

CHAPTER: II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the previous chapter the two dimensions of family functioning namely Cohesion and Adaptability used in this research are discussed. In this chapter the detailed account of the research methodology is presented. As stated earlier family-centered social interventions are becoming more and more popular and getting higher acceptance by theoreticians experts, clinicians and other helping professionals. It would be the arduous responsibility of social work profession to generate more and more data on Indian settings and extend them to particular area and culture-specific need based attempts.

All developmental programs/schemes, and other community based intervention strategies heavily emphasized on the 'Family' as target group in addressing their ultimate goals. Deinstitutionalization in correctional and mental health institutions also put emphasis on 'Family - Centered' services. Thus 'family' has been the focal point of attraction beyond doubt for researchers, clinicians and policy-makers. But fact remains that social work literature does suffer paucity of research data on typical Indian setting. Precise research data are the prerequisite for bringing sound results of social work techniques. Under this background present research

has been taken up.

Objectives :

1. To probe the cohesion and adaptability levels of slum families.
2. To make socio-economic and health status profile of urban slum families.
3. To study the relationship of family cohesion and family adaptability with socio-economic variables.
4. To examine the association between family cohesion, family adaptability and other dimensions of family functioning.
5. To study the factor analysed basic dimensions of marital relationship of slum family couples.

Hypotheses :

1. The level of family cohesion and family adaptability will differ in three pockets i.e. Harijanvas, Patelchowk and Sardargram.
2. The levels of marital adjustment, psycho/social maturity, dyadic communication pattern, family life satisfaction, nature of crisis and coping techniques will vary pocket-wise.
3. Family cohesion and family adaptability are significantly associated with the socio-economic variables (family type, size, caste, income, migration etc.)

4. Family cohesion and family adaptability will have positive correlations with marital adjustment.
5. Family cohesion and family adaptability will have high correlation with family life satisfaction.
6. Psycho-social maturity of spouses will not have positive correlation with family cohesion but will have positive relationship with family adaptability.
7. Family cohesion and family adaptability would vary according to family life cycle stages.
8. Family adaptability will have close association with the family crisis while family cohesion would not have.
9. Family cohesion would not vary according to the coping technique used by the respondents.
10. Family cohesion and family adaptability will have positive association with dyadic communication pattern.

Research Design :

This study explores certain family life areas of urban slums. The major focus of the study is on two important dimensions of family functioning namely Family Cohesion and Family Adaptability, and their correlates. Cohesion and Adaptability are used as two main variables and the search has been directed to examine their correlates and their association with marital adjustment, family life satisfaction,

psycho-social maturity levels of spouses, dyadic communication patterns, degree of crisis situation, coping techniques and family life cycle stages. Family heads, spouses, and children were interviewed to probe various aspects of family life. As this study is 'Holistic' in nature and directed at 'Interventive Model' in helping slum families, the amount of time required with each family was fairly high. The researcher, during 'Pre-testing' of tools could realize that adequate 'Rapport' would be the pre-requisite for getting their fullest possible cooperation in getting exact, precise and adequate data. Considerable time was spent in 'Orienting' the respondents about the research project. After orientation ideal time for interviews were also mutually worked out. Every family was interviewed 3-4 times in different sessions for different type of information. Respondent's cooperation was quite high. Thus various tools namely family cohesion, family adaptability, communication patterns, coping strategies, marital satisfaction, value profile, health status report and socio-economic data were gathered after spending minimum 4-5 sessions with each of 198 families in the pensionpura slum, Baroda.

The data were collected during the months of June 1986 to March 1987 (10 months). There were six professional social workers who acted as assistants in collecting data.

Sample :

Pensionpura slum, Baroda-2 is consisted of mainly three pockets, namely : Harijanvas, Patelchowk and Sardargram. Total number of families staying in these three pockets are 220. It was decided to study all the families with the following criteria :

1. Families should have both the spouses.
2. Families who are not going to shift elsewhere in near future.
3. Those families who are willing to be studied and would like to extend their co-operation throughout the research project.

