INTRODUCTION

The general consensus of Indian elites is that our society during the past quarter of a century has undergone tremendous changes as far as its social system, political policies, plans, and institutions are concerned. It is also argued that traditional values and attitudes pertaining to various social, political, religious, and economic issues and institutions are being gradually replaced by modern values and attitudes. Rapid and heavy industrialization especially after independence has further given rise to varied and new occupational opportunities which have played an important and decisive role in gearing or speeding up social and economic mobility among the members of our society.

This changing socio-economic structure of the society has profoundly influenced the attitudes, interests, and values of our younger generation as far as occupational preferences and other social values pertaining to different social problems or institutions are concerned. It is also held that the changing economic, political, and adult educational systems have also played a significant role in modifying the attitude of our youth. At the same time, the scientific and technological education has, to a great extent, successfully eradicated certain misconceptions about a number of social phenomena or problems. With the emergence of rational thinking, old values and attitudes are being gradually replaced by modern ones. This change in values and attitudes has a direct bearing first upon the individuals and second on the society as a whole. Changes in attitudes and values are bound to initiate changes in society.
As a result of this the behaviour pattern, opinions and attitudes regarding family and marriage caste and caste hierarchy, intercaste relations, choice of occupation, philosophy of life, hopes and aspirations undergo change. The students may not like to take up hereditary occupation and may not accept traditional institutions. They may be modern in one area of social life in terms of new rights and obligations and may seek to legitimize their activities in another area of traditional values.

In the light of the above contention it will be worthwhile to study the changing attitudes of our present young generation towards different social, cultural, economic, political, religious and other systems or institutions. A knowledge about attitude and attitude change may be of some advantage to the social planners and the society as a whole because on the basis of such information it would be possible to predict the future direction or trend of social change. At the same time the knowledge of changing attitudes may help the social planners in formulating new or future social laws and legislations.

The Problem:

This study is a modest attempt to find out the changing attitude of the students. As a matter of fact the student of today are in a state of continuous strain. They want to adopt to the modern ways of life but simultaneously they cannot afford to have a wholesale turning away from tradition and old values. They are being thus to choice between the two. All types of students in the college (urban or rural, scheduled caste and higher caste) comes in contact with each other and take part in the college activities and exchange. The views with each other. In this process their pattern of behaviour towards traditional institution
undergo a change. They develop their own idea about joint family, caste, dowry and religion etc., and develop their own philosophy of life which may lead to misbehaviour and indiscipline. The education in India is of such a type that it cannot ensure security to students and consequently they are frustrated and extremely critical of the government, university authority and the whole educational system. This leads to indiscipline among the students.

**Objective of Study**— The present empirical study of changing attitude of students is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To study the attitude of the college going students towards social, economic, religious and political system.
2. To study the changes that have taken place in their attitudes.
3. To assess the impact of modern values and changes on the students.
4. To study whether the students are oriented towards modern values or are they indifferent to them.
5. To find out the areas in which they are adopting modern values and the areas in which they are attached to traditional bonds. The manner in which they are modern or traditional.

**Population under Investigation**— The survey data of the proposed study are intended to throw light on several unknown characteristics of the students of Shri Varshney College, D.S. College and Tika Ram College affiliated to Agra University.

**Sample Plan**— The total number of students to be studied for the present survey is predetermined on economic and time consideration to be equal to 300 roughly one third of each of the three colleges of Aligarh affiliated to Agra University.

The sample of 300 students, 100 students from every college, was so drawn that there was no reason to apprehend a bias in the result. The unit of the universe was so arranged that the selection process gave equiprobability of selection to every unit in the universe.
First of all three separate lists of the students enrolled in the three colleges of Aligarh (i.e., Shri Varshney College, D.S. College and Tika Ram College) affiliated to Agra University were prepared. Afterwards from a table of random numbers 100 different numbers were drawn from every list of the students. At each draw, a four digit number, not greater than 9,000, was taken up. Thus, these 300 numbers designated those students whom the questionnaires were distributed and relevant information was obtained.

Method of Data Collection

The major tool for collecting data for the present study is questionnaire which includes questions pertaining to the following areas:

1. Identification data on each respondent.

2. Family background of the respondents including the education and income of their parents.

3. Attitude of students towards educational system, including examination system.

4. Attitude of students towards family, marriage, including divorce and dowry system.

5. Attitude of students towards caste, untouchability, status of woman and dressing pattern.

6. Attitude of students towards religion, political and economic system.

7. Membership of political parties.

Field Experience:

The important feature of the field work was that the investigation had not faced any problem of non-availability of the respondents. First, the students were very much hesitant to take the questionnaire.

*By the word different we mean that if one of the numbers comes up a second time we disregard it. Thus as each choice we are selecting from the remaining unselected elements.*
Most of them said that they were not good in academic pursuit; hence they desired that the questionnaire should be handed over to some one else. The investigator explained to the students that the questionnaire could be administered to them only whose names had been included in the list for this survey. This questionnaire was not to be taken up as an examination as there were no right or wrong answers to any of the question. The investigator was mainly concerned with their opinion. The informations obtained would be used strictly for the purposes of research and the responses would not be identified by names. I requested the students to feel free and give their responses frankly and honestly. With this sort of assurance they became ready to fill up the questionnaire. The respondents, in general, were cooperative, but especially the girls were more cooperative in comparison with the boys.

Conclusion

Joint family is still popular among the students, in spite of all the modern forces, which are working against the joint family. However, a majority of the students thinks that the joint family is helpful in the development of personality and in solving the economic problems. As far as emotional security and development of modern attitudes are concerned it is not so helpful.

The students generally relied on the parents for the selection of their spouses, but they felt they too should be taken into confidence. Self-arranged marriages or arranged marriages by parents were favoured only by a few students. In the selection of a bride-groom, respectable family, education, wealth and impressiveness were
The first considerations in the eyes of the students. However, very few students had given their first preference to wealth and impressiveness. While in the selection of a bride, majority of the students had given their first preference to education, 'well-versed in household affairs' and they laid little emphasis on charm, 'qualified to do job' from rich family'.

Love marriages were discredited because such marriages were often unsuccessful and led to divorce or unhappy married life. Besides, no support is available from parents in the time of difficulty and, also it is not acceptable to the society. A few students favouring self-arranged marriages thought that they would bring happiness, adjustment and help to eradicate the practice of dowry as well as break the barrier of caste system. Most of the students desired the practice of dowry. But, they could not resist themselves from taking dowry when it was given to them without asking. However, according to them it was possible to abolish this practice by the law.

As far as divorce is concerned, majority of the students are against it. They justify it only in such circumstances when all the efforts of maintaining good relations between the spouses have failed.

The claim that the caste is fastly being abolished is true to the results of this study. According to majority of the students, there is no objection in marrying outside the caste and to mix-up with other castes. They also would not like to work according to the traditional occupation of their own caste. In their opinion all the caste should be placed on equal footing. As far as the scheduled castes are concerned, they have sympathy with them. According to
them the special privileges should be given to the members of the low caste, and the scheduled caste people should be allowed to take admission in schools and colleges.

The students are more inclined towards the equality of man and women, higher education for women, and freedom of women equal to men.

For determining the factor responsible for expressing the place and position of a person in the society, majority of the students expressed their first preference to education, followed by intelligence, age, sex, family and caste. Very few students had given their preferences to religion, occupation and income. A large number of students recognised that one could enhance his/her social status through education and social service. The other status-linked factors were identified as modernity in the thinking and living to put on clothes and to do the make-up according to fashion, to be associated with some political party or social organisation, appreciation of art and performance of religion. But smoking, drinking, frequenting cinema houses, restaurants and clubs or excessive free-mixing with opposite sex were not considered to be status acquiring activities.

As far as the modern or traditional dresses are concerned, majority of the students liked to wear, to some extent, modern dresses according to them the 'hippism' is the evil influence of western civilization.

According to majority of the students, attaining education was needed to secure a higher status in the society. They were also of the view that, to some extent, present system of education was defective, and as such, it is essential that some kind of change should be brought in our educational system. They had given their own opinion about it. The majority of students felt that emphasis was to be given to vocational
education. The next highest number was of those students who felt that practical education should be given. According to some other students English should be abolished, and free education should be given to everyone.

As far as the examination system is concerned, a large number of students was in favour of semester system. They felt that in this system students would always be busy in their studies; thus they would not get time to participate in strikes and there would be many chances to appear in the examination. Thus, there was no chance of failing. Some felt that time was not wasted and true ability of the student was assessed. On the contrary those students who were in favour of annual examination system, felt that in this system students had to appear in the examination only once in a year, thus, they had much time to study and only intelligent students were able to fare well in the annual examination system.

More than the three fourth of students respondents were in favour of Hindi medium. According to them, the medium of instruction in the colleges should be Hindi. Only 15.34% students were in favour of English medium.

After studying the attitude of the students about economic aspects of life, it can be said that the students are now more interested in the economic system of the country. It also shows that they prefer the modern trend of socialistic pattern of the society. The majority of students are of the opinion that to some extent private property should be abolished and all the industries should be nationalised. As far as the economic development of the country
is concerned, it is possible only through the development of small scale industries.

While a majority of the students is satisfied to some extent with the industrial development of our country, a few students, who are dissatisfied, feel that the shortage of power and raw material hampered the industrial development.

Students are also very anxious to bring about changes in the economic set up of the country. They have given their own views regarding the type of change which they want. Highest percentage is of those students who want more equitable distribution of wealth, and the next highest percentage is of those students who want that the basic needs of every citizen should be satisfied.

An assessment of occupational aspiration shows that the majority of the students wanted jobs in Government sectors. The next highest number was of those students who preferred the teaching profession. A few students like to go for trade or industry. Some of the students wanted to become lawyers and only 5.34% were in favour of agriculture. This last group manifests the white-collar inhibition against physical labour. However, in this study other professions like medicine and engineering are not popular. Competitive nature of admissions is a probable cause of bringing down the level of aspiration in this respect.

Today there is a great problem of unemployment in India. Thus, it appears that a large number of students are of the opinion that the right to get a job should be regarded as fundamental.
An important aspect of this study is that, on the one hand, students have a faith in God and follow it to some extent and, on the other hand, they feel that the religion has taken the form of hypocrisy today. Further, it is interesting to observe that boys and girls completely modern in dress, manner and behaviour blindly follow the rituals before starting any new work and requisition the services of priest. Further, without any question, they still prefer to take consent of a priest or pandit before marriage. They also prefer to visit temples and other sacred places of worship.

Politics attracts students in general regardless of the fact that only a small number of students become member of a certain political party. But for the future career a majority of them aspire to become a member of some political party. Among them the Congress is the greatest attraction followed by Jan Sangh. It means that leftist parties do not attract many students. As far as the liking for any political party is concerned, mostly the students are in favour of Congress and Jan Sangh. Other parties are comparatively less popular. The reason of liking the Congress is that it believes in Democracy, socialism, and it stresses on the equality of people from all castes and creeds. The students who like Jan Sangh feel that Jan Sangh has always given importance to the welfare of the public and honestly abided by its promises.

However, according to the majority of students, elections are fought in India on the basis of religion and caste. They also feel that political leaders should be literate.
A large number of students are in favour of participation in student unions. They feel that they can fulfill the demands of the students and get proper training for entering into politics as their career. They also feel that they can improve the condition of college administration. Other students who are against the participation in the Union activities have doubts about their utility and regard them as wastage of time. More than half of the students in sample recognise the usefulness of the Union for future training in politics. They also feel that student unions receive encouragement and guidance from political parties and the consequences of which are that to some extent student union politics vitiates the academic environment in colleges. In the elections of college unions, the ability of the candidates is considered the main quality of a candidate. A big majority of students feel that political leaders are responsible for insinuating students to go on strike. According to them there must be representation of students in University Bodies.

As far as the political policies of our country are concerned a majority of students are in favour of democratic form of government and they believe in socialism and secularism. But to some extent, they have also agreed with the government's policy of non-alignment. More than three fourth of the respondents are in favour of making atom bombs too. They feel that for the security of our country and to become a powerful nation in the world it is necessary to make atom bombs.