

A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Size and Structure of the Family in India

INTRODUCTION

The family is a complex and dynamic institution in India. For many decades, several studies were carried out to understand this complexity. Some of the studies in the past have put forth the proposition of the existence of a joint family in the traditional Indian society (Mandelbaum, 1959; Gore, 1965, 1968). Most of the micro level studies have stated that the joint family in India is one of the common features among the higher castes (Gough, 1956; Kapadia, 1956; Cohn, 1961; Madan, 1965; Kolenda, 1968; Caldwell et.al., 1988; Shah, 1968, 1996; Srivastava and Nauriyal, 1993). Nimkoff (1959) has found that in India the joint family system is traditionally most common among the elite, the higher castes and those with more property. A preference for a joint family is demonstrated clearly in a variety of studies by urban and rural people, across caste and class (Ames, 1969; Conklin, 1976a & b, 1988; Khatri, 1975). A district wise analysis of selected states in India by Kolenda and Haddon (1987) revealed that high joint family districts had more hindus and substantially fewer christians than the low joint family districts. In a study conducted in Karnataka, Caldwell et.al. (1984) showed that, the joint families are more common among those households which owned agricultural land.

However, some researchers have negated these views and stated that the joint family was never a dominant form and that all types of families (joint, nuclear, single and other relationships) existed in India (Goode, 1968; Rao, Kulkarni and Rayappa, 1986). Also, it is argued that the joint family is now slowly giving way to nuclear families, but many functional relationships with the non-residential family members are maintained in a nuclear family set-up (Agarwala, 1962; Desai, 1964; Gore, 1968; Kapadia, 1969). The divergence towards nuclear families has been reasoned to be the result of industrialization and the subsequent urbanization (Agarwala, 1962; Cohen, 1981). Various sociologists and anthropologists (Parsons, 1949, 1961; Linton, 1952; Weber, 1950; Goode, 1963) have argued that the family type functionally consistent with modern, urban industrial economy is the nuclear family, that composed of a couple and their unmarried children. Niranjan et.al. (1998) have found that over the years, such nuclear families are on the rise in almost all parts of the country. Studies that support the hypothesis of a transition from joint to a nuclear family generally establish correlation between a family and a specific variable (S.A.Freed and R.S.Freed, 2000). For example, a study by Yadava (1966) demonstrates the family heads who hold non-traditional jobs that pay a cash income and provide relative economic independence are much more likely to head a nuclear family than those who follow traditional occupations. Goode (1968) mentioned that education, especially if it stressed Western values, could well be a force in causing brothers and sons to end not only joint residence, but also the jointly owned property.

The controversy of a joint family transforming into a nuclear family is further complicated by problems of definition and by a scarcity of macro-level studies that

involve a significant time dimension. In her comparison of 26 studies of Indian family types, Kolenda (1968) notes that no two social scientists have used the same definition. Formally, family types in India were classified conveniently in many of the studies as nuclear and joint families (Dube, 1955; Morrison, 1959; Kapadia, 1969). Gore (1968) attempted to differentiate between joint and nuclear families on the basis of their behaviour patterns and attitudes. He felt that the division of families into joint and nuclear was somewhat crude and arbitrary. Richard et.al. (1985) and Caldwell et.al. (1988) categorized family structure as nuclear, stem, joint, stem-joint and others. The Census of India has defined family structure as single member, nuclear, broken nuclear, supplemented nuclear, and joint families (Charkravorty and Singh, 1991). Different definitions of family structure are used by different social science researchers and the present study considers the definitions given by Chakravorty and Singh (1991) and attempts to examine the changing and present family structure in India.

A micro level study which attempted to understand the relationships between urbanization and family type concluded that there was no significant difference in family types between families headed by city-oriented men and those headed by village-oriented men (S.A.Freed and R.S.Freed, 2000a). Kolenda (1967) in her study of thirteen regions of India based on thirty-two publications, attempted an analysis of factors influencing family types and she concluded that there was no universal association with any of the factors like landownership, caste identity, etc. and the prevalence of joint or nuclear families. This study however did not bring out the causal association between certain possible relevant variables and family structure. Thus, barring a few, data for research on

family structure in India have primarily been drawn from the micro level studies. Studies at the macro level describing the types of family in India and its states are scarce. A macro level understanding of the relationships between family type and possibly relevant variables, such as age, sex, education of head of the household, wealth, ownership of agricultural land, caste, religion, and place of residence are almost non-existent in India due to unavailability of appropriate data. This paper is an attempt in this direction and further tries to understand the independent association of each variable with a nuclear family after controlling for other variables. The study addresses the following research questions: 1) Is convergence towards a nuclear household system occurring in India ? 2) Is there a positive association between education and the presence of a spouse (nuclear) but an inverse association between education and presence of adult married son/daughter ? 3) Is the agricultural land owning status a factor promoting the joint family system ? 4) Do higher castes follow the joint family system than the lower castes even today ? In addition, this paper attempts to study the average family size in India and its states.

. The first section of this paper describes the average size of the family in India and its states. The second section expresses the dynamic changes that have occurred in family structure between 1981, 1992-93, and 1998-99. The third section deals with the differentials in family structure according to different socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the household. The fourth section briefly describes the determinants of family structure in India and its states. .

DATA

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) survey undertaken in 1998-99 covered a representative sample of more than 99 percent of the population from 26 states that existed at that time (IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000). The primary objective of the survey was to provide national and state-level data on different demographic and socio-economic determinants with respect to family planning, maternal and child health indicators. At two-stage, stratified PPS (Probability Proportion to Size) sampling procedure is used to select the households in each state. This survey is similar to the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in other countries. The survey collected information at three levels: village, household and individual level. The main objective of the household survey was to identify women of reproductive age who were eligible for a subsequent detailed interview covering demographic and health issues. The household questionnaire collects from an adult respondent a listing of all usual household members and visitors. For each individual, information is collected on age, sex, relationship to head, education level, marital status, and occupation. In addition, the household questionnaire also contains information on number of members in the household, agricultural land owning status, housing conditions such as type of house, source of water, type of toilet facility, possession of inhouse and outhouse consumer durables, household's religion, caste and place of residence. The household questionnaire was administered to 92,486 households throughout India.

A total of 5,17,379 individuals are listed in the survey in household questionnaire, of which, 4,98,303 are usual residents. Of these, 2162 (0.4 percent) usual residents are unrelated (they are either domestic servants, boarders, or others) to the household head. The analysis of the present study is based on 4,96,141 (from 92,443 households) de jure

population - that is, members who usually reside in the household are included even if they are temporarily absent at the time of the survey and temporary visitors are excluded. The figures reported above are the unweighted samples, while all the tables are based on the weighted sample. Analysis in this direction facilitates a study of changes in family structure from the 1981 census (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991) and 1992-93 NFHS survey data (Niranjan et.al., 1998) to the situation in 1998-99.

DEFINITIONS USED IN THE PATTERN OF FAMILY STRUCTURE

The classifications that are used to define family structure (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991; Niranjan et.al., 1998) are:

Type of family*	Definition
Single Member	The respondent who is alone
Broken Nuclear	Head without spouse but with or without unmarried children
Nuclear family	This type of family includes Nuclear pair i.e., Head and Spouse with or without unmarried children
Supplemented Nuclear	It includes three types of families (a) Supplemented Nuclear: Head and spouse with or without unmarried children but with other relations who are not currently having spouses (b) Broken Extended Nuclear: Head without spouse but with other relations of whom only one is having spouse (c) Supplemented Broken Nuclear: Head without spouse with or without unmarried children but with other unmarried/separated/ divorced/widowed relation

Joint family	<p>It includes both lineally extended and collaterally extended families</p> <p>(a) Lineally extended family -- Head and spouse with married son(s)/daughter(s) and their spouses and parents with or without other not currently married relation(s) (OR) Head without spouse but with at least two married son(s)/daughter(s) and their spouses and/or parents with or without other not currently married relations</p> <p>(b) Collaterally extended family -- Head and spouse with married brother(s)/sister(s) and their spouses with or without other relation(s) [including married relation(s)] (OR) Head without spouse but with at least two married brothers/sisters and their spouses with or without other relations</p>
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* The family refers to all persons who are relatives of the head. It excludes domestic servants, boarders, and so forth: In urban areas of Maharashtra, Goa & New Delhi, unrelated members are more. The total unrelated members in the survey data in India are 2162 (0.4 percent) .