198 families befitted this criteria, hence they were studied. Rest of the 22 families were not included in the sample as they were either single parent families or were unwilling to co-operate. The details of the socio-economic background of the sample are as follows :

Like any other slum, this slum is also consisted of migrated families (82%) with a majority of them coming from neighbourhood villages of Baroda district or from other districts in the state. A sizeable percentage of families 25% are from other states of the country showing that there is no total homogeneity in the socio-geographical background of

the families. Castewise, one pocket of the slum is consisted of Harijan families (46) and other two also have few Harijan families (19). Though 82% of families are Hindus but only 68% families are Gujarati speaking. Rest of them speak Hindi, Marathi and other languages. The families are either medium sized (5-6 members) or small sized (1-4 members) with majority of families 80% as nuclear types. Occupationally, majority of them 64% are in jobs and 60% of them have a monthly income which is less than Rs.1000/- A good number of families 56% are in debt and they are not in the habit of saving regularly. These families are in the active stage of family life cycle, since majority of them have young or school going children. Their quality of life in general, is not up to the mark. The physical lay out, civic amenities and socio-economic status are not satisfactory and hence they are not in a state of well being.

Research Tools :

Research Tools are of prime importance for the adequacy and authenticity of data. For the present research various areas of family functioning viz. family cohesion, family adaptability, family life satisfaction, psycho-social maturity, communication, coping techniques, value profile and marital adjustment etc. were required to be systematically measured. The researcher could do a very thorough and extensive work on the literature available on above mentioned family related

areas and that helped her conceptualize and operationalize the areas and sub-areas of tools. Consultation of research monographs, journals, books and other types of documented work on various areas of family and marriage could help a lot in authenticating and refining the tools before they were administered. Experts in behavioural and social sciences and practitioners were also consulted from time to time to make tools more precise and reliable. All the tools, before they were finalized, their psychometric properties, limitations and strengths have already been examined by experts both in the content of the problem under study and research methodology. The details of these measuring instruments are described below :

As mentioned earlier, both the spouses and the eldest child above 12 years of age were interviewed and a set of scales were administered on them. Following is a list of scales used :

1. Family Cohesion - Male spouses and child
2. Family adaptability - Male spouses and child
3. Family life satisfaction - Male spouse only
4. Marital adjustment scale - Both spouses
5. Dyadic trust scale - Both spouses
6. Psycho social Maturity - Both spouses

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 7. Dyadic communication observation schedule | - Both spouses |
| 8. Family functioning style | - Female spouse only |
| 9. Family crisis and crisis management tool | - Male spouses |
| 10 Value profile | - Male spouses |
| 11 Socio Economic profile | - |
| 12 Tool for child above 12 years of age | - |

All the tools were pretested on families from a different slum community and necessary modifications were made accordingly. The final revised schedules were then used for data collection. These tools were translated into simple gujarati language in order to make each item clear to the respondents.

Family Cohesion :

Family cohesion is one of the most important three dimensions of a family functioning and behaviour that has emerged from a conceptual clustering of over fifty concepts developed to describe family dynamics. (Olson, 1976) Family cohesion is defined as 'the emotional bonding that family members have toward one another.' Some of the variables that can help to measure cohesion are : Emotional bonding, boundaries, coalitions, time, space, friends, decision making, interests and recreation. It is advocated by Olson that moderate

cohesion is most viable for sound family functioning. The extremes are generally seen as problematic. In higher levels of cohesion, there is overidentification. It is in the moderate levels that individuals are able to experience and balance being independent from and connected to their family. Balanced degree of family cohesion is the most conducive to effective family functioning and to optimum individual development. Psychiatrists, Sociologists, Anthropologists and Family therapists are equally interested in family cohesion in suggesting interventions. Under this background it was decided to measure family cohesion levels of slum families.

David Olson's FACE II inventory (1979,82) was examined thoroughly and was used in measuring emotional bonding, boundaries, coalitions, time, space, friends, decision-making, interests and recreation. Its test-retest reliability is .83. The significance of this tool for social work interventions is quite high. In Indian culture 'family' has been enjoying a key status for curative, preventive and developmental services. Olson (1983) expressed himself saying 'When levels of cohesion are balanced, family will deal more effectively with situational stress and developmental changes. There are 16 items. This scale was administered to male spouses. Each item was required to be rated in yes or no responses. Thus, the highest possible score was 32 and lowest was 16.

Three levels of cohesion has been worked out on the basis of actual highest and actual lowest scores from the data i.e. High, medium and low.

