

## CHAPTER V

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# \*\*\*\*\* MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

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Knowledge of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the sample is a prerequisite for giving meaningful interpretation to the results of the analysis of data pertaining to the consumption pattern of the sample studied. According to a UN report, demographic characteristics of a sample 'are considered basic because they are necessary for the correct interpretation of levels of living and for the analysis of practically all non-demographic characteristics,'<sup>1</sup> In this chapter we accordingly give a brief description of the background characteristics of the sample households.

## Family Structure

Although the joint family system is considered to have disintegrated in urban areas nearly twenty-six

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<sup>1</sup>UN. Handbook of Household Surveys, New York, 1964, p.16.

percent of the sample belonged to this category.<sup>2</sup>

Table (5.1) shows the distribution of the household according to family structure in the various expenditure classes. This has also been represented diagrammatically.

(Vide Figure 5.2, p. 82 ) which strikingly shows the persistence of joint family system in the Indian social structure. The percentage of joint family households to the total number of households in the various expenditure classes ranged from 8 to 67. It may be noted that in the topmost class ( expenditure over Rs. 4250 p.m.) six out of total nine households belonged to the joint family category. Out of these six households five were having the occupation business. Could it be that as in farming, the need for work force encourages joint family structure among business people too.<sup>3</sup>

Can you say this based on affluence or not?

Imp.

<sup>2</sup>Our operational definition of joint family differs slightly from the traditional conception of joint family as two or more generations living together under one roof. We have considered a household as joint-family if any member of it was not related to the head of household by blood as wife, son or daughter, i.e. household which had member/members who did not belong to the immediate family of the head of the household.

<sup>3</sup>This has been statistically tested by two-way classification according to occupation ( business / non-business ) and family structure ( joint / nuclear ), but the chi-square test gave insignificant value (0.40 against table value of 3.84 at 0.05 level). Hence no association could be posited between occupation and family structure.

**Table :5.1: Distribution of Households according to Family Structure in the Various Expenditure Classes**

Total monthly expenditure class (in Rs.)	No. of Households	Nuclear Family		Joint Family	
		No.	%	No.	%
Rs. 650 - 950	4	3	75	1	25
950 -1250	19	14	74	5	26
1250 -1550	30	22	73	8	27
1550 -1850	26	24	92	2	8
1850 -2150	28	21	75	7	25
2150 -2450	11	7	64	4	36
2450 -2750	13	11	85	2	15
2750 -3050	18	11	61	7	39
3050 -3350	4	3	75	1	25
3350 -3650	8	7	87	1	13
3650 -3950	8	5	62	3	38
3950 -4250	7	6	86	1	14
Over 4250	9	3	33	6	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>75.05</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>25.95</b>

#### Family Size and Composition

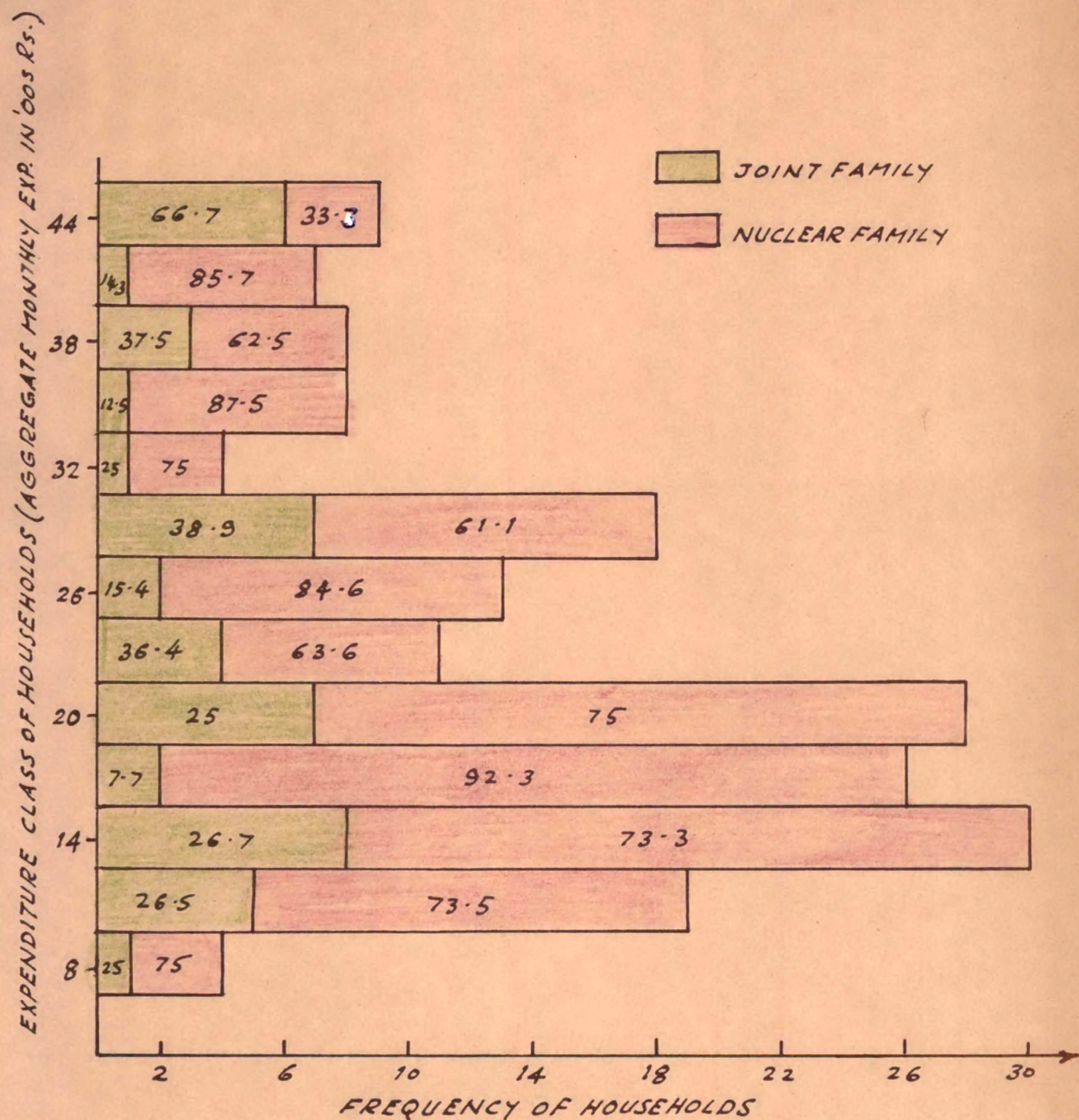
The average size of the household for the entire sample was 4.80 as is seen in the following table :

**Table :5.2: Average Family Size according to Family Structure**

Structure	Number of Households	Number of Individuals	Average Size
Joint	48	299	6.02
Nuclear	137	608	4.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>4.85</b>

(Vide Figure 5.2, p.83)

FIG. 5.1  
DISTRIBUTION OF 185 HOUSEHOLDS  
ACCORDING TO FAMILY STRUCTURE

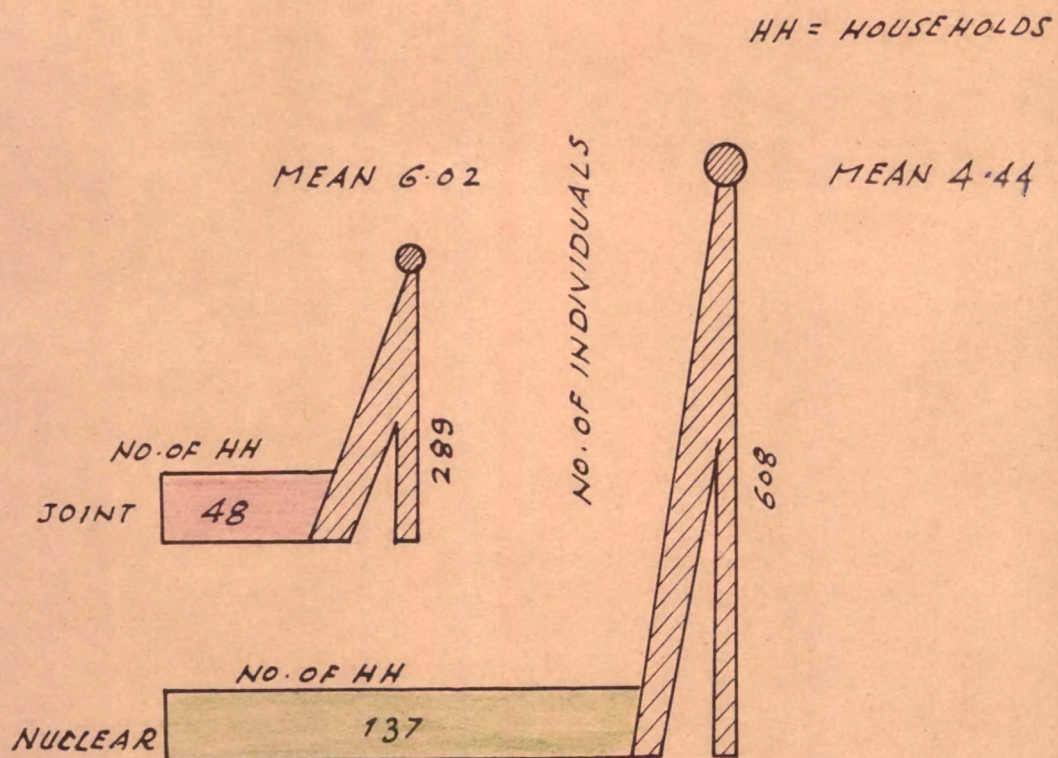


● FIGURES IN RECTANGLES INDICATE % JOINT FAMILY & NUCLEAR HOUSEHOLDS.



FIG. 5.2

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE SAMPLE  
ACCORDING TO FAMILY STRUCTURE



The average size of the family for the country as a whole is reported to be 5.55.<sup>4</sup> The moderate figure of 4.44 obtained for the nuclear households seems to be reasonable in view of the fact that this sample consists of highly educated and affluent households.

The composition of the households according to age in the different expenditure classes are given in Table (5.3) on the next page. The data have also been presented graphically on page 86. Persons in the age group 6-14 constitute the mode for this distribution being 21.40 % of the total number of individuals in the entire sample, the next largest one belongs to the age group of 23 - 34 with 20.29 %.

The age of the head of the household is also an important demographic variable which can serve as criterion for classifying families as belonging to the beginning, expanding or contracting stage in the family life cycle. In the present sample the distribution of the households according to the different stages of life cycle was, as given in the Table (5.4) on page 87.

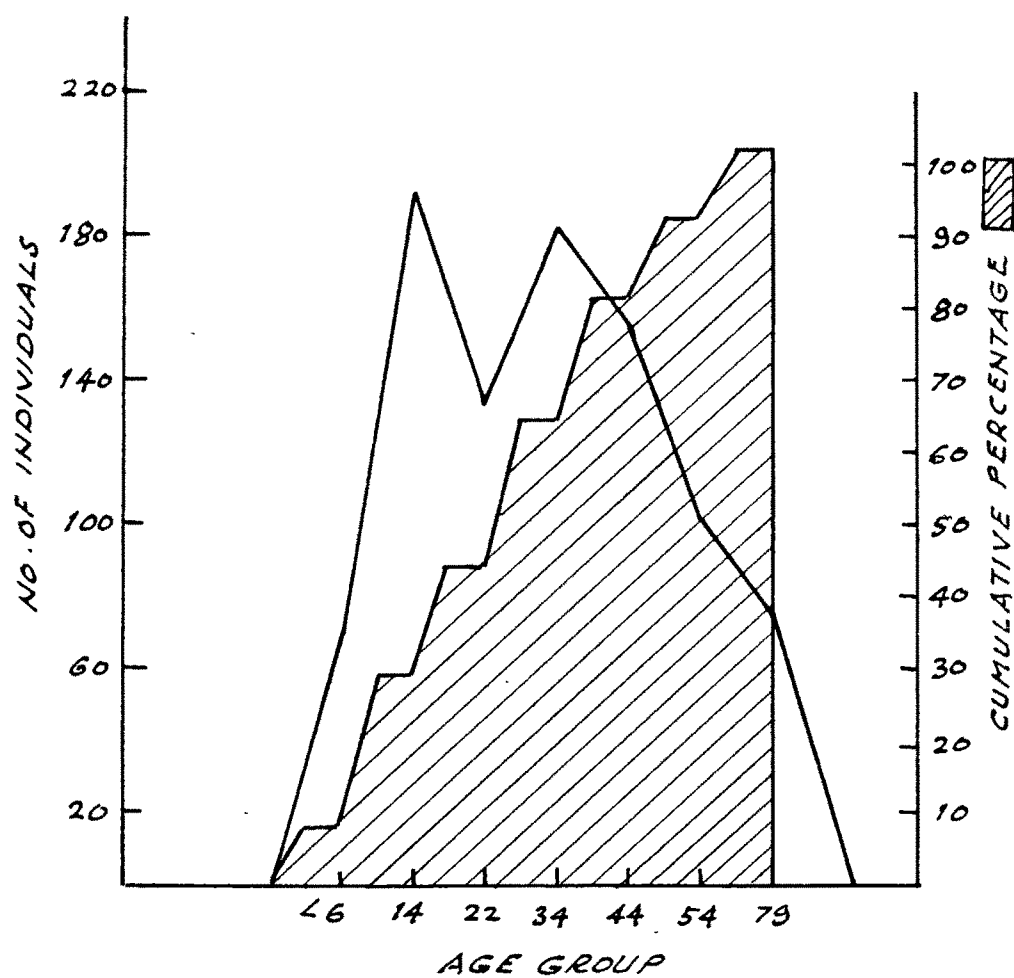
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<sup>4</sup> All India Consumer Expenditure Survey, Vol. II, Pattern of Income and Expenditure, New Delhi, 1967, p.9 (NCAER)