The various background characteristics considered in the analysis are: (1) place of residence (urban, rural); (2) religion (hindu, non-hindu); (3) caste (scheduled caste/tribes: SC/ST, other castes: those who belong to general); (4) household ownership of any agricultural land (no, yes); (5) standard of living (low, medium, high) : for detailed notes on standard of living index (SLI) measurement, please refer: (IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000); (6) household head's level of education (illiterate, literate up to primary, literate with middle school and above); (7) age of the household head (<40 Years, 40-59 Years, 60 years and more); (8) sex of the household head (male, female).

Calculation of proportion, and chi-square tests are used to assess the significance of univariate relationships and multiple logistic regression are employed to assess the

significance of independent variable relationships on the chances of staying in a nuclear family.

DIFFERENTIALS IN FAMILY SIZE

Mean Family Size

The average family size in India in 1961 was 5.1, it increased to 5.6 in 1981 (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991), and dropped to 5.4 in 1998-99, which is 1.4 times higher than the family size of China in 1995. In China, the average family household size in 1995 was 3.7 members per household (Zeng, 2002). The total mean family household size in urban areas in India is 5.16 and rural areas is 5.47 members per household (Table 1). The rural-urban differential in the mean family size is quite visible in the data indicating higher fertility in rural areas. Barring a few states, an almost similar picture is evident in rural-urban differences in all the states of India. . Further, the distribution of family size by type of family reveals a mean size of 7.93 in the urban areas and 8.16 in the rural areas among joint families, and 3.35 and 3.24 respectively among broken nuclear families. The nuclear family households have a mean family household size of 4.39 in urban areas and 4.54 members in rural areas (Figure 1).

(Figure 1 about here)

The average family household size is significantly higher in almost all the less developed states in India. The states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan have an average household size greater than six. On the other hand, the southern states of India including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu have an average household size of

five or less with a few exceptions in the rural areas of these states. The southern states of India are either close to or have reached the replacement level of fertility which is reflected in the family household size. Household size is found to be relatively uniform across the country in the case of broken nuclear, nuclear, and supplemented nuclear type families. In the joint families, the household size is significantly higher than the national average in some of the states in eastern, central and northern India. Household size in the state of Tamil Nadu is consistently lower compared to the national average across all types of families.

(Table 1 about here)

CHANGES IN FAMILY STRUCTURE SINCE 1981

Figure 2 presents a comparison of the percentage distributions of major family types between 1981, 1992-93, and 1998-99. In the absence of longitudinal information from the , an attempt has been made to compare the composition of family at the time of 1981 census (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991) with the national family health survey in 1992-93 and 1998-99 (IIPS, 1995; IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000). Definitions used in the classification of family household types are the same across all the sources of data. State level data on type of family in urban and rural areas during 1981 and 1992-93 was published elsewhere (Niranjan et.al., 1998).

(Figure 2 about here)

The proportion of nuclear family households has increased significantly over the years in India. The proportion of such households in urban areas in 1998-99 increased by one percent (9 percent increase in relative terms), as compared to that in 1981; a three percent relative increase compared to that in 1992-93. In rural areas, the proportion of nuclear families increased relatively by 12 and four percent compared to 1981 and 1992-93 respectively (Figure 2). This clearly indicates that the increase in nuclear families has been relatively faster in rural than in urban areas. This may be due to the adoption of an urban culture in the rural areas in the country. Nevertheless, researchers (Desai, 1955, 1964; Gore, 1965; Khatri, 1975; Kurian, 1976; Lakshminarayana, 1982; Singh, 1988) in earlier studies have mentioned that though urbanization, migration, education, employment of women and other structural changes have occurred in the appearance of industrialization, the jointness among the families continues. Empirical evidence in this study also supports the fact that the joint family system is continuing but in considerably lower percentages when compared to nuclear families. Over the years, the proportion of nuclear families has shown a significant increase. There has also been a substantial decline in single member and broken nuclear families in India.

DIFFERENTIALS IN FAMILY STRUCTURE

Rural-Urban Residence

The rural-urban classifications of families in India as well as individual states (except in a few northeastern states) reveal a more or less similar trend except the fact that the percentage of joint families is more in rural areas compared to urban areas (Table 2). Conversely, the percentage of nuclear families is slightly higher in urban areas. Thus, in

urban areas around half (51 percent) the families are nuclear, a fifth of the families are joint and an equal percentage are supplemented nuclear families. In the rural areas, the data illustrates that a little less than half (48 percent) the families are nuclear, one-fourth (25 percent) are joint and one-fifth (21 percent) supplemented nuclear families. The proportion of single as well as broken nuclear families together is only seven percent in urban and six percent in rural areas. The proportion of single-parent nuclear households is less common in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Interestingly, among the single parent nuclear families in urban areas in 1998-99, about 84 percent were single-mother headed; and the rest were single father headed families. In rural areas, the corresponding percentages are 77 and 23. These single parent families are mostly headed by a middle-aged (40-59 years) parent with high widowhood and divorce rates. The rural-urban differential in single parent families demonstrate that such social phenomena are more popular in developed societies (urban areas) than in less developed societies (rural areas).

(Table 2 about here)

In the different major states of India in 1998-99, the percentage of nuclear families in the urban areas is high in Haryana (58 percent) and is low in the case of Rajasthan (45 percent), while in the rural areas it is high in Tamil Nadu (54 percent) and low in the case of Rajasthan (43 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (44 percent). A high proportion of joint families seen in Table 2 in the states of Rajasthan and Bihar could possibly indicate the existence of traditional norms in the society apart from a lack of significant occupational

mobility among the people in urban areas and agricultural land ownership in rural areas. The proportion of single member families is significantly higher in urban than in rural areas in most of the Indian states. This empirical work corroborates many of the studies on family structure which state that during the period of industrialization and urbanization, the joint family is not the norm in India, while nuclear and supplemented nuclear families are on the rise (Agarwala, 1962; Gore, 1968; Kapadia, 1969; Rao, Kulkarni and Rayappa, 1986). Supplemented nuclear families, which are supported by direct relatives of either of the spouses is another important family type in India. Interestingly, in the South, West, East and Northeast regions, the proportions of supplemented nuclear families are higher than the joint type of families. Plausible reasons could be: migration of the individuals for work/education to other places which changes the composition of the family at both the origin and the destination. Also, it could be associated with early/late widowhood, divorce/separation, work status of both wife and husband (child grow up at either wife's or husband's natal family) which changes the composition of the natal family. This type of family is subject to change indicating that the changing family structure is complex and often these are short-term changes.

Sex of head of the family

The proportion of households headed by females is substantial in few of the states; 23 percent in Goa, 22 percent in Kerala, 17 percent in Himachal Pradesh, 16 percent in Tamil Nadu, and 15 percent in Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram (Table 3). A significant proportion of female-headed households in the states of Madhya Pradesh,

Orissa, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are either single or broken nuclear. On the contrary, uniformly across the states, males head the nuclear and joint families. In India, in many cultures and communities, the breadwinners who are often males are reported as the head of the family irrespective of nuclear or joint families. Due to this, even if a female partner is working in nuclear or joint families, the frequent practice in the society forces the male to be reported as the head of the family. A female-headed single parent family is the most commonly found alternate form in most part of the world. Such families are defined as those in which children are usually dependents, reside with one parent who often becomes over burdened economically due to the major responsibility of rearing the children.

(Table 3 about here)

In India as well as many of its states, more than ninety percent of the single parent families (Broken nuclear families) are female headed families, vis-a-vis families in which the female member is the major earner, protector and decision maker. The single parent families in India are formed mainly due to the death of the spouse (89 percent), separation (6 percent) and desertion/divorce (5 percent). Thus, relatively high adult male mortality and increasing divorce rates could be plausible reasons.

Age of head of the family

Table 4 illustrates the percentage distribution of family structure according to the age of head of the family. As expected, age of head of the family has a significant association with family structure. More joint families are found where the age of the head is over 60 years (39.7 percent). However, only 32 percent of the middle aged (40-60 years) people head joint families, and the corresponding percentage among younger (<40 years) people is 20. Approximately three-fifths of the families where the age of the head is less than 40 years are nuclear in many of the states in India. A large majority of the household heads where the age is over 60 years are men (72 percent); of which, 70 percent had their spouses living with them. Among the elderly widowed, about 57 percent females are household heads compared to 43 percent male headed households. In India, where the elderly persons are currently married and live with surviving children and their spouses (more similar to joint family system), it is high likely that they become the heads of the family irrespective of whether they are economically active or not. Most of the aged females (60 years and above) who were household heads were widowed and are living in supplemented nuclear families (50 percent). In India, elderly females are often seen in supplemented nuclear or joint families (75 percent); of these, only 17 percent have been reported to be household heads. This clearly indicates that the elderly women are more likely to be economically dependent and widowed (94 percent); they are more likely put up by their children to live along with them in order to take care of their children and other household chores. The proportion of female headed families (with age over 60 years) is high in the states of Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In these states, the life

expectancy of females as well as the status of women are relatively higher. Also, the proportion of single member families increases at older ages as observed from the table. A younger ages (<40 years) only one percent belong to single families when compared to 12 percent single families in the elderly ages. The percentage of single elderly families is as high as 26 in Tamil Nadu. In the southern states of India, most of the elderly widowed females prefers to stay in single or broken nuclear families rather than be a part of other family systems (supplemented nuclear or joint family), where they are asked or entrusted by the other members of the family to take the responsibility of being caretakers of the house and the children .

(Table 4 about here)

Education of the head of the family

In the present analysis, education of head of the family seems to have a significant association with familytype in India. A gradual increase is observed in the percentage of nuclear families across the three education levels viz., illiterate, literate upto primary and secondary education. Forty five percent of the nuclear families are headed by illiterates while 54 percent are headed by those who are educated upto secondary school (Table 5). A considerable proportion of people stay in single or broken nuclear families when the literacy levels are low. In the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, education has not shown any association with nuclear familytype. This probably could be due to the existing traditional practices and low age at marriage. In the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, singulate mean age at marriage for females is 18.8 and 19 years respectively.

Also, the males in these states need not necessarily be engaged in any economic activity before marriage. On the contrary, the southern states and some of the states in Western India, and some in Northern India, have an increasing proportion of nuclear families where the educational level of the head of the household is relatively high. In this context, it can be argued that the nuclear family system is strongly associated with education. Data further suggest that across different educational levels of household heads a significantly high proportion of families are of the joint type if they own agricultural land (35 percent) compared to those who do not own any agricultural land (25 percent).

(Table 5 about here)

standard of living

Analysis of family type according to standard of living of the household brings out certain distinct features. The results indicate that more families with a low standard of living are nuclear. Fifty five percent of nuclear families belong to low standard of living compared to 43.4 percent who have a high standard of living. Supplementing the results, the percentages of joint families are more commonly seen among high standard of living families (33.5 percent). One of the features observed in India as well as in the different states is that a higher percentage of single member households have a low standard of living (Table 6). Kinship ties could be crucial in finding employment or receiving financial assistance. It is true that in both urban and rural areas joint families are the

common family form among high standard of living households irrespective of which caste they belong to or the level of education of the head of the household .

(Table 6 about here)

Religion

The results for India as a whole depict the absence of religious differentials in family structure. Non-hindu households have a slightly higher percentage of nuclear families when compared to hindu households (Table 7). The non-hindu groups include muslims, christians, sikhs, buddhists, jains and few other religions (Parsi, Doni-polo, Sanamahi). In north India, except in the states of Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab it is observed that the percentage of nuclear families is slightly higher among non-hindus compared to hindus . Around one third of the families were of the joint type among the non-hindus residing in Jammu and one fourth were supplemented nuclear . A high percentage of families are of the joint type among both hindus and non-hindus in Rajasthan compared to other states in India. There is a higher percentage of single member households among both hindus and non-hindus in smaller states such as Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. Joint families are seen to be slightly more among the hindus than among the non-hindus in many of the states.

(Table 7 about here)

Caste

The percentage distribution of families according to their caste depicts the presence of more nuclear families among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in most of the states in India. A little more than half the families belonging to scheduled caste/scheduled tribes are nuclear, while among other castes it is 48 percent (Table 8). It is evident that a larger proportion of low waged population is prevalent among SC & ST and the head of the household tries to push away the married children from his/her house to reduce the family burden. Also, early age at marriage and high illiteracy and low standard of living are plausible reasons for a greater proportion of nuclear families among scheduled caste/tribe populations. The variation in nuclear families between scheduled caste/tribes and other castes is highest in the state of Punjab, followed by Bihar, Orissa, and Himachal Pradesh. Thus, joint families are more commonly found among the other castes. Gough (1956) explains the differences between the upper and lower castes as, the former as landholders and the latter as wage-earners. The adaptive advantage of joint families in lower castes due to urbanization and industrialization is seen in recent years. Families of scheduled castes/tribes with a high level of education, having agricultural land and having a high standard of living have adopted the joint family system and the proportion of such families among these categories is almost equal to the proportion of joint families among other castes of similar categories. Thus, the difference in family structure cannot be attributed to caste alone, but is partly due to economic resources and landholding within the castes.

(Table 8 about here)

agricultural land ownership

Caldwell et.al. (1984) in the study in Karnataka revealed that among those with no land at all, 71 percent; with land upto one acre, 65 percent; with land from one to four acres, 58 percent; with over four acres 46 percent are found to live in nuclear families indicating an association between ownership of agricultural land and the joint family system. In India, about 30 percent of the total families among those who possess land are of the joint types compared to 18 percent among those who do not possess agricultural land (Table 9). The difference in the proportion of joint families owning and not owning agricultural land is highest in the states of Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Kerala. In India, while 54 percent of the landless families are nuclear, only 44 percent of nuclear families do possess agricultural land. Maintenance of a piece of agricultural land requires more resources and manpower, and hence, the families who possess agricultural land prefer to stay in joint families. Many times ownership rights of agricultural land is waisted with the patriarch and married sons are forced to stay together in a joint family until the property is divided. Even supplemented nuclear families are found more among those possessing an agricultural land. An extended family with married sons staying along with their father has obvious advantages in an agricultural community. Access to the output of the labour of more than one adult member of a household, whether in the form of agricultural produce or wage labour, improves the living standard of the household. This is true in an urban as well as a rural setting. Thus, the study shows that, being in possession of agricultural land increases the likelihood of joint families.

(Table 9 about here)

Determinants of Family structure

This section makes an attempt to study the determinants of family structure. For this, the family structure is classified into two basic categories (0 - Non-nuclear; 1 - Nuclear). Various socio-economic and demographic variables are chosen to study the effect of each independent variable in determining the existence of a nuclear family. Analysis was done using the logistic regression technique. The results reveal that family structure is significantly influenced by age and sex of the head of the household in almost all the states of India (Table 10). Besides, a low standard of living and non-ownership of agricultural land have appear to have a positive impact on the existence of nuclear families. Education has been observed to play a significant role in determining family type in the western region of India. Religion, caste and rural-urban residence seem to play relatively lesser roles. The multivariate analysis using the joint family as the dependent variable (0 - non-joint; 1- joint) also exhibits the similar results as shown with the nuclear family as the dependent variable. Agricultural land ownership and a high standard of living have a significant positive association with joint families when compared to their respective categories even after controlling for other socio-demographic characteristics of the head of the household. Caste and religion have turned out to be insignificant. This shows that caste is not a strong significant predictor for determining family structure in the presence of agricultural land owning status and economic status of the family.

(Table 10 about here)

Discussion

This study clearly reveals that the average family size in India has reduced since 1961, but is currently much higher than that in China (Zeng, 2002) and other developed countries. Declining fertility levels in recent years has been primarily attributed as a reason for the reduction in family size. The southern states of India which have lower levels of fertility clearly indicate much smaller family size than the other parts of India. Mean size of joint families is almost twice the mean size of the nuclear families throughout India. Examining the changes that have taken place in the composition of the family since 1981, it is observed that the percentage of nuclear families has increased consistently. Analysis by rural-urban residence in family structure reveals that nuclear families are prominent more in urban than in rural areas. Conclusively, nuclear families form the core of the Indian households irrespective of the place of residence (urban or rural).