Family Adaptability :

Like family cohesion, this is also one of the most important dimensions of family dynamics. Family adaptability is defined (Olson 1983) as "the ability of family system to change its structure, role relationships, rules in response to situational and developmental stress". To measure families on this dimension, a variety of concepts have been taken from several social science disciplines, with heavy reliance on Family Sociology. These concepts include family power, negotiation styles, role relationships and relationship rules. Moderate levels of family adaptability groups are more conducive to sounder family functioning. Von, Buckley (1967,1968) and Olson (1983) emphasized on family adaptability in examining various aspects of family dynamics and behaviour.

Olson's (1982) tool was used for the measurement of family adaptability. There are 14 items. Test retest reliability is .8. The male spouses were administered this tool and they rated in 'yes' or 'no' responses. The highest possible score was 28 and lowest was 14. Levels of adaptability have been obtained on the consideration of actual highest and actual lowest scores of respondents.

Item total correlation of family Cohesion and Family

Adaptability :

Family cohesion and family adaptability were measured through the scale prepared by Olson (1982). Items total correlation was computed in order to know the item relevance in Indian context. Both for family cohesion and family adaptability, this exercise was done. The results indicated that almost all items have moderate to high correlation with the total. This also indicates that it measure what is expected. Following mentioned tables give the details :

Table - 1

Item total correlation of family cohesion scale

| Emo- tional bond- ing | Fami- ly bou- ndaries | Coali- tions | Time | Space | Fri- ends | Deci- sion mak- ing | Interests and Re- creation |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| r = .11 | .59 | .71 | .19 | .44 | .36 | .28 | .46 |

Table - II

Item total correlation of family adaptability scale

| Asser- tiveness | Leader- ship | Discipline | Negotia- tion | Roles | Rules |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|-------|-------|
| r = .51 | .68 | .60 | .34 | .41 | .33 |

Family Life Satisfaction

Family Satisfaction has been considered as the primary outcome variable because it reflects the happiness with overall functioning of the family. Olson (1983) expressed himself "Although a wealth of theorizing and researches have been done on marital satisfaction family researchers have rarely concerned themselves with family satisfaction". Campbell, Converse and Rodgers (1976) explicitly differentiated family satisfaction from other forms of satisfaction. Hence present researcher also got interested in measuring family life satisfaction levels of slum families. Olson (1983) prepared 14 items of family satisfaction scale. This scale was used to analyze each of the item on a three point scale. In other researches also it was found that more satisfied couples tend to assess their families as more cohesive and adaptable (Olson 1983). This was the another justification to include family satisfaction scale in the study. Levels of family life satisfaction were developed considering the range of actual highest and actual lowest score. Test and retest reliability of the tool is .8.

Dyadic Communication :

Goffman (1959) viewed communication as central to presentations that comprise all human interactions. Communication is also important from the view point of family

development theory (Nunnally 1971, Miller 1971, Coorales 1974). Its importance got fully realized by system theory (Buckley 1967, Russel 1979). Virginia Satir⁽¹⁹⁶⁴⁾ writes "Communication is the greatest single factor affecting a person's health and his relationship to others". There are number of family researchers who contributed in the field of family communication. (Navran 1967, Levinger 1967, Gurman 1975, Beck 1976, O'leary and Tulk 1978, Weisberg 1980, Hutchinson 1979). Family communication patterns largely include communication in general, communication apprehension and inter-spousal and intra-family communication. Most studies as mentioned earlier have focused on communication in the spousal relationship only. Bienvenue (1978) developed a scale MCI (Improved marital communication). It is a uni-dimensional, self report measure of communication patterns as perceived/reported by spouses themselves. This was developed and used more for Clinical purpose to assess and diagnose marital communication. Gottman (1979) observed communication pattern through mind reading, non verbal negative communication, meta communication and cross complaining. In Olson's (1983) study it was found that communication had .44 and .46 correlations with family cohesion and family adaptability respectively, Under this background the present researcher thought of including communication tool in the study. Four major communication patterns were kept in the observation schedule based on O'leary & T's⁽¹⁹⁷³⁾ work on the same. These

patterns are :

- 1) Dominant status, Positive attitude of spouse
- 2) Dominant status, Negative attitude of spouse
- 3) Submissive status, Positive attitude of spouse
- 4) Submissive status, Negative attitude of spouse

Each spouse was marked on these patterns by the investigator after the interview is over.