Table 15.3: Distribution of Household Members according to Age in the Different Expenditure Classes

Expenditure Classes	No. of Households	No. of Individuals	Age in Years									
			Over 55	54-45	44-35	34-23	22-15	14-6	1-5	Less than 6		
Rs. 650 - 950	4	13	3	3	-	5	1	-	1			
950 - 1250	19	91	8	5	15	23	11	18	11			
1250 - 1550	30	135	9	13	23	25	20	23	17			
1550 - 1850	25	106	5	12	17	27	13	20	12			
1850 - 2150	29	131	10	8	26	28	14	36	9			
2150 - 2450	11	57	4	7	13	9	6	13	5			
2450 - 2750	13	69	1	10	13	8	17	16	4			
2750 - 3050	18	84	7	13	12	18	14	18	2			
3050 - 3350	4	18	2	2	2	4	3	3	2			
3350 - 3650	8	42	3	6	5	7	10	9	2			
3650 - 3950	8	39	4	4	7	7	7	10	-			
3950 - 4250	7	38	3	7	5	7	7	9	-			
Over 4250	9	74	6	8	12	14	12	17	5			
Total	185	897	65	99	155	182	135	192	70			
Percentage			7.25	10.92	17.28	20.29	15.05	21.40	7.80			

FIG. 5.3  
DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS  
IN THE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS





**Table :5.4: No. of Households in the Different Stages of Life Cycles**

Stage	Number of Households	Percentage
Beginning (23-35 years)	40	21.62
Expanding (36-45 years)	69	37.30
Contracting (over 45 years)	76	41.08
Total	185	100.00

It is seen from the above table that the percentage of households in the contracting stage is maximum being 41 % followed by that of the expanding stage with 37.3 %.

It is during these stages ( expanding and contracting ) that the demands on the rising trend of the family's income is heavy and multifarious. The consumption pattern of the households in these stages may be expected to reveal wide variations being determined by a combination of demographic, social, economic and psychological factors.

#### Sex Ratio

Out of 897 individuals 473 were males, and 424 females. Thus the female to male ratio is 0.90. The 1971 census reports for Canada population ( in '000s ) as under :

What  
does  
this  
mean?

Male	253
Female	215
Total	468

The sex ratio ( F / M ) is accordingly 0.85. The sex ratio for this region is thus less than 1. Our sample result is in conformity with the population value. Table (5.5) shows the sex ratio for the various expenditure classes.

Table :5.5: Distribution of Members according to Sex in the Various Expenditure Classes

Expenditure (in Rs.) Class	No. of Households	No. of Males	No. of Females	Sex Ratio (F / M)
650 - 950	4	8	5	0.63
950 - 1250	19	44	47	1.07
1250 - 1550	30	70	65	0.93
1550 - 1850	26	57	49	0.86
1850 - 2150	28	69	62	0.90
2150 - 2450	11	26	31	1.19
2450 - 2750	13	38	31	0.82
2750 - 3050	18	46	38	0.90
3050 - 3350	4	9	9	1.00
3350 - 3650	8	26	16	0.62
3650 - 3950	9	22	17	0.77
3950 - 4250	7	18	20	1.11
Over 4250	9	40	34	0.85
Total	185	473	424	0.90

Educational Qualifications of Head of the Family and  
Other Members of the Households

64.42 percent of the heads of households had graduate or higher education, while amongst the housewives the relevant percentage was only 47.03. Thus nearly fifty percent of the women folk were still inadequately educated, while among the men the high percentage of educated may highlight the fact that education is considered important even by the monied class. This trend is in line with the changing structure and organization of modern business and industry. Table (5.6) gives the details regarding the educational qualifications of the heads of households and housewives.