Significant results are displayed in the study with regard to the socio-economic and economic characteristics of the households. Family composition seems to be similar among the hindus and non-hindus in India and many of its states. However, a slightly different picture is observed when the relationship between caste and family structure is examined. A slightly higher proportion of joint families was found among the higher castes compared to the scheduled castes/tribes. The findings of the current study are not in accordance with the findings of previous micro level studies (Kapadia, 1956; Cohn,

1961; Madan, 1965; Kolenda, 1968, 1987) that have found caste to be significant predictor of the joint family. They suggest that the lower caste families who stayed in nuclear families were basically agricultural labourers with possession of no land. However, the current study finds caste to be a weak factor in predicting family type when ownership of land, economic status, age and place of residence are kept constant. Further, indepth analysis in the data shows that scheduled caste/tribe families with high economic status, possessing agricultural land, with at least primary level of education also stay in joint families (36 percent), which is almost similar to the pattern among higher castes (38 percent).

Among the other factors, age of head of the household is significantly associated with the family type. Younger people head nuclear families while older people head joint families. Education of the head of the household has shown a significant association with family structure. As the education of the head of the household increases, he/she is more likely to live in a nuclear family compared to illiterate or less educated head. As education increases, opportunities widen and market becomes friendlier, pushing people towards industrially developed places. However, as the cost of living tends to be higher in the cities, individuals are compelled to live with their relatives, thus paving the way to the formation of supplemented nuclear families. Supplemented nuclear families are one of the most commonly seen family types in India and its states. The proportion of supplemented nuclear families in many of the states in India is almost equal to the proportion of joint families in both urban and rural areas.

Ownership of land is significantly associated with family type. Families with agricultural land tends to stay more in joint families. These results are in concurrence with the earlier studies (Gough, 1956; Nimkoff, 1959; Caldwell, 1984; Caldwell et.al, 1988; S.A.Freed and R.S.Freed, 2000a). According to Sen (1965) “non-cultivating owners, day labourers, and non-agriculturists have a very large proportion of nuclear families when compared to the owner-cultivators and sharecroppers'. Similar results are noticed in this study implying that large proportion of agricultural labourers or job holders or daily wagers by occupation and those without any agricultural land stay in nuclear families. Households with a high standard of living prefer to live jointly than being nuclear . The detailed analysis of the present data suggests that most of the households having a higher standard of living either own agricultural land or have property in business. Similar to several parts of south-east Asia, the Indian family is also primarily patriarchal in nature and the headship of families as observed in the current study once again confirms the dominance of males. The broken nuclear/single parent families are mostly female-headed . Studies in India have shown that the women heading single parent families are forced to take loans or get support from relatives (Chakrabarti, 1987; SatyaLeela, 1991; Chen and Dreze, 1992) leading to stress and strain, and socioeconomic problems (Premilla D’Cruz and Shalini Bharat, 2001). In India, the single parent families arise mainly due to the death of a spouse, separation or desertion/divorce.

In conclusion, the analysis suggests that family structure of households is independent of caste or religious affiliation but is strongly dependent on economic status and

agricultural land owning status in addition to the demographic characteristics of the head of the household. Joint families are more favoured among those who own agricultural land or have property or business.

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TABLE 1: MEAN HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY FAMILY TYPE IN THE STATES OF INDIA BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1998-99

States	Urban					Rural				
	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	3.35	4.39	5.25	7.93	5.16	3.24	4.54	5.36	8.16	5.47
NORTH										
New Delhi	3.48	4.55	5.46	7.62	5.32	5.32	5.03	5.33	7.52	5.62
Haryana	3.44	4.46	5.14	7.43	5.05	3.46	4.82	5.72	8.30	5.78
Himachal Pradesh	2.99	3.95	4.84	6.85	4.17	3.35	4.27	5.36	7.43	4.94
Jammu	3.54	4.71	5.82	8.25	5.65	3.96	5.40	6.29	9.79	6.72
Punjab	3.05	4.36	5.44	7.60	5.14	3.29	4.53	5.48	7.93	5.48
Rajasthan	3.58	4.74	5.58	9.08	6.08	3.32	4.93	5.70	8.58	6.23
CENTRAL										
Madhya Pradesh	3.78	4.71	5.29	8.95	5.62	3.31	4.56	5.43	8.33	5.59
Uttar Pradesh	3.75	5.15	5.88	8.91	6.05	3.51	5.04	5.75	8.99	6.29
EAST										
Bihar	3.69	5.18	5.94	8.56	6.02	3.74	4.90	5.72	8.65	6.11
Orissa	3.21	4.42	5.27	8.56	5.09	3.18	4.30	5.19	8.15	5.08
West Bengal	3.25	3.96	5.00	7.36	4.63	3.14	4.41	5.09	7.68	5.05
NORTHEAST										
Arunachal Pradesh	3.09	4.33	5.00	6.92	4.35	3.79	4.77	5.75	7.82	5.23
Assam	3.56	4.52	5.16	7.45	4.86	3.72	5.14	5.78	8.72	5.99
Manipur	3.96	5.14	5.55	8.85	5.67	4.06	5.07	5.58	7.46	5.41
Meghalaya	3.76	5.17	6.19	8.56	5.50	3.79	5.09	6.15	7.71	5.38
Mizoram	3.45	4.89	5.86	8.32	5.35	3.18	5.03	5.96	8.17	5.45
Nagaland	3.34	4.86	5.33	4.97	4.56	3.35	5.02	5.46	7.48	4.84
Sikkim	2.75	4.32	5.26	7.25	4.79	4.10	4.97	5.91	8.02	5.46
Tripura	3.43	3.77	4.23	6.33	3.99	3.20	4.63	5.24	7.53	5.04
WEST										
Goa	3.11	4.02	4.99	7.04	4.42	3.48	4.28	5.10	7.42	4.72
Gujarat	3.25	4.18	4.91	7.34	4.83	2.92	4.40	5.32	7.59	5.23
Maharashtra	3.31	4.29	5.24	7.45	5.07	3.04	4.32	5.23	7.53	5.17
SOUTH										
Andhra Pradesh	3.26	4.25	4.95	7.79	4.94	2.98	4.02	4.94	6.84	4.71
Karnataka	3.28	4.21	5.37	7.84	5.04	3.05	4.45	5.42	8.31	5.41
Kerala	3.18	3.83	5.15	7.63	4.98	2.90	4.14	5.13	7.41	5.13
Tamil Nadu	3.11	3.93	4.65	6.78	4.28	2.96	3.89	4.67	6.66	4.16

TABLE 2: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1998-99

States	Urban						Rural					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	3.5	3.5	51.4	20.7	20.9	25572	3.2	2.9	48.0	20.8	25.1	66875
NORTH												
New Delhi	2.0	3.6	54.1	16.8	23.5	2550	5.2	1.4	48.4	16.0	29.1	213
Haryana	3.1	3.0	57.7	15.0	21.2	896	2.0	2.5	51.0	18.6	25.9	1945
Himachal Pradesh	10.7	4.1	53.4	17.3	14.5	365	5.8	3.4	49.6	19.9	21.3	3077
Jammu	2.5	2.8	49.0	23.5	22.3	651	1.6	1.9	47.4	20.9	28.2	2133
Punjab	2.6	3.2	54.4	17.3	22.5	929	2.6	2.7	49.6	19.0	26.2	2038
Rajasthan	3.0	1.8	45.3	20.0	30.0	1590	2.5	1.9	42.5	17.8	35.4	4717
CENTRAL												
Madhya Pradesh	4.3	2.9	49.6	20.3	22.9	1711	3.2	2.4	48.8	19.0	26.6	5036
Uttar Pradesh	1.7	2.7	50.7	22.1	22.7	1849	2.6	2.2	43.6	20.3	31.4	6831
EAST												
Bihar	4.9	2.6	47.6	16.4	28.4	718	2.1	2.4	46.9	17.5	31.1	5619
Orissa	4.8	3.5	53.8	21.2	16.7	520	4.5	3.0	51.4	21.2	19.9	4166
West Bengal	5.1	3.9	52.7	19.7	18.7	1259	2.6	3.2	53.7	21.6	18.8	3466
NORTHEAST												
Arunachal Pradesh	6.8	6.4	59.4	20.1	7.3	219	5.4	4.6	47.5	28.5	14.0	1200
Assam	5.7	4.0	54.2	21.4	14.7	299	1.4	3.6	50.8	21.2	23.0	2821
Manipur	3.0	4.7	49.5	26.6	16.1	533	1.8	4.9	55.6	23.5	14.2	1154
Meghalaya	5.3	6.6	44.9	34.2	9.1	243	3.3	6.5	55.9	24.9	9.3	996
Mizoram	3.4	7.3	46.4	31.1	11.8	730	2.8	4.8	53.0	27.9	11.5	642
Nagaland	10.9	3.3	48.1	31.8	5.9	239	7.4	7.9	61.2	16.9	6.6	895
Sikkim	6.9	2.6	50.8	23.3	16.4	189	2.8	4.1	55.1	25.1	12.9	1107
Tripura	4.8	9.2	56.8	17.1	12.0	292	1.8	4.5	56.2	23.4	14.0	998
WEST												
Goa	5.4	6.0	55.0	20.1	13.5	666	5.3	7.3	48.8	24.3	14.4	933
Gujarat	4.3	3.4	51.7	19.4	21.2	1692	3.4	3.0	47.3	21.4	24.8	2238
Maharashtra	3.6	3.8	48.4	22.2	21.9	2531	2.8	2.9	46.8	23.8	23.7	3298
SOUTH												
Andhra Pradesh	3.0	2.9	53.4	22.0	18.6	966	3.9	2.8	48.4	23.0	22.0	2901
Karnataka	2.6	4.1	51.3	23.4	18.6	1552	3.2	3.5	46.0	24.7	22.6	2719
Kerala	1.8	3.2	47.5	23.5	24.0	682	2.8	3.3	44.3	22.3	27.3	2151
Tamil Nadu	4.5	4.9	56.9	20.4	13.4	1797	6.9	5.0	54.0	21.2	12.9	3484

TABLE 3: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY SEX OF HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, 1998-99

States	Male						Female					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	1.6	0.7	53.2	18.9	25.6	82872	17.4	23.8	12.1	37.6	9.1	9500
NORTH												
New Delhi	1.7	0.5	57.7	14.9	25.2	2539	7.7	37.4	7.2	38.3	9.5	222
Haryana	1.8	0.7	56.1	15.7	25.7	2613	8.4	26.0	18.5	37.4	9.7	227
Himachal Pradesh	5.1	0.7	54.0	17.2	22.9	2830	12.4	16.3	31.0	30.5	9.7	606
Jammu	1.5	0.7	48.8	20.9	28.0	2631	7.9	26.3	28.3	30.9	6.6	152
Punjab	1.4	0.7	54.4	16.8	26.7	2686	13.9	24.1	19.3	34.3	8.4	274
Rajasthan	1.5	0.8	44.9	17.1	35.7	5901	17.4	17.7	17.9	36.8	10.2	402
CENTRAL												
Madhya Pradesh	2.0	0.8	52.1	18.0	27.0	6271	22.1	25.1	8.2	37.1	7.6	475
Uttar Pradesh	1.5	0.8	47.3	19.1	31.3	7824	11.1	16.1	24.0	35.0	13.6	836
EAST												
Bihar	1.6	0.9	49.2	16.2	32.1	5914	13.0	23.2	17.1	32.9	13.7	422
Orissa	2.3	0.8	55.8	20.3	20.8	4265	26.5	25.6	10.2	30.3	7.3	422
West Bengal	1.8	0.5	58.7	18.8	20.2	4191	15.2	26.1	12.0	38.6	8.1	533
NORTHEAST												
Arunachal Pradesh	5.2	1.8	52.8	26.6	13.7	1308	10.1	41.3	9.2	34.9	4.6	109
Assam	1.3	0.9	55.1	19.2	23.5	2856	7.7	33.7	8.8	41.4	8.4	261
Manipur	1.2	0.8	60.6	21.5	16.0	1430	7.8	27.3	15.2	41.4	8.2	256
Meghalaya	2.9	0.9	64.3	21.9	10.1	1010	7.9	31.4	7.4	47.6	5.7	229
Mizoram	2.6	1.8	57.7	24.7	13.2	1168	6.4	31.4	2.5	56.9	2.9	204
Nagaland	6.1	1.6	66.2	18.9	7.2	996	22.2	46.7	2.2	28.9		135
Sikkim	3.4	1.3	60.1	21.0	14.2	1160	3.6	25.5	7.3	56.9	6.6	137
Tripura	1.0	0.6	62.0	21.7	14.7	1148	14.9	46.1	10.6	24.8	3.5	141
WEST												
Goa	3.1	0.7	62.8	17.0	16.3	1221	12.4	26.2	14.3	40.5	6.6	378
Gujarat	2.1	0.7	53.5	18.7	25.1	3541	19.5	25.8	9.6	37.8	7.3	384
Maharashtra	1.6	0.5	51.8	21.5	24.6	5283	17.4	30.8	6.4	39.1	6.2	545
SOUTH												
Andhra Pradesh	1.1	0.3	55.2	20.3	23.0	3448	24.7	23.5	3.6	42.4	5.8	413
Karnataka	1.0	0.5	54.1	21.4	22.9	3754	16.9	27.0	2.9	44.7	8.4	514
Kerala	0.8	0.6	54.3	15.7	28.6	2207	9.0	12.6	12.5	46.6	19.4	625
Tamil Nadu	1.9	0.8	63.5	18.9	14.9	4427	28.1	26.4	10.6	31.2	3.8	853

TABLE 4: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY AGE OF HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, 1998-99

States	<40 Yrs					40-59 Yrs					60+ Yrs					Total		
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear		Suppl	Joint
India	1.0	1.4	59.1	18.3	20.2	71186	9.6	14.2	16.5	27.2	32.5	9947	11.9	3.7	13.9	30.8	39.7	11306
NORTH																		
New Delhi	1.3	1.2	63.5	15.1	18.9	2212	9.9	30.0	9.4	20.7	30.0	203	3.4	2.6	16.7	25.0	52.3	348
Haryana	1.4	1.0	63.8	14.9	18.9	2250	6.2	18.1	11.9	21.1	42.7	227	5.8	3.6	12.7	30.9	47.1	363
Himachal Pradesh	3.4	1.5	63.8	16.2	15.1	2449	13.9	16.1	16.6	23.1	30.3	416	13.5	2.9	15.4	31.5	36.7	578
Jammu	0.8	0.6	55.6	19.9	23.2	2339	8.2	19.0	7.1	26.6	39.1	184	6.9	3.5	6.6	32.0	51.0	259
Punjab	0.5	0.9	65.0	16.0	17.7	2155	5.9	19.0	15.0	20.9	39.2	273	9.1	2.6	13.8	27.4	47.1	537
Rajasthan	0.7	0.7	53.2	16.8	28.7	4852	9.1	9.3	10.1	19.7	51.8	674	8.6	2.7	9.9	27.0	51.9	781
CENTRAL																		
Madhya Pradesh	1.3	0.9	59.0	16.9	21.8	5181	7.8	14.5	14.8	26.5	36.3	702	12.7	2.1	17.3	28.1	39.8	861
Uttar Pradesh	0.7	1.0	55.7	17.4	25.2	6573	8.0	13.6	10.5	34.0	33.8	711	7.7	2.4	12.8	29.4	47.6	1396
EAST																		
Bihar	0.8	1.5	55.4	15.1	27.1	5075	10.4	9.6	15.9	23.9	40.2	624	7.1	2.4	10.2	28.9	51.5	637
Orissa	1.8	1.4	60.1	19.8	16.9	3689	13.9	14.8	26.2	21.7	23.4	466	14.8	4.3	15.6	30.3	35.0	532
West Bengal	1.2	1.8	62.5	18.2	16.3	3820	11.1	12.5	18.6	29.8	28.0	440	13.1	7.3	11.6	37.1	30.8	464
NORTHEAST																		
Arunachal Pradesh	4.1	2.5	55.1	25.6	12.7	1219	14.5	25.8	12.9	35.5	11.3	124	15.4	9.0	16.7	38.5	20.5	78
Assam	0.8	1.2	57.7	19.6	20.6	2717	10.4	26.6	8.3	24.5	30.3	241	5.0	10.0	3.1	43.1	38.8	160
Manipur	0.7	1.4	63.9	20.5	13.5	1382	9.8	28.1	9.2	35.9	17.0	153	8.6	12.5	5.9	48.7	24.3	152
Meghalaya	1.7	3.4	65.2	21.9	7.8	980	10.3	23.7	11.5	40.4	14.1	156	12.6	10.7	8.7	51.5	16.5	103
Mizoram	2.1	2.0	63.1	22.2	10.6	1040	9.4	29.6	13.2	38.4	9.4	159	4.0	9.7	1.7	64.2	20.5	176
Nagaland	3.7	1.9	67.7	19.9	6.7	908	25.0	29.3	19.0	20.7	6.0	116	26.6	25.7	22.9	20.2	4.6	109
Sikkim	2.5	1.4	64.3	19.5	12.2	1071	12.1	21.5	12.1	38.3	15.9	107	4.2	10.0	3.3	60.0	22.5	120
Tripura	1.1	1.9	64.5	20.7	11.7	1085	6.5	43.0	10.8	29.0	10.8	93	12.5	9.8	15.2	28.6	33.9	112
WEST																		
Goa	1.9	1.3	67.4	16.8	12.7	1134	11.8	28.6	16.3	30.0	13.3	203	14.9	13.4	9.6	42.1	19.9	261
Gujarat	1.1	1.5	60.4	18.3	18.7	2925	9.1	11.5	17.1	24.3	38.0	539	14.6	4.1	15.9	30.3	35.2	466
Maharashtra	1.3	1.6	56.1	22.1	18.9	4572	9.7	15.1	17.0	24.4	33.7	647	10.0	3.8	15.6	29.3	41.3	608
SOUTH																		
Andhra Pradesh	0.8	1.6	59.7	20.0	18.0	2894	7.5	9.9	20.8	29.0	32.8	548	18.4	1.9	18.6	33.5	27.6	424
Karnataka	0.7	1.9	58.0	21.7	17.7	3327	8.5	14.0	15.5	31.5	30.4	470	13.3	6.4	9.5	34.1	36.7	472
Kerala	0.3	0.8	62.7	15.7	20.5	1900	6.5	16.1	14.5	32.7	30.1	385	7.5	2.9	5.5	39.1	45.0	547
Tamil Nadu	1.3	1.9	67.0	18.8	11.0	3878	14.0	19.7	21.3	26.9	18.1	751	25.7	6.2	21.8	26.8	19.5	650

TABLE 5: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY HEAD'S LEVEL OF EDUCATION, 1998-99

States	None					Primary					Secondary+							
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	4.8	5.0	44.9	21.3	24.0	36738	2.2	2.3	49.0	20.1	26.4	25761	2.3	1.3	54.0	20.8	21.6	29863
NORTH																		
New Delhi	4.5	9.7	41.3	21.9	22.6	421	1.8	4.2	48.8	18.0	27.3	451	1.8	1.9	57.5	15.4	23.4	1890
Haryana	2.7	4.6	45.0	20.2	27.6	1114	2.6	2.4	56.5	15.9	22.7	503	1.9	1.1	59.0	15.6	22.4	1223
Himachal Pradesh	7.4	5.9	37.5	22.3	26.8	1159	4.3	3.7	54.4	18.5	19.2	866	6.8	1.4	57.5	18.0	16.3	1409
Jammu	2.1	3.4	43.5	20.6	30.4	1356	1.8	1.0	53.3	19.1	24.9	398	1.5	0.8	51.2	23.6	22.9	1029
Punjab	3.8	4.3	45.6	17.7	28.6	1149	2.5	2.0	50.1	18.4	26.9	591	1.4	2.0	56.7	19.2	20.8	1221
Rajasthan	3.4	3.0	40.9	18.4	34.3	2912	1.8	1.0	42.3	17.5	37.4	1465	1.8	0.8	47.3	18.8	31.3	1923
CENTRAL																		
Madhya Pradesh	4.7	3.8	47.0	18.6	25.8	2762	2.0	2.0	47.8	19.5	28.7	2180	3.3	1.1	53.8	20.1	21.8	1802
Uttar Pradesh	3.8	3.5	42.1	21.0	29.6	3839	1.8	1.8	44.5	19.3	32.6	1854	1.0	1.0	49.3	20.9	27.8	2962
EAST																		
Bihar	2.5	3.8	48.4	17.4	27.9	3156	1.7	1.4	44.2	17.8	34.9	1328	2.7	0.8	46.6	17.0	32.9	1852
Orissa	6.4	5.2	51.8	19.8	16.8	1865	2.3	2.2	51.4	20.3	23.9	1801	5.0	0.7	52.0	25.3	17.0	1021
West Bengal	4.6	5.9	51.2	22.2	16.1	1800	2.0	2.4	54.3	19.0	22.3	1522	3.1	1.2	55.4	21.9	18.4	1399
NORTHEAST																		
Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	9.0	44.3	26.0	15.6	546	5.0	3.7	53.6	26.7	11.0	401	6.6	1.1	51.5	29.0	11.9	472
Assam	1.8	6.0	50.0	19.7	22.5	1249	1.7	2.7	51.4	19.7	24.5	955	2.0	1.4	52.6	24.5	19.5	912
Manipur	5.6	12.5	42.5	24.7	14.8	393	1.0	3.6	54.1	24.1	17.2	390	1.2	2.0	58.4	24.6	13.8	904
Meghalaya	4.4	8.5	52.3	24.6	10.1	495	3.7	6.4	56.1	26.8	7.1	437	3.0	3.6	53.1	29.5	10.8	305
Mizoram	3.4	10.3	34.9	41.8	9.6	146	3.8	6.5	45.7	29.6	14.4	741	2.3	4.5	59.6	25.6	8.0	485
Nagaland	11.7	16.7	49.4	15.0	7.2	360	4.9	2.5	67.9	18.1	6.6	364	7.8	2.7	58.1	26.2	5.1	408
Sikkim	3.7	8.4	43.4	28.9	15.6	463	1.8	1.1	62.3	20.0	14.8	454	5.0	1.6	58.7	25.3	9.5	380
Tripura	2.9	6.5	60.2	21.2	9.1	339	2.1	5.7	52.6	22.4	17.2	513	2.5	4.6	58.0	22.2	12.6	436
WEST																		
Goa	5.9	13.7	36.7	28.3	15.4	460	5.0	5.4	50.0	22.0	17.7	542	5.2	2.5	64.2	18.7	9.4	595
Gujarat	6.5	5.7	41.2	23.9	22.7	1278	2.2	2.1	47.8	20.3	27.6	1270	2.7	1.7	57.8	17.7	20.0	1376
Maharashtra	5.8	6.0	38.6	24.7	24.9	1695	1.8	3.1	44.9	22.6	27.7	1855	2.2	1.5	56.3	22.4	17.5	2279
SOUTH																		
Andhra Pradesh	4.7	4.5	45.6	23.3	21.9	1939	3.0	1.5	52.0	21.7	21.9	1020	2.0	0.7	56.0	22.5	18.8	901
Karnataka	4.4	6.4	42.7	24.7	21.9	1745	1.7	2.4	47.2	25.0	23.6	1159	2.2	1.4	55.4	22.9	18.2	1364
Kerala	5.8	5.8	26.0	30.7	31.8	535	2.0	3.4	42.0	20.5	32.1	1276	1.6	1.7	59.0	20.9	16.9	1020
Tamil Nadu	11.0	8.7	47.0	21.3	12.0	1980	3.8	3.3	61.2	18.3	13.3	1537	2.7	2.2	58.4	22.6	14.1	1763

TABLE 6: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY HOUSEHOLD STANDARD OF LIVING, 1998-99

States	Low					Medium					High							
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	5.6	4.3	54.7	20.3	15.1	33524	2.2	2.5	46.7	21.6	27.0	41011	1.4	1.8	43.4	19.9	33.5	16841
NORTH																		
New Delhi	8.0	5.7	55.2	19.5	11.5	87	3.6	5.0	60.4	17.2	13.8	813	1.2	2.6	50.8	16.7	28.7	1767
Haryana	3.8	5.6	64.1	17.4	9.1	340	3.0	2.6	56.9	17.6	19.9	1351	1.1	1.9	45.5	17.4	34.0	1137
Himachal Pradesh	15.7	7.6	58.2	11.2	7.4	421	5.9	3.2	49.9	21.3	19.7	2070	3.3	2.4	46.3	19.8	28.3	923
Jammu	5.3	3.2	63.8	21.5	6.2	340	1.8	2.1	47.7	21.8	26.6	1764	0.3	1.5	40.1	20.3	37.9	676
Punjab	10.6	3.2	64.0	15.9	6.3	189	2.8	4.2	59.1	17.8	16.2	1154	1.4	1.8	43.8	19.5	33.5	1609
Rajasthan	4.8	3.0	54.1	16.9	21.2	1650	1.9	1.7	41.5	19.5	35.5	3340	1.7	0.7	33.3	17.2	47.2	1265
CENTRAL																		
Madhya Pradesh	5.9	3.3	59.2	18.2	13.5	2481	2.0	2.2	44.3	20.2	31.3	3185	2.1	1.5	39.4	19.5	37.5	1060
Uttar Pradesh	5.2	3.4	54.7	19.8	16.9	2920	1.1	1.6	41.1	21.5	34.6	4260	0.6	1.6	37.6	19.8	40.4	1318
EAST																		
Bihar	2.6	3.2	54.2	17.4	22.6	3638	2.2	1.6	38.2	17.3	40.7	2149	2.0	0.6	33.2	17.8	46.4	545
Orissa	5.6	4.2	58.1	20.1	12.1	2760	3.2	1.5	43.4	23.2	28.6	1484	1.9	1.4	39.6	20.5	36.6	424
West Bengal	4.6	4.3	59.8	19.5	11.7	2128	2.1	2.8	49.7	22.6	22.8	1913	2.0	1.8	43.3	23.0	29.9	605
NORTHEAST																		
Arunachal Pradesh	8.3	7.1	55.5	20.2	8.9	337	4.7	4.7	45.0	30.9	14.8	813	5.7	2.6	53.3	25.8	12.7	229
Assam	2.7	4.8	57.6	19.0	15.9	1425	1.1	2.8	45.5	23.4	27.3	1265	1.2	2.4	45.8	22.9	27.7	336
Manipur	5.2	7.6	60.9	20.6	5.7	578	0.7	3.3	53.0	25.9	17.2	889	0.5	4.2	36.0	30.2	29.1	189
Meghalaya	5.5	7.2	62.6	19.1	5.7	601	2.2	6.3	46.9	33.2	11.4	542		3.8	32.1	41.0	23.1	78
Mizoram	7.5	10.9	59.2	19.9	2.5	201	3.0	6.4	50.7	29.7	10.2	927		1.8	36.8	36.4	25.0	228
Nagaland	14.5	11.6	53.1	15.2	5.6	303	6.4	6.2	62.2	18.7	6.5	674	2.5	1.6	50.8	38.5	6.6	122
Sikkim	5.3	7.0	64.3	11.1	12.3	171	3.3	3.8	54.6	26.0	12.2	866	2.1	1.7	46.4	31.0	18.8	239
Tripura	3.7	7.6	61.8	21.4	5.5	490	1.8	4.2	54.5	22.1	17.3	660	0.8	4.7	45.7	24.0	24.8	129
WEST																		
Goa	11.8	10.5	51.5	19.2	7.0	229	4.7	8.6	50.7	23.9	12.1	653	3.5	3.7	52.1	22.8	18.0	707
Gujarat	6.6	4.8	53.1	20.9	14.5	979	3.5	3.1	48.2	22.1	23.1	1838	1.7	1.8	47.5	17.7	31.4	1110
Maharashtra	4.9	4.7	50.0	24.7	15.8	1883	2.7	2.9	46.4	23.1	24.9	2560	1.2	2.6	46.9	20.5	28.8	1206
SOUTH																		
Andhra Pradesh	6.3	4.1	50.2	23.6	15.7	1579	2.3	2.1	50.2	22.2	23.1	1718	0.4	1.1	47.0	21.3	30.3	555
Karnataka	5.6	6.2	49.4	25.0	13.8	1416	1.9	2.2	47.0	25.6	23.4	1970	1.2	3.0	47.8	20.0	28.1	867
Kerala	8.3	7.1	49.6	21.6	13.3	518	1.3	3.0	44.0	23.6	28.1	1519	1.1	1.3	44.2	21.2	32.2	796
Tamil Nadu	11.2	6.8	54.9	19.7	7.5	2192	2.5	4.0	57.8	21.2	14.5	2324	2.5	2.2	46.1	23.0	26.1	712

TABLE 7: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY RELIGION, 1998-99

States	Hindu						Non-Hindu					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	3.4	3.0	48.7	20.9	23.9	75750	2.7	3.1	50.5	20.2	23.5	16697
NORTH												
New Delhi	2.2	3.7	53.2	17.1	23.8	2328	2.1	2.5	55.8	15.2	24.4	434
Haryana	2.4	2.9	52.3	17.7	24.8	2513	1.8	1.2	59.3	15.6	22.0	327
Himachal Pradesh	6.2	3.5	49.8	19.7	20.8	3206	8.5	3.0	53.2	18.7	16.6	235
Jammu	2.9	2.6	54.4	19.0	21.1	1258	1.0	1.6	42.3	23.5	31.5	1527
Punjab	2.7	3.0	52.0	20.0	22.3	1242	2.5	2.8	50.4	17.4	26.9	1725
Rajasthan	2.6	1.8	42.8	18.4	34.3	5587	2.2	2.2	45.8	17.7	32.1	719
CENTRAL												
Madhya Pradesh	3.5	2.5	49.1	19.3	25.7	6217	3.2	2.7	48.9	19.3	25.9	528
Uttar Pradesh	2.5	2.4	44.1	20.9	30.2	7169	1.9	2.0	50.0	19.8	26.4	1512
EAST												
Bihar	2.5	2.3	45.8	17.3	32.1	5271	1.8	3.1	52.9	17.7	24.5	1068
Orissa	4.5	3.0	51.6	21.1	19.8	4522	6.0	4.8	54.8	22.9	11.4	166
West Bengal	3.5	3.4	52.7	21.8	18.7	3580	2.7	3.4	55.9	19.0	19.0	1145
NORTHEAST												
Arunachal Pradesh	8.5	5.3	58.1	20.3	7.9	532	3.9	4.6	44.1	31.3	16.0	887
Assam	2.4	4.3	50.8	22.5	20.0	2087	0.7	2.3	51.8	18.5	26.8	1035
Manipur	2.5	5.3	52.0	22.5	17.7	835	1.9	4.3	55.4	26.4	12.0	852
Meghalaya	8.4	3.4	58.0	19.3	10.9	119	3.2	6.9	53.3	27.5	9.1	1120
Mizoram	8.8	2.9	52.9	26.5	8.8	34	3.1	6.3	49.3	29.6	11.7	1340
Nagaland	8.5	5.1	58.1	13.7	14.5	117	8.0	7.3	58.5	20.8	5.5	1016
Sikkim	3.5	3.1	56.2	23.7	13.5	777	3.3	5.0	51.8	26.5	13.4	521
Tripura	2.4	5.9	55.7	22.7	13.3	1148	4.2	2.8	61.5	16.1	15.4	143
WEST												
Goa	4.3	6.0	54.0	20.4	15.4	1007	7.1	7.9	46.9	26.5	11.6	593
Gujarat	3.8	3.1	49.0	20.7	23.5	3526	4.0	4.0	51.0	19.3	21.8	404
Maharashtra	3.0	3.1	47.6	23.0	23.3	4643	3.6	4.2	47.2	23.4	21.5	1184
SOUTH												
Andhra Pradesh	3.7	2.9	49.3	23.0	21.1	3395	3.2	2.1	52.4	20.9	21.4	473
Karnataka	3.0	3.8	47.7	24.5	21.1	3648	3.0	3.2	49.4	22.6	21.7	623
Kerala	2.6	4.2	46.1	23.3	23.9	1560	2.5	2.2	43.8	21.7	29.8	1273
Tamil Nadu	6.4	4.8	55.2	21.0	12.5	4703	3.6	5.9	52.8	20.3	17.4	576

TABLE 8: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY CASTE, 1998-99

States	SC/ST						Others					
	Single	Broken Nuclear	Nuclear	Suppl Nuclear	Joint Family	No. HH	Single	Broken Nuclear	Nuclear	Suppl Nuclear	Joint Family	No. HH
India	3.4	3.5	51.3	20.9	20.9	25698	3.2	2.9	47.9	20.7	25.3	61691
NORTH												
New Delhi	3.1	4.5	51.3	17.9	23.2	513	2.0	3.3	54.1	16.5	24.1	2237
Haryana	2.6	3.3	56.3	18.6	19.2	609	2.2	2.5	52.2	17.1	25.9	2230
Himachal Pradesh	5.3	3.0	56.3	17.2	18.2	791	6.7	3.7	48.1	20.3	21.3	2644
Jammu	2.3	3.2	59.7	18.4	16.5	474	1.7	1.8	45.4	22.0	29.0	2293
Punjab	2.3	3.1	58.6	16.8	19.3	882	2.6	2.8	47.8	19.2	27.6	2078
Rajasthan	2.9	2.2	46.6	17.1	31.3	1929	2.4	1.7	41.6	18.8	35.4	4347
CENTRAL												
Madhya Pradesh	3.3	2.8	50.9	20.8	22.2	2688	3.6	2.3	47.9	18.3	28.0	4027
Uttar Pradesh	3.1	2.8	46.6	20.9	26.5	1938	2.2	2.2	43.4	20.3	32.0	5784
EAST												
Bihar	2.4	2.8	52.4	16.6	25.7	1937	2.3	2.1	44.7	17.1	33.7	4286
Orissa	4.8	3.6	56.3	21.0	14.2	2026	4.3	2.5	48.2	21.3	23.7	2608
West Bengal	3.3	4.1	54.2	22.0	16.4	1416	3.0	2.8	53.0	21.4	19.8	2738
NORTHEAST												
Arunachal Pradesh	4.2	4.8	47.0	30.0	14.1	1152	12.7	5.6	58.2	15.5	8.0	213
Assam	1.9	4.4	51.1	21.0	21.6	971	2.2	3.4	50.9	22.7	20.8	1351
Manipur	2.5	4.8	53.5	27.4	11.7	725	1.9	4.9	53.1	23.3	16.8	748
Meghalaya	3.7	7.0	53.3	26.7	9.2	1122	10.3	3.4	48.3	31.0	6.9	29
Mizoram	3.2	6.1	49.4	29.5	11.8	1356	--	25.0	75.0	--	--	4
Nagaland	7.3	7.6	58.5	20.8	5.9	1005	16.2	1.5	63.2	7.4	11.8	68
Sikkim	3.7	5.7	49.8	26.2	14.5	454	3.2	2.9	56.9	24.0	12.9	836
Tripura	1.7	4.1	59.4	22.2	12.6	483	2.8	6.8	54.0	22.5	13.9	717
WEST												
Goa	5.7	5.7	51.4	19.0	18.1	105	5.5	6.9	51.0	22.3	14.3	1185
Gujarat	3.3	3.3	48.0	21.8	23.6	1347	4.2	3.1	49.7	19.8	23.3	2421
Maharashtra	3.5	3.8	48.9	24.1	19.7	1371	3.0	3.2	47.0	22.9	24.0	4351
SOUTH												
Andhra Pradesh	3.7	2.6	49.3	23.0	21.4	970	3.7	2.9	49.6	22.6	21.2	2810
Karnataka	3.3	4.4	47.3	24.6	20.4	956	2.7	3.6	48.0	24.5	21.2	2661
Kerala	2.4	4.4	49.8	21.5	21.8	293	2.7	3.2	45.3	22.8	26.0	2200
Tamil Nadu	5.6	6.4	57.7	19.4	10.9	1289	6.3	4.5	54.1	21.3	13.8	3983

TABLE 9: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES IN STATES OF INDIA BY AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNING STATUS, 1998-99

States	No						Yes					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
India	4.2	3.9	54.0	20.2	17.7	46323	2.4	2.2	44.0	21.4	30.0	46113
NORTH												
New Delhi	1.7	3.8	54.6	16.8	23.1	2366	5.3	1.5	47.3	17.0	28.8	393
Haryana	2.2	3.1	59.3	15.6	19.8	1647	2.5	2.1	44.5	20.1	30.8	1192
Himachal Pradesh	11.1	5.6	58.4	12.1	12.7	676	5.2	3.0	47.9	21.5	22.4	2768
Jammu	2.6	3.4	54.7	21.1	18.2	768	1.5	1.6	45.1	21.6	30.1	2016
Punjab	2.5	3.2	56.2	17.3	20.7	1922	2.5	2.2	41.6	20.7	33.0	1041
Rajasthan	4.0	2.4	48.6	17.7	27.3	1968	2.0	1.6	40.7	18.6	37.1	4338
CENTRAL												
Madhya Pradesh	5.2	3.2	55.8	18.1	17.7	2880	2.1	1.9	44.0	20.3	31.6	3865
Uttar Pradesh	2.8	2.9	54.7	19.8	19.9	3041	2.3	2.0	39.9	21.1	34.8	5639
EAST												
Bihar	2.7	3.0	51.7	17.5	25.1	2859	2.2	1.9	43.2	17.3	35.5	3479
Orissa	6.5	3.9	57.8	19.3	12.5	1977	3.1	2.4	47.2	22.6	24.7	2709
West Bengal	4.0	3.9	57.7	20.6	13.8	2897	2.2	2.6	46.6	22.0	26.6	1827
NORTHEAST												
Arunachal Pradesh	9.1	5.8	54.4	21.5	9.1	274	4.8	4.5	48.2	28.6	13.9	1144
Assam	2.7	4.4	55.7	20.4	16.8	1528	0.9	3.0	46.8	22.0	27.4	1590
Manipur	2.9	6.3	57.8	21.8	11.2	824	1.5	3.4	49.8	27.0	18.3	863
Meghalaya	4.4	7.2	55.2	25.7	7.5	797	2.5	5.4	51.2	28.4	12.4	443
Mizoram	3.9	7.1	50.7	29.3	9.0	854	1.9	4.6	47.6	30.0	15.9	517
Nagaland	12.1	6.9	53.0	22.5	5.7	423	5.8	7.0	61.7	18.6	6.9	710
Sikkim	6.1	4.2	58.0	19.6	12.0	424	2.1	3.6	52.9	27.3	14.2	872
Tripura	2.6	7.3	58.6	21.9	9.5	834	2.4	2.4	52.0	22.3	21.0	458
WEST												
Goa	5.5	7.3	52.8	22.2	12.2	1092	4.9	5.3	48.2	23.5	18.0	506
Gujarat	4.2	4.1	53.9	20.2	17.6	2246	3.2	2.0	42.8	21.1	30.8	1683
Maharashtra	3.7	4.7	50.6	22.9	18.1	2908	2.5	1.9	44.6	23.3	27.7	2918
SOUTH												
Andhra Pradesh	5.2	3.6	52.6	22.2	16.4	2109	1.8	1.9	46.2	23.3	26.8	1757
Karnataka	3.8	4.9	51.6	23.0	16.7	2104	2.2	2.5	44.4	25.4	25.5	2168
Kerala	3.0	3.7	46.2	21.8	25.3	1805	1.9	2.5	43.1	23.9	28.7	1026
Tamil Nadu	7.2	5.3	56.3	20.2	10.9	3710	3.5	4.1	51.7	22.5	18.3	1571

TABLE 10:
DETERMINANTS OF FAMILY STRUCTURE IN INDIA AND ITS STATES, 1998-99

States	Education	Age	Sex	Place of Residence	Religion	Caste	Ownership of agricultural land	Standard of Living
India	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
NORTH								
New Delhi	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×
Haryana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Himachal Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Jammu	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Punjab	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Rajasthan	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
CENTRAL								
Madhya Pradesh	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Uttar Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
EAST								
Bihar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Orissa	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
West Bengal	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
NORTHEAST								
Arunachal Pradesh	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Assam	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Manipur	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Meghalaya	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Mizoram	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Nagaland	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
Sikkim	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Tripura	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
WEST								
Goa	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	×
Gujarat	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Maharashtra	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
SOUTH								
Andhra Pradesh	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Karnataka	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Kerala	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Tamil Nadu	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓

Note: Dependent Variable (Non-nuclear – 0, Nuclear – 1)

✓ Association significant

× Association not significant