Psycho Social Maturity Scale :

Psycho social maturity of spouses and other family members play a vital role in family functioning. Dean (1964) worked on emotional maturity and its correlates. Emotional maturity was found to be positively associated with marital adjustment. The correlation between the two was .55. Present researcher also found it necessary to measure respondents on this area. Number of other researchers have emphasized upon personality issues and characteristics affecting marital adjustment.

Eight statements were prepared encompassing various areas like handling of anger, stress, social relationships, judgement and decision making, responsibility, expression of one's ideas and communication, emotional security etc. Dean's 14 areas of emotional maturity were taken into consideration while preparing the items, various experts helps

was sought in making the tool more precise and meaningful. Test retest reliability of the tool is more than .7. The maximum highest score was 24 and lowest was 8. Levels of psycho-social maturity were obtained by considering the range of actual highest and actual lowest.

Family Crisis :

Work of Reuben Hill (1949) and Holmes and Rahe (1967) was studied carefully on the family crisis. Hill's classified crisis into four categories namely : (1) Dismemberment (death of Child, spouse or parent (2) Accession only (unwanted pregnancy, adoption, aged relatives, arrival of daughter in law) (3) Demoralization (non-support, infidelity, alcoholism, drug abuse etc.) (4) Demoralizing and dismemberment (divorce, suicide).

Holmes and Rahe (1967) conducted a research program on life changes and illness. They developed a tool to measure common life changes that could be stressful e.g. death of a spouse, getting married, job changes, financial crisis etc. For the present research the same list of common life changes was used to get the idea ~~xxx~~ of crisis faced by respondents and their families during the last five years. The list included following life changes.

- 1) Bereavement (Death of spouse/bread winner, core family member, friend etc.)

- 2) Marital problem (marital conflict, separation, desertion, divorce etc.)
- 3) Entry of new member (entry by marriage, child birth, grand parents or any other relatives arrival)
- 4) Illness and health problems (illness, accident causing handicap, change in health of members).
- 5) Occupational (unemployment dismissal, maladjustment change in work hours, conditions or responsibilities, trouble with boss or Colleagues etc.)
- 6) Anti social behaviour, legal enquiry etc. (minor violations of law, imprisonment, court proceedings etc.)
- 7) Developmental crisis (retirement, adolescent problems, oldage, menopause etc.)
- 8) Economic problems (financial pressures, change in financial state, debt or loss)
- 9) Change from original state (Change in living conditions, change in residence, change in family practices, change from busy period to boredom, change in personal habits etc.)
- 10) Natural calamities (Flood, fire, famine, riots, cyclone etc.)

Family Coping Strategies :

The coping is quite an old concept as old as that even Shakespeare quoted "when the sea was calm all boats alike show

mastership in floating, only in a storm were they obliged to cope".

From a sociological perspective Klein (1983) talked of family problems and coping techniques. Meneghan (1983) introduced three aspects of coping (1) Resources (2) Styles (3) Efforts of coping behaviour. Schooler (1978) talked of measuring coping effectiveness. Reiss (1981) talked of successful adjustment and coping techniques. Psychologically coping is used in the context of adjustment and readjustment.

Koos (1946) described coping as a roller coaster process of adjustment that involves initial disorganization. Reuben Hill (1949) developed an ABC-X family crisis model which states A (the stressor event) interacting with B (the family's crisis meeting resources) C (the definition of family makes of the event) it produces X (the crisis). Later MacCubin and Patterson (1979, 1982) advanced a Double ABCX-model including family-Pile up strains which include prior strains, stressor and hardships that affect the family life. According to them coping behaviour is an integral part of a family's total repertoire of adaptive behaviour. Further, the family's response to stress, both on intra family (member to member) and transactions between family and community are to be viewed.

For the present research MacCubbin and Olson's COPEs scale was referred and it gave a guideline to prepare a list of 11 statements referring to reframing, passive appraisal, social support, spiritual support and community resources. This helped in measuring the coping style that members of the family use. The respondents were asked to answer positively or negatively if each technique has a scope of being used by their family in the state of crisis. This was later compared with the actual coping technique used by them in the problem situation.

Value - Profile :

Values are the cultural guidelines which govern human behaviour. Family is the basic institution which performs the role of transmitting Cultural/moral values to its members. For the purpose of present research, assessment was confined to certain Instrumental Values and Terminal values as derived from Rokeach's scale of values. These values were further divided into two categories i.e. Instrumental Values as higher order and lower order needs satisfying values and Terminal values as higher order and lower order need satisfying values.

As defined by Rokeach (1973) "Value is an enduring belief and a specific mode of conduct or end state of

existence". Mode of conduct are instrumental values and end state are terminal values. From Instrumental values, terminal values are achieved. The test-retest reliabilities as worked out by him are for Instrumental Values :- Ambitious (.70). Broadminded (.57) Capable (.51) cheerful (.65) clean (.66) courageous (.52) forgiving (.62) helpful (.66) honest (.62) imaginative (.69) independent (.60) intellectual (.67) logical (.57) loving (.65) obedient (.53) polite (.53) responsible (.45) self controlled (.52) and for Terminal Values:- a comfortable life (.70) an exciting life (.73) a sense of accomplishment (.51) a world at peace (.67) a world of beauty (.66) equality, brotherhood (.71) family security (.64) freedom (.61) happiness (.62) inner harmony (.65) mature love (.68) national security (.67) pleasure (.57) salvation (.88) self respect (.58) social recognition (.65) true friendship (.59) wisdom (.60).

The male respondents were asked to mark the values they regard to be precious and may be influencing their family life. The marking was multiple hence computation was done of each value and later on they were grouped in higher and lower order need satisfying values.

Dyadic Trust Scale : Family and marital life largely depend upon the mutual respect, love and trust persons have on each other. 'Trust' is the cardinal aspects of marital

quality and stability both. It can be defined as % "belief by a person in the integrity of other individual (Robert and Huston⁽¹⁹⁸⁰⁾). According to O'Neill and O'Neill (1972) it is a prerequisite for marital partners.

A very small tool of eight items was prepared to assess slum families' members on the degree of trust and type of trust they have on each other. Experts and literature on the subject were consulted to refine the tool. Several items were prepared and ultimately eight items were maintained in the tool. These were based on Robert's work.⁽¹⁹⁸⁰⁾ His dyadic trust has demonstrated good face validity, higher reliability and excellent construct validity with regard to its associations with love, self disclosure and relationship status (Robert). Both male and female spouses were interviewed and data were collected on the same. Tool was administered for pretesting and test retest reliability was more than .6. Scoring was done and levels of dyadic trust were obtained on consideration of actual highest and lowest scores of respondents.

Marital Adjustment : Spannier (1976) opined that; if marital adjustment be treated as latent variable, three measurable variables are : Cohesion, Consensus, and satisfaction. (1) Cohesion is one of the two main variables in this study. Hence marital adjustment being important unit of family has been included. Despande ^(during 70's) ~~(1970)~~ and Spannier's (1976) work

on marital adjustment scale was taken into consideration for assessing the slum families. Deshpande's tool was quite precise but certain dimensions ~~z~~ were missing which were found in Spannier's tool. Hence, the two were clubbed. Total 37 items were kept in the Tool. It was decided to get major/basic dimensions of marital adjustment. Factor analysis is one of the most important techniques to get basic dimensions/perspective of the areas under the study. It also helps in data reduction process.

Factor analysis also helps to know underlying pattern of relationship or order. Varimax Rotated factor analysis family was applied with the following customary process.

- 1) The 37 x 37 correlation matrix of all the variables of the scale.
- 2) The extraction of factors - The exploration of data reduction.
- 3) Name of Factors.

The whole exercise was done separately both for male and female respondents. With one eigen value researcher got eight factors for male and eight factors for female respondents.

The brief description of eight basic dimensions from male data is as under.

Factor - 1

Economic matters :- This factor included items on money matters, education of children, various purchases and recreation sources and expenditure of various aspects of family life. Factor loading of these items were .32, .39, .43, and .52. As the present respondents belong to lower socio-economic class of society, economic conditions and family matters related to their income-expenditure patterns do play a vital role in smooth functioning of the family; Social work interventions have a very significant role to play in economics of urban slum families.

Factor - 2

Personal life and daily activities : This dimension of marital life included various items viz., Interest of spouses in daily activities of each other, comments and criticism on in-laws behaviour and work, customs and socio-cultural traditions, confrontation and Quarrels and temperamental differences in discharging day to day routine tasks and responsibilities. Factor loadings were .27, .35, .61, .6, and .34. Marital adjustment and marital quality gets affected by all the items mentioned in this factor. Mutual respect, understanding about roles and responsibilities, ability to

accommodate each other, and interest in each other's personal and social needs alone can make marital quality and stability richer. This dimension has few items which are very sensitive and if disturbed require rigorous social interventions.

Factor - 3

Psycho-Sexual satisfaction :- This factor included various items like, sexual satisfaction, amount of time spent together, confiding in person and likes/dislikes and degree of each other's acceptance in general. Factor loadings were .53, .34, .26, .55, .65. This factor also plays important role in the smooth functioning of families.

Factor - 4

Marital instability :- This dimension of marital adjustment included items ranging from 'success of marriage' to 'regret marriage'. Other items are 'Efforts to keep marital life happy', 'Confiding in partner', and 'Intra family relations'. Loadings on each items were -.8, .47, -.57, -.29 and -.27.

Factor's name is 'Negative in nature' i.e. marital instability and hence positive items have given - negative loadings (viz 'Success of marriage' -.8 etc.)

Factor - 5

Social relations and social needs :- This dimension of marital adjustment included items like accompanying spouse

for social ceremonies and activities, agreement in building/maintaining social contacts/relations and social aspects of spousal relationship. Factor loadings were .73, .44, and .40.

Factor - 6

Mutual Concern of Spouses :- This dimension included various items like - Food habits, love and concern, faith and other aspects of intra-family relations. Factor loadings were .76, .33, .30, and .39. Quite a few researchers on marital quality have emphasized on this aspect.

Factor - 7

Conflicts on various decision-making areas/issues :- This factor consisted of various items viz. food habits, purchases, recreation, sexual coupling, socialization of Children, etc. Factor loadings were .30, .56, .51, .67, .40, .20, .30.

Factor - 8

Socio-Cultural matters : This dimension of marital adjustment covered items like, in-laws, customs, education, health, religion, etc. Factor loading were .36, .40, .36, .74 and .37.

8 Factors of Female Respondents

Factor - 1

Spousal roles and responsibilities :

In male group first factor gave higher variance of 'Socio-economic matters' while on female group ~~first~~ factor got focused on 'Spousal roles and responsibilities'. Various areas get included are - likes/dislikes, socialization, confiding in partner, education, rights of spouse, intra-family relations, purchases, health aspects etc. Factor loadings were .22, .23, .21, .38, .58, .63, .62, .73 and .23. Three items have a very high factor loadings, food habits .58, Intra-family relations .63 and rights of spouse .73.

Factor - 2

Marital instability :

This factor is commonly shared in both the groups i.e. male/female respondents. Regret marriage item is found in both groups with more than .38 loading. Success of marriage had very high loading -.8 on male while in female group this is only -.35. Satisfaction from sex got reflected only in female group with .30 factor loading. Rest items are common in this factor for both the groups.

Factor - 3Conflict and difference of Opinion patterns

This dimension included six items namely arguments related to in laws behaviour temperamental aspects, insults, quarrel areas, amount of time spent together and recreational aspects. Factors loadings were .33, .75, .56, .72, .28 and .31. Temperamental differences and confrontation items have a dramatic factor loading more than .7.

Factor - 4Socio-political issues

This factor included items on 'Social-political issues' discussion, marital issues, divorce etc. Factor loadings were .38, .20 and .25.

Factor - 5Social relations and food habits

'Food habits' items has got a very high loading i.e. .77. This was not true for the male group. Rest items are related to social relations and choice of friends.

Factor - 6Cultural/religious matters

Religious matters and social aspects got included in this factor. Factor loadings were .21 and .31.

Factor - 7Psycho-Sexual Satisfaction

Frequency of sexual coitus, satisfaction from sex life, love of spouse and mutual respect related items were covered. Factor loading were .21, .24, .34 and .26.

Factor - 8Economic matters

Social celebrations/activities, Children's upbringing and other economic matters are covered by this factor. Factor loading were .52, .62.

Thus varimax rotated factor analysis could give basic eight dimensions of marital adjustment. 37 areas of marital adjustments' data got reduced to eight basic dimensions discussed above. Factor analysis could give 60.7% variance in female group and 57.2% in male group.

Levels of marital adjustment were computed accordingly. Items were rated on 5 point scale ranging from very high to very low. Levels of marital adjustment from low, moderate and high were computed accordingly.

Family Functioning Style :

This dimension incorporates certain activities which are significant for smooth family functioning and maintaining

solidarity of the family. It reflects upon the style of the family functioning which holds them together and committed to the family.

Robert (1973) has worked extensively on this aspect. Various other researches and relevant literature were studied and a tool of having eight items reflecting upon family's style of functioning leading to its solidarity and motivational commitment of its members was prepared. Robert's twelve item scale have been useful in preparing this tool. The eight items which were taken are : performance of routines and rituals together, celebrations together, going out together, taking interest in each other, sharing of joys and sorrows with each other, planning together, family jokes and endurance of hard time together.

Respondents were asked to react in yes or no to any one statement out of three from each item. The highest and lowest score was considered for dividing the family functioning style into three levels i.e. high, moderate and low. The tool was pretested and it was found that it measures same what was expected by researcher.

Socio-economic profile tool :-

To obtain socio economic profile of slum families, a detailed schedule was prepared and female spouses were

interviewed. Besides socio-economic data; information on health status, educational status, housing conditions, household equipment and other basic requirements, child rearing and immunization etc. was also gathered.

Tool for child above 12 years of age :

This tool was made to obtain data from eldest child on family life, parenting, parent-child and sibling relationships, sharing and decision making in the family etc. The respondents were also administered tools of cohesion and adaptability to get their version on this dimension.

Research Process :

Like any other researches, the investigator had unique experiences of the entire process. Soon after formulation of tools and pretesting of the same, the task of data collection began which continued for a period of *ten* months (June 1986-March 1987).

The investigator secured the list of heads of the household from the leader of each pocket. Each pocket has got an association. Majority of the names *tallied* except a minor percentage of these who are staying in these houses on rental basis. This was discovered while data collection. Thus the name of those occupants who are staying in these houses were included and they were interviewed.

Contact with the leaders was not difficult since they are acquainted with the students coming for field work and Faculty as well. Most of the family heads were also aware and they showed readiness to give such important and personal data about their family life. Those who showed resistance despite all assurances were not interviewed since willingness and readiness of the respondents was a pre-requisite.

The schedules and scales were detailed and fairly exhaustive, hence each family was visited minimum thrice. In few cases it was four to five times. Respondents fatigue was taken into account, hence each session did not last more than an hour. That is why the families were visited number of times. To avoid fatigue an incentive in the form of token (a small steel plate) for their active participation and contribution was given at the end.

Since a number of visits were made in each family, a kind of informal relationship did develop with many which was revealed in the form of informal comments, consultations, sharing of good or bad news, offering tea. Family members have also started showing concern to the investigator towards her continuous visits and rigorous efforts of meeting them.

All the appointments for interviews were kept as per the respondents convenience. Barring a few instances where

investigator had to convince and reassure the respondents, most of them co-operated in giving detailed and necessary information. Female respondents took more time in giving exact details and some of the factual information like age of family member, period of specific events, income, expenditure etc. They were comparatively more shy in giving their views than male respondents. By and large, both male and female respondents were open and straight. They did not try to hold information to themselves. They were explained in simple language purpose of interview and the tool was also explained in simpler form so that correct responses could be obtained.

Both male and female respondents were interviewed separately and care was taken that their views do not get biased. Similarly interviews with children were held separately and privacy was maintained. Some of the children though were above 12 years, found it difficult to understand few of the statements; they were explained repetitively in simpler way.

As information regarding family life is personal and experiential, adequate time and hearing was given to respondents to express themselves. Many respondents did extend the interviews in terms of telling several instances which may reflect their family life and relationships and may give a better insight to the investigator to have a clear picture of their families.

The period of data collection was fairly long, therefore the investigator could get an opportunity to know their culture, rituals, celebration of festivals and functions, the community life they have, their differences and conflicts. All this added to the investigators vivid and accumulated experiences of slum families.

A detailed record of each household was maintained in terms of number of visits and date and who interviewed since the investigator was helped by six trained social workers. Almost all the families were visited and interviewed by the investigator at least once. 50% of the data collection was done by the investigator herself and the rest was closely supervised by her after sufficient orientation and on the spot checking.

There have been mixed experiences of meeting respondents. Some were very warm and welcoming, gave first priority to the investigator, some were shy and indifferent, some took time to open up and some chose time as per their own convenience. As a result investigator had to visit these houses several times and at odd hours. Some of them were leaving home very early, some returned late, some were available only for a shorter period. All these had come in the way of speedy data collection.

