METHOD
OF
PROCEDURE

CHAPTER 3

METHOD OF PROCEDURE

This chapter deals with the research procedure adopted for the present investigation. The descriptive survey method was used to investigate the physical facilities, attitude and problems associated with modern and traditional homemaking responsibilities of employed women, in Jorhat, Assam.

The chapter is discussed under the following sections :

3.1   Pilot Study

The investigator conducted a pilot study in Jorhat city of Assam in the months of May and June 1989. The purpose of the study was to find out the data of employed women regarding their characteristics, home responsibilities of different members of the family and the problems at work place as well as at home. It was intended that the findings of the Pilot study will help the investigator to crystalize her problem, to determine the feasibility of such study, to draw a meaningful sample, and to select the variables.

Thirty employed and thirty non employed women were drawn to have a comparative study. The assumption behind the comparative study was that the characteristics and division of labour in the families of employed women were different from the non employed ones. It was expected that the homemaking was mainly traditional in non employed group, whereas, some families will be found to be modern in employed group.

The data were collected with the help of a closed cum open end questionnaire in English which was translated into Assamese language.

3.1.1 IMPLICATION OF THE FINDINGS OF PILOT STUDY FOR THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION

The findings of the pilot study revealed that the employed women in Jorhat were in different professions who varied in ages, income, type of family, size of family, age

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difference between husband and wife. The distance between home and their work place, type of residence as well as facilities available at home also were found to be different. This variation was found between employed and non employed group in general as well as with the employed group in particular.

Division of labour was found to be both modern and traditional in employed women's group although it was predominantly traditional in nonemployed group.

Pertaining to the problems faced, by a small number of employed women, they expressed their various problems such as over burden in homemaking, lack of community facilities, problems regarding paid help as well as certain personal problems through the open-ended questionnaire, thereby helping the investigator to get an idea regarding possible problem areas faced by the employed women.

The variability of different characteristics of employed women confirmed certain assumptions and helped the investigator to formulate hypotheses like relationships between physical facilities, attitude and problems of employed women with modernity in homemaking, personal and demographic variables with modernity in homemaking, physical facilities and attitude of employed women.

3.2 Population of the Study

From the records available at Employment Exchange, Jorhat, it was found that there were six large employing agencies of female workers. Those were the State Government, State Quasi Government, Central Government, Private Act Establishment and Locat Bodies. It was decided to select these institutions, organisations or offices of each of the six agencies which employed 10 or more female employees to constitute the population of the study, such a population comprised of 1257 employed women. Initially the investigator intended to take 45% of the population from each agency which would have made the sample of 500 employed women. As the investigator was interested to reach only the married employed women with minimum of 2 to 3 years of experience, some changes were made in the sampling procedure accordingly.

The Employment Exchange of Jorhat did not have the list of married working women of Jorhat city. The investigator during her data collection, went to those offices and institutions where there were more than 10 employed women. But at the place of work she found the actual number of women employee did not talleyed with the list in the employment exchange. The number was less and somewhere it was more, but generally it was less. The reason for differences in number could be that, the list in employment exchange was not updated frequently, and also some female employees resigned or got transferred which were not accounted for in the exchange. There is a common delay in official procedures.
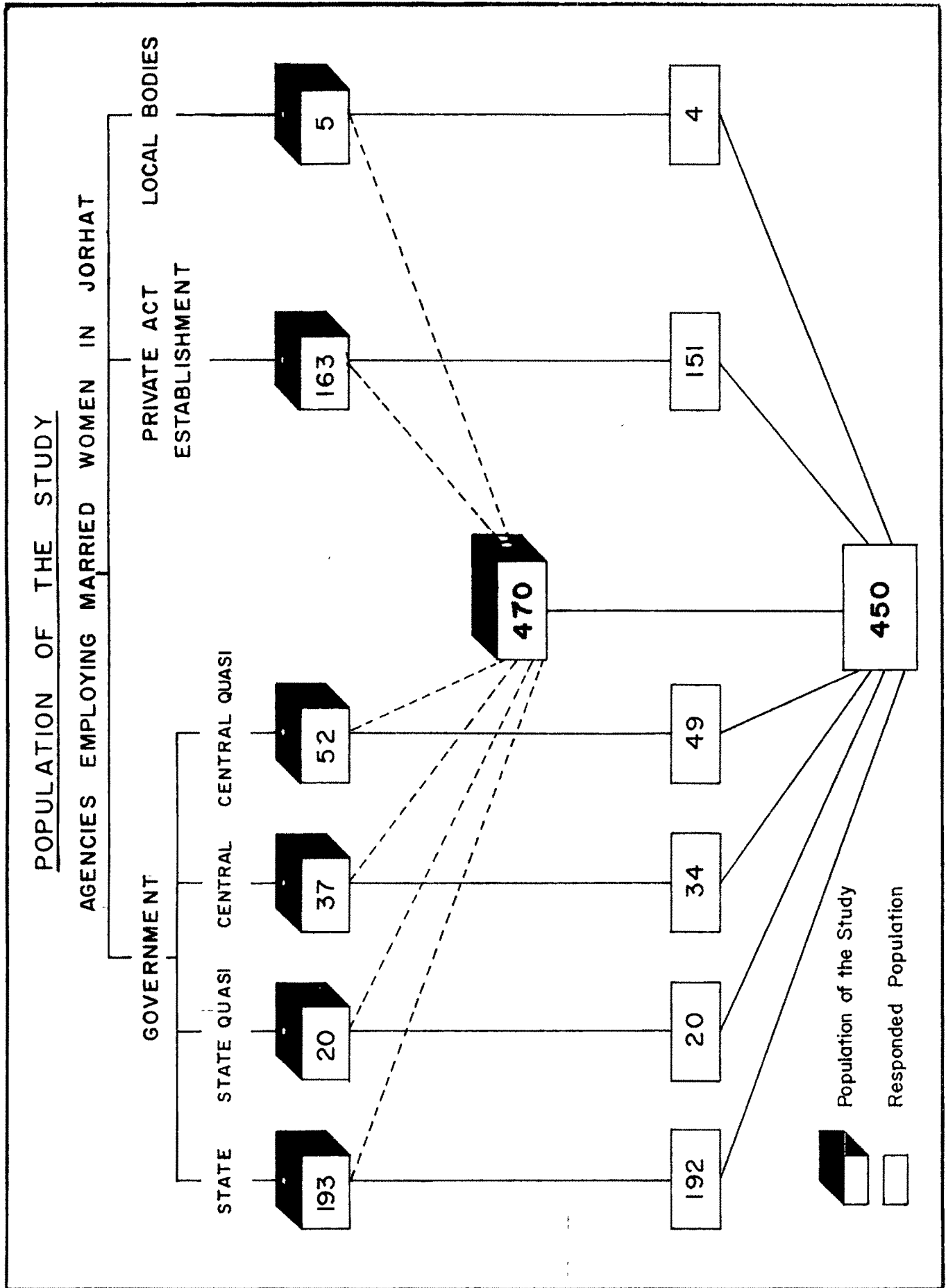
POPULATION OF THE STUDY

AGENCIES EMPLOYING MARRIED WOMEN IN JORHAT

Fig.3

Population of the Study

Responded Population

Therefore, the investigator had taken all the married women, having 2 to 3 years of minimum experience, from all the offices and institutions, of the six selected employing agencies. Besides these, many more offices/institutions of each of the six agencies were covered to have a sizable number of women employees to conduct a meaