the girls, agree only to some extent. They do not think that the freedom
to women equal to that of men is justified, while the girl students are all for women's emancipation and equal rights with men.

Social status, as a position in society, is influenced by a variety of factors - social, economic and political, traditionally religion, caste, family, age and sex have been the determining factors of a person in a society. But now the criteria of social status are slowly and gradually changing. In the present study, according to the majority of students, education is the main determining factor of social status of a person in the society, followed by intelligence, age, sex, family and caste. Very few respondents have given their first preference to religion, occupation, and income.

In the traditional society, performance of religious rites was considered as a factor which enhanced the social status of an individual. But, in these days, the factors of achieving high status in a society are not fixed and rigid; they are changing with the demands of the developing society. According to a majority of the students, education, outstanding social service, holding modern views, modern way of life, fashionable clothes association with some political or social organisation, appreciation of arts and performance of religious rites are considered important indices of status. However, smoking, drinking, frequenting cinema houses, restaurants and clubs, or free mixing with the opposite sex are not recognised by the respondents as indicative of high status in the society. In this regard the opinion of male and female students are, to some extent, similar.

Traditionally, in India, the dresses of men are Dhoti Kurta and Topi while Sari is for women. But the dresses of a country are always changeable.
Now the pant, coat and tie have taken the place of Dhoti, Kurta and Topi and to some extent sari is replaced by salwar, kurtas, pants and maxi. However, sari has not absolutely disappeared; it is still a popular dress in India. In this study more than three fourth of the students, both boys and girls, liked to wear modern type of dresses to some extent.

The recent trend in modern society is Hippism. A good number of modern youths likes to adopt Hippism. But in this study the opinion of the majority of boys and girls is not favourable and they attribute it to the evil influence of Western civilization. Some other students are of the view that it is in a vogue because the new generation has a desire for new things whatever its form may be. According to some students, the attitude is a sign of modernity and it shows that new generation is fed up with old traditions.

Changes in Students' Attitudes Towards Educational System

The earlier pattern of education, which was having religious foundations has been completely replaced by secular and scientific educational pattern. In the traditional societies, students used to read under a Guru who was regarded like God. They learned only religious books. Women were not allowed to gain the benefit of education; they were compelled to live and manage their homes. But now, the educational pattern has completely changed. Education has become more pragmatic and democratic. Women are now attaining high education. They are studying with the boys on equal footing. In spite of all this, coeducation is considered wrong by traditional minded persons. Today it is considered that education is the main instrument of getting a job.
However, present education system is different from the traditional one. Yet it is not fully capable of meeting the needs of the modern youth. In this present study, mostly the students, both boys and girls, felt that, to some extent, present educational pattern is defective. Some modification in it is necessary to make it efficiently suitable for the present requirements of the young generation. The students have given their own suggestions in this regard. According to the majority of students emphasis must be given to the technical education. The next highest percentage is of those students who feel that practical education with a vocational specialisation is inevitable in the present circumstances. Some of them are of the opinion that English should be abolished. According to a few students education either be made free or it should be more economical. A few students feel that education should be nationalised.

Furthermore, students are somewhat more interested in the semester system. According to a majority of the students in the semester system, students will always be busy in their studies; thus, they will not get time to participate in strikes. The next highest percentage is of those students who consider that there are many chances to appear in the examination, so there will be no chance of failing. Some feel that time is not wasted in semester system. However, according to some other students, in semester system, the true ability of students cannot judged. Those students who are interested in annual examination system feel that students have to appear in the examination only once in a year, so they get much time, to study and, as such, only intelligent students are able to become successful in the examinations.
Medium of instruction is the foremost problem in higher education, which has received attention in the present society. In this study more than three-fourth of the students are of the opinion that Hindi should be the medium of instruction in the colleges, and university, while only 15.34% of the students are in favour of English medium. Very few of them want the regional languages as a medium of instruction.

The criteria of attaining education has now changed. Today it is said that through education people can attain their desired goal. According to a majority of the students, they are attaining education to secure a higher status in the society. The next highest number is of those students who are attaining education for the economic security. According to some other students they are achieving education only to understand the truth and to become a good citizen.

Changes in Students' Attitudes Towards Economic Aspect

Economic system is most important in a society, because it determines the life-pattern of the people. Thus, it has been a subject of perennial interest for people to think over the ways through which economy should be developed. In the present study the students have shown their interest in the present economic system of our country. A large percentage of students, both boys and girls, believes that economic development of our country is possible through the development of small scale industries. Simultaneously, the greater percentage of students is of the opinion that nationalisation of all types of industries is essential for economic development. It shows that they prefer the modern trend of socialist economy in which the state will take
over all the projects so that they can be used for the benefit of all the people.

India, after independence, struggled hard to introduce industrialization. The majority of boys and girls are satisfied to some extent with the industrial development of our country. Only 23.33% of the respondents are too much dissatisfied with the present industrial progress. Those who are dissatisfied, have given different reasons for their dissatisfaction. A majority of them thinks that the shortage of power and raw material has hampered the industrial progress.

However, the students are very enthusiastic to bring about changes in our economic setup. It is obvious because in spite of economic development in certain directions, India is still facing acute economic crisis. The standard of living of Indian masses is poor and per capita income is low. Thus, a very high percentage of students is in favour of changes in economic setup. An interesting feature of the students' attitude in this respect is that the highest percentage of them wants economic development in order to establish an egalitarian society. The next highest percentage of students wants that the basic needs, i.e., food, clothing, and shelter, of every citizen are to be fully met.

It is an established fact that, in the past, specific functions were prescribed for different castes, and this arrangement greatly simplified the problem of occupational training for the young ones, who had hardly any choice to make in this sphere. He followed the traditional hereditary occupation. But today these restrictions have disappeared and all occupations
are open to all. The educated youth, today is free to the extent that he is not governed by the consideration of caste and family in the selection of occupation. In this study the students generally prefer government services. The highest percentage of students likes these services while the next highest percentage prefers teaching profession. But as far as the choice of occupation among male and female students is concerned, the majority of male students is in favour of government services, and mostly the girls students are interested in teaching profession. The important thing to note is that only a small percentage of respondents likes agriculture. It shows that the students like white collar jobs.

India is facing the problem of unemployment which has greatly hampered the progress of youngsters and creates a sort of frustration among them. This is perhaps the reason why a large number of students thinks that the right to get a job should be regarded as fundamental.

The analysis of the responses shows that the students are now-a-days more interested in the economic system of their country. They are enthusiastic to change it according to the needs of the society. In traditional set up it is generally believed that the money that a man earns, and facilities and amenities that a man enjoys are subject to luck or chance and/or as a result of his actions in the previous births. But, modern Indian youth thinks that the earning of a man depends much upon his own efforts. The more he will work the more he will get. This is the reason that they think in their own way to improve the economic condition. At present it is thought that our country is committed to socialistic pattern of society. It seems that the
young generation is also impressed by this because they have favourable opinion towards the nationalisation, encouragement of public enterprise, equal distribution of wealth as well as right to get a job. In this perspective their attitudes may be considered as modern.

Changes in Students Attitudes Towards Religious Aspect

In the traditional Indian society, religion has been an attribute of man at every stage of his cultural growth and in every period of his history. Religion controls the behaviour of man and gives them solace whenever they are in difficulty. In the most primitive societies and in highly stabilised and traditionalized higher cultures, religion tends to be mainly a conservative force. It is, as it were, the balance wheel of the society which prevents it from departing from established ways. However, today due to many reasons religion in our society is under transition, but the importance of religion has not decreased in the modern age. In this study the majority of students, both boys and girls, have expressed faith in religion. They think that faith in God makes life meaningful and the idea of God gives a sense of emotional security. They think that the men of religious nature will be more happy in future life than others who do not believe in religion. But, on the other hands, they think that today religion has become more dogmatic and tends towards orthodoxy.

