

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCALE

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCALE

5.1 SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE

It has been already stated in the introduction that the problems of gerontology are closely related to some of the modern sociological and technological changes. As stated in Chapter II, these changes like the breaking up of the joint family system, absence of suitable chore of work for the old at home or farm, problems of inelastic income and insufficient accommodation are the problems affecting the urban population more acutely than the rural. Taking this fact into consideration, it was decided to select the sample from the urban population.

After measuring the attitude of the young toward the aged, the further follow-up work of interviewing the sample of the old was required to be carried out. This was essential to trace the connection of their problems with the attitude of the young. Such work would involve personal face-to-face contacts for the investigator with the subjects. The local language of

the population is ordinarily the one best suited for the purpose. But as the investigator is likely to be more at ease (which is necessary for the perfect rapport), with the mother tongue Marathi, it was decided that the sample would be selected from the Marathi speaking population of the city of Baroda.

According to the census data of the year 1961, the Marathi speaking population of the urban area of the Baroda District is 53,400, among whom the males are 27,977 and the females are 25,423.¹

This population amounts to approximately one-fourth of the total population, the majority speaking the Gujarati language. However, these proportions do not show the Marathi speaking population as a conspicuous minority. The cultural norms also show that the two cultures are very much akin. This is because Gujarat and Maharashtra (Marathi speaking) are adjoining States and actually formed one bilingual State prior to 1961. Besides, the work is connected with the sociological changes in the culture. Since they are uniform for the different people speaking different languages in India, the language of the population, it was assumed, would

¹ District Census Handbook (14), Baroda District, (Census 1961, Gujarat, R.K. Trivedi, Superintendent of Census Operations, Gujarat). P. 127.

not make much difference to the findings. As stated in the objectives, the measurement of the attitudes of the young toward the aged was undertaken with some broad variables in view. Accordingly, there was provision in the final scale to secure information about these variables. While selecting the sample, the variables occupy a central position. They can be shown as under with the number of groups against each and the types thereof.

	<u>Name of the Variable</u>	<u>Number of Groups</u>	<u>Types</u>
1.	Sex	2	(1) Males (2) Females
2.	Age	4	Between (1) 21-25 years (2) 26-30 ,, (3) 31-35 ,, (4) 36-40 ,,
3.	Education	3	(1) Primary (2) Secondary (3) University
4.	Income	3	(1) Below Rs.6000 per annum (2) Between Rs.6000 and 12,000 (3) Above Rs.12,000
5.	Type of Family	2	(1) Divided (2) Undivided
6.	Childhood contact and memories of old	2	(1) Happy (2) Unhappy

A sample defined with reference to these variables would necessitate the splitting of the sample in 288 cells (2 X 4 X 3 X 3 X 2 X 2). A stratified sample representing all these cells would, obviously, be extremely complex. Besides, information regarding all the variables of the total population, for determining the proportion of each variable with the total population was sparse. All such variables, it was found, were not included in the census data for the description of the population.

For these reasons, some variables were considered to be central and a quota for these variables was filled. Some other variable were considered secondary. They had no place in the quota but the frequencies of the cases according to these variables were calculated in a summarized form later while classifying the responses. The following table describes the central variables and the quota for each of them shown in paranthesis. The number without paranthesis shows the number of the cell formed.

Table 5.1 The Central Variables and the Quota
of the Sample Selected.

Age Group in Years	Males			Females		
	Primary Educa- tion	Secon- dary Educa- tion	Univer- sity Educa- tion	Primary Educa- tion	Secon- dary Educa- tion	Univer- sity Educa- tion
	1	2	3	13	14	15
21-25	MAX (31)	MAY (33)	MAZ (40)	FAX (34)	FAY (36)	FAZ (38)
	4	5	6	16	17	18
26-30	MBX (29)	MBY (40)	MBZ (40)	FBX (36)	FBY (33)	FBZ (36)
	7	8	9	19	20	21
31-35	MCX (30)	MCY (30)	MCZ (38)	FCX (33)	FCY (31)	FCZ (34)
	10	11	12	22	23	24
36-40	MDX (34)	MDY (36)	MDZ (35)	FDX (29)	FDY (39)	FDZ (36)

M - Males

F - Females

A - Age 21-25

X - Primary Education

B - Age 26-30

Y - Secondary ,,

C - Age 31-35

Z - University ,,

D - Age 36-40

In all, 240 forms were distributed among each age group, controlling the variable of sex so that half were distributed among males and half among females. One more variable included was the level of education (3 groups), equal number of forms being distributed in each level. As a result there were 24 total cells as shown in the Table 5.1. For deciding the three educational groups a number of sources of information were made use of. They are as follows. (1) Information of the investigator, in case the subjects were known, (2) Type of profession to which the subject belonged, (3) Inquiry with others known to the person, (4) The type of family, etc. Certain professions demand high education (e.g. medical, legal, engineering, etc.). Similarly those who maintain shops or run circulating libraries, deliver newspapers from house to house, it was considered, had low education. However, while distributing the forms, inquiry was made about the level of education. Thus a check was constantly kept on the quota of this variable. The difficulty was specially due to the non-availability of the lists of the population (name-wise) according to the educational levels. Forty forms were distributed in each cell. The number of forms that were returned is shown in each cell. Thus out of 960 forms, distributed, 831 forms were at hand for analysis.

5.2 SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

Some difficulties were acutely experienced in the administration of the scale initially.

(a) Negativism

A number of subjects were seen to be extremely negativistic and at times rather over-curious. They would not accept the form unless they ask numerous questions regarding the purpose of the investigator or the plan of the investigation. They wanted to know how their responses could possibly help an investigation. They even, at times, criticised the aim of the study (as they understood it).

Of course, a majority of such cases had to be given up and among those who were included, a large proportion of such subjects failed to respond. Naturally, their responses could be hardly included in the present study. To the mind of the investigator these cases represent a type of sample by themselves. The very fact that they are suspicious of such an investigation or cautious in responding to the scale may have some connection with their attitude. However, their problem was considered to be out of scope for the present work.

(b) Inhibition

Some subjects showed evidence to inhibition. They co-operated well but either initially or while returning

the forms they frankly expressed their personal feelings that responses to all the statements cannot be absolutely frank. In spite of their private feelings, they said they were subject to the bindings of the cultural or social norms that forbid severe criticism of the old.

When they expressed these or similar views initially they were explained how their responses would be treated collectively and not individually. Moreover, a postal stamp was immediately placed on the form and they were asked to send it by post. They were also given the option of not writing their names on the form and were told that there are many such subjects whose responses would thus come anonymously by post.

If they expressed similar views while returning the form, they were given a new form with similar instructions and the old form, though accepted, was eliminated from the actual analysis to avoid biased responses. This may be partly due to the general apathy of a common man in cooperating with research activities. (A layman is apt to think that research is an idle activity with purely theoretical bearings and that it has no practical value).

Another more plausible reason may be that the type of investigation like the present one is a novelty for

the Indian people. The people in India were accustomed to the authority of the old for a long time. A scale that investigates into the nature of the attitude of the young toward the old inevitably includes favourable as well as unfavourable statements. Apart from the force of these statements, or their purpose, the extremely radical ones may prove shocking to the general taste of the subjects.

Similarly, a change in the universe from which the sample is selected could have solved most of the problems of administration. Had the universe been of the university students, a proportional stratified sample could be quickly decided as the lists are ready in the case. Similarly administration of the scale could also be economically obtained by distributing the forms during the class lectures and securing them back instantly. Completing the entire form was found to be a job only of twenty minutes at the most.

But looking to the nature of the second part of the work a sample of the citizens was necessary. Although the attitudes of the college-going students within the family may affect the adjustment of the old persons, their real clash is likely to be more with more responsible members of the family whose attitudes actively affect the type of treatment they receive.

5.3 SUMMARY

It was decided to select the sample from the urban population which is affected more than the rural one, by the modern social and technological changes. Of the several variables concerning the sample, age, education and sex were taken into prime consideration for defining the sample. Accordingly 24 cells were formed, based upon them (4 X 3 X 2). From the 40 forms distributed in each group (total 960), 831 forms were at hand for analysis. This sample was taken from the Marathi speaking population of the city of Baroda. Some difficulties like negativism and inhibition on the part of the subjects were experienced while administering the form. These may be due to the layman's apathy for research and the age-long gerontocracy prevailing in Indian society.