Table :5.6: Distribution of Heads of Households and Housewives according to their Educational Qualifications

Educational level attained	Head		Housewife	
	No.	%	No.	%
No Schooling	13	7.0	18	9.7
S.S.C and below	13	7.0	69	37.3
Unfinished College	2	1.1	10	6.0
Graduate	50	27.0	56	30.3
Post-Graduate	19	10.3	29	15.7
Professional (Med. Law, Engg.)	85	45.9	1	0.5
Ph.D.	2	1.1	1	0.5
Miscellaneous (Diploma holders etc.)	1	0.6	-	-
Total	185	100.0	184	100.0

Out of the 185 households 67 reported as having members attending university education. The total number of household members attending college / university was 102 divided among the fields of specialisation as follows :

Arts & Commerce	...	50
Science	...	29
Medicine & Technology	..	23

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102

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#### Religion

The sample was predominantly Hindu, only four religions were represented in the sample. It might be that in minority groups affluent households are relatively rare so that the random sample has not covered them. The distribution of the religions represented are as follows :

Hindu	..	163	( 88.11 % )
Parsi	..	10	( 5.41 % )
Christian	..	7	( 3.78 % )
Jain	..	5	( 2.70 % )
		185	100.00 %

#### Language of the Head of the Household

Nearly fifty percent of the sample belonged to communities other than Gujarati, emphasizing the cosmopolitan

How  
many had  
relevant  
ex-  
posed  
people?



character of Baroda City as well as the economic well-being of the 'outsiders'.

The distribution of the households according to language was as follows :

Gujarati (96), Marathi (26), Hindi (14), Tamil (10), Sindhi (8), Telegu (7) and Kanarese (6). Languages represented by less than five households each were Malayalam, Punjabi, English, Bengali, Konkani, Kutchi and Oriya. Thus in all 14 languages were recorded in the sample households.

#### Dietary Habit

It is generally considered that the food bill of non-vegetarians will be higher than <sup>that</sup> of vegetarians. As this could be an important variable influencing consumption pattern information has been gathered about this. Out of the 165 households 76 reported that they were non-vegetarians. 109 households were vegetarians. Of course no family reported that they ate meat daily. There was wide disparity in the frequency of non-vegetarian dishes consumed. In Chapter VII we have dealt with this variable in some detail.

#### Occupation of the Head of the Household

This variable is considered to be one of the major determinants of the social class of the household. The

distribution of the sample households according to occupation was as shown in Table (5.7). The occupational category, clerical and administrative, has taken the leading rank with one third of the sample household heads coming under this category. This is a bit surprising since one does not usually associate affluence with this occupational group. Perhaps income from ancestral properties in various forms may have contributed to this. The second and third ranks have been taken by the engineer and business categories with 25.5 and 17.3 % respectively. This is as expected reflecting especially the industrial importance of the city.

Summarizing the findings on the socio-demographic background characteristics of the sample households the following features are noteworthy :

- (i) The joint family structure is still retaining its hold comprising, 26 % of the total sample households.
- (ii) The mean family size was 4.85 per household.
- (iii) The female to male sex ratio was 0.90 which is in conformity with the ratio of 0.85 for whole Gujarat ( 1971 census ).
- (iv) 85 % of the heads of the households were graduates or had higher qualifications. Among the housewives only 47 % were graduates.

- (v) Hindu religion predominated with 68 % of the sample.
- (vi) Nearly 50 % of the sample were Non-Gujaratis, reflecting incidentally the cosmopolitan character of Baroda City.
- (vii) Nearly 41 % of the households were non-vegetarians.
- (viii) The occupational category, clerical and administrative, that is more of a sedentary type occupied the first rank with 63 households (33.4 %) engaged in it. The second and third positions were taken by engineers and businessmen, 47 ( 25.5 % ) and 32 ( 17.3 % ) respectively.

With this short introduction of the sample we proceed to chapter VI where we present the results of our statistical analyses dealing with the consumption pattern of the affluent groups.

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Table 5.7: Distribution of 105 Households according to Occupation in the Different Expenditure Classes ( Aggregate Monthly Expenditure )

Expenditure Class (in Rs.)	Dust-ness	Lawyer	Engin- eer	Clerical and Admi- nistrative	Execu- tive & Manage- rial	Doctor	Teacher	Scientist	Retired	Total
650-950	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	4
950-1250	3	-	4	8	1	-	-	-	3	19
1250-1550	-	-	10	12	1	-	1	5	1	30
1550-1850	3	-	8	11	2	-	-	1	1	26
1850-2150	2	-	11	8	2	2	1	-	2	28
2150-2450	2	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	1	11
2450-2750	4	-	1	4	2	-	-	2	-	13
2750-3050	3	-	6	7	-	-	-	1	1	18
3050-3350	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4
3350-3650	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	1	8
3650-3950	2	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	8
3950-4250	4	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	7
Over 4250	7	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	9
Total	32	3	47	63	12	5	2	9	12	185
Percentage	17.3	1.6	25.5	33.4	6.5	2.7	1.1	4.9	6.5	100