On the whole the impressions of investigator are varied. This slum meets the characteristics of slum as described earlier. The exposure to urban living and the surrounding environment have influenced their family life. Like other families, they have their joys and sorrows, routines and rituals, roles and tasks, gossips and entertainments and above all the distinctive nature and strengths which differentiate them from other families. They are comparatively more straight and blunt about marital, pre-marital and extra marital issues, also less conscious of their impulses and feelings for others. They don't unnecessary coverup or feel defensive about the feeling they have or actions they are doing. These are the families which despite adversities are able to run the show without getting seriously affected or going into a state of disorganization.

Data Analysis : The entire data were computed manually by the researcher and computer's help was sought for finding out correlations, t-value, Item-total component correlation of Cohesion and Adaptability and factor analysis of marital adjustment items. The chi-square value and 'C' value was computed manually by the researcher. Different sets of tables were prepared to get a total picture of these families.

Socio-economic profile along with health and educational status was prepared pocketwise and presented in simple

frequency tables. The association of socio-economic data with Cohesion and Adaptability is computed through Chi-square and C-value analysis and presented in bi-variate tables.

Levels of family cohesion and family adaptability, marital adjustment, psycho-social maturity, family life, satisfaction, family life cycle, family crisis, Coping techniques, dyadic communication pattern are presented pocket-wise in single variate and bivariate forms. A third set of tables to probe relationship of cohesion and adaptability with their correlates is presented in bivariate and multi-variate form.

Data were collected from children above 12 years age regarding family life, parenting etc. and their perception on family cohesion and adaptability, is presented in simple frequency tables, t-value of their perception of cohesion and adaptability with father's perception has been computed and presented in a tabular form.

Thus, there are four major sections that would be presenting entire data. First section presents socio-economic profile, health and educational status of respondent's families, second section presents pocket wise analysis on cohesion and adaptability and their correlates; third section will describe the association and correlation of cohesion and adaptability with their correlates and the last

fourth section presents a picture of children's perception of their parents, parent-child relationship and other aspects of family life alongwith their perception of cohesion and adaptability.

Limitations of the study : Any researcher despite being ambitious should be aware with the limitations of his/her research project. This study also has certain limitations which are enlisted below :-

- 1) The study is confined to a particular slum, hence whatever conclusions are derived, are true for this community
- 2) The data were collected from low income group families. Had the other income groups (middle and higher income group) been covered, the comparative picture of the families would have given a different account of the families.
- 3) The factors of marital adjustment obtained after factor analysis were not co-related with cohesion and adaptability. Due to time constraints, the researcher did not touch upon this aspect.
- 4) Case studies of selected families from the three levels of cohesion and adaptability i.e. low, moderate and high could have highlighted unique features of families.
- 5) The researcher had to exclude a few families which were single-parent families. Such families data would be useful from social work point of view.

Chapterization

The report is divided into six chapters. A brief account of the chapters is presented below :

Chapter-I Introduction

This chapter deals with an introduction on family as a significant sub-system of society, its functions and role in society, problem formulation and significance of study from social work point of view. It also presents an evaluation of various conceptual frameworks and theories on family.

Chapter-II Research Methodology

This chapter gives a detailed account of Research design, objectives, hypothesis, sampling and tools of data collection. It also talks about the "Research Process" the researcher has undergone.

Chapter-III Review of literature

This chapter presents an extensive review of the studies on family cohesion, family adaptability, circumplex model, marital adjustment, family life cycle, dyadic communication, family roles, crisis and its management, slum life etc. both in India and abroad.

Chapter-IV Research setting

A total picture of the research setting socio-economic profile of families and physical layout of the research setting is presented in this chapter.

Chapter-V Data Analysis

It has 3 sections as given in the following lines :

Section-A : Presents the data of families ^{pocketwise} ~~parpetwise~~

Section-B : analyses the relationship of cohesion and adaptability with other correlates including socio-economic variables.

Section-C : gives a clear picture of children's perception on cohesion and adaptability, parenting, their contribution in family life, their relationship with parents and other siblings etc.

Chapter VI

Section A : Discussion, Implications and Suggestions

This chapter discusses at length the findings of the study, implications and based on this, suggestions are given.

Section B : Action Plan

A plan for family centred intervention with special reference to promote cohesion and adaptability in the family along with processes and specific techniques is described in this chapter.