However, as far as the practice of religion is concerned, according to the majority of students, they practice or follow it to some extent. The next highest number is of those students who follow religion strictly. Some of the students feel that observance of Religion is impossible in modern
society. While very few students think that they observe religion only to the extent that when it is beneficial and leaves it when it becomes harmful.

Further, so far as visiting to temples or sacred places is concerned, the majority of students are in favour of visiting temples and sacred places. Only 6% of the students does not like to visit temples. Among those students who like to visit temples, the majority of them are uncertain about their frequency of visiting temples.

The observance of rituals was an important indication of status in the traditional Hindu society and, to some extent, it is still so in our modern society. In this study more than three fourth of the students of the whole sample, both boys and girls, are in favour of performing religious rituals before starting a new work. They also feel that consultation with religious Pandits before marriage and their presence in the performance of religious ceremonies are absolutely essential.

It is said that in the past, science and religion were in conflict, but not the two have come to compromise becoming actually mutually advantageous and reducing the contradictions between the two. In spite of this, most of the students, both males and females, to some extent, feel that the science which is opposed to religious ideas should not be taught. It means they think that as the science will advance it will narrow down the range of religious experience and thus it will tend to reduce the importance of religion in the daily life of common man.

In the traditional society, there is a general belief that all natural calamities are due to Gods will to punish evil deeds. But in modern society
no one thinks in this way. However, in this study mostly the students are of the opinion that it is correct to say that all calamities are due to God's will to punish for evil deeds.

It seems that, among Indian festivals, Deepawali, Holi, and Dusshera are the popular festivals. A majority of the students celebrates these festivals with least religious, and most social significance. But there are also a few students who observe these festivals as religious performances.

One of the important feature of this study is that, on the one hand, students have a faith in religion and follow it to some extent; but, on the other hand, they think that religion has now taken the form of hypocrisy. And, further, it is interesting to note that some more students prefer the performance of religious rituals and rites before starting a new job and like to consult a Pandit before marriage. They also appreciate to visit temples occasionally. On the whole it means that the youth of today are not following their religion blindfoldedly.

Changes in Students' Attitudes Towards Political Aspect of Life

The acceptance of a democratic pattern of society by the nation has necessitated the participation of people at all levels in the affairs of the government. Politics is both a duty and a function of the modern man. With this in view, the present study has ventured to assess the political attitudes of the students. It is discovered that very few of the students at the time have been members of one or the other political party. Among these students not a single girl has been a member of any political party.
As regards future participation, a majority of the students wanted to become the member of a political party. Of these, the percentage of male students is higher than the females. Mostly, the boys are interested in becoming member of a political party in future, while majority of the girl students is not in favour of becoming member of any political party. Among these students, however, most of them desire to participate in the rightist or democratic socialist parties. It means that leftist parties do not attract them much. This trend has again been noticed when the students were asked to tell which party they liked most. The responses to it are that most of the students are in favour of Congress and the Jana Sangh and, to some extent, other rightist parties. Leftist parties again do not attract the students much. Regarding their liking for the political parties the students have given their own reasons. The majority of students who like the Congress Party tell that they prefer this party for its faith in democracy, socialism and secularism. A few of them have expressed the view that they like it because its ideology is based on the principle of equality. Those students who liked Jana Sangh are of the opinion that the party has always given importance to the welfare of the public and has stood firm on its promises.

As far as the active participation in politics is concerned, the majority of students, both boys and girls, are of the opinion that the students should not actively participate in politics. However, to some extent, they can participate in it.

The objective of participation in politics in a dynamic society is
elections. In this study the majority of students are not against contesting the elections. But, in comparison to girls, boys are more interested in contesting the election. Among them majority of the students desires to contest the election for the office of the college union as the president or secretary and some of them aspire to become Chief Minister of Prime Minister or legislator.

There is a general opinion in India that General elections are always fought on the basis of religion and caste. This opinion is still widely prevalent in our country. In this study also, according to the majority of students the elections are always fought in India on the basis of religion and caste. But there is some difference of opinion among the respondents regarding the extent to which the sentiment of caste and religion is exploited in India.

Student unions in the modern world have emerged as the institutions of training for the younger generation in dynamic ways of living and behaviour. They also provide ameteuristic participation in politics and opportunities for leadership to the youth and prepare them for the future life. Only 39.66% of the respondents is against the participation in student union activities and elections. Most of the students are in favour of participating in the activities of college unions. However, boys are more keen than girls in participating in the union activities. But they feel that the student unions have their importance for meeting the requirements of the students as the representative bodies. Some students feel that students union provides a forum for training for taking part in politics later in life. Others feel that they serve as means for establishing students'
solidarity and also help in improving the condition of college administration. The students who were averse to participation in student union stated that such wastage of time and energy, it also hampers studies. Some feels that they lack the required ability for active participation in politics, while, according to some other students, it creates conflict between teachers and students.

It is said that the students unions always spoil the peaceful atmosphere of the educational institutions. But through this study, we have been able to realise that a majority of the students is of the opinion that it can do so only to some extent and not totally.

As far as voting in the college union is concerned, personal qualities of the candidate are given preference over traditional factors such as caste or religion. It shows a marked change in the ideological content of the young generation in relation to the qualities of a candidate at the time of election.

Student unrest and student violence are universal and widespread phenomena of today and it has attracted much greater attention in all quarters. But who is to be blamed for this situation - political leaders or teachers? According to the majority of students, (both male and female) political leaders are responsible for encouraging students to go on strike.

Today there is a greater demand by the students and outside the student community that there must be a representation of students in the college or university administration. In this study a majority of boys are in favour of the student representation in the university bodies. However, girl
students are a little moderate in their views regarding student representative in the college or university authorities.

Democracy, socialism and secularism are the recent modern trends. Today freedom of religion is a part of Democracy, that's why India is a secular state. In this study majority of the students are in favour of democracy. According to them democratic form of government is the best of all forms of government. However, 31% students are, to some extent, in favour of this type of government, while only 4.33% students disagree with democratic form of government; out of them, very few are able to express their view as to what should be an alternative to the democratic type of government. Out of 13 students 3 are in favour of dictatorship and 2 are in favour of communism.

At present socialism is the principal goal of Indian government. Youths have also shown their interest in this policy of government. In this study, mostly, the students are in favour of socialistic pattern of government; only 11.67% students have criticised it. Among the two sexes, boys fully agree with the socialistic policy of the government, while the girls are in favour of it only to some extent. Those students who do not approve this policy feel that in socialistic society public will not take interest in the working of the government and its consequences will be that the economic condition of the country will deteriorate. Some of them feel that the absolute socialism will never come in India and that is why the capitalists will take the advantage of it.
The most important scientific gift of the modern world is the Nuclear power. Today we are witnessing that there is a race of the nations of the world for manufacturing nuclear weapons more in number and superior in lethal capacity than others. All the developed and developing countries of the world are trying to become a nuclear nation. That is why the world is facing a much greater problem of survival in war and peace. The choice, today, before the world, is a choice that has never been posed before. It is a choice of self-extinction or survival. India is using its atomic energy for peaceful purposes. But, it appears that the youngsters of India are in favour of making the nuclear weapon and not limiting only to peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy. In the present study we find that more than three fourth of the students are in favour of making the atom bombs. Only 1.34% students totally disagree with the opinion that India should make atom bombs. Among those students who agree that India should make atom bombs, the majority of students feel that for the security of our country it is necessary to make atom bombs. The next highest number is of those students who hold the opinion that if India wants to become a powerful nation in the world, it is essential for her to make nuclear weapons. Some of them feel that when there is always a danger to our country, then there is no reason for not making it; and when other countries are making it then why should we not make it. However, few of them also feel that it is a symbol of scientific advancement. Of those students, who fully disagree with making atom-bombs, have the opinion that it increases the feeling of conflict between the two power blocks and if India will make atom bombs the other countries will also make it, with the consequence that
international tension will further increase and put India into a number of difficulties.

These findings reveal that there is a remarkable change in the attitudes of the students from the one that existed in the traditional society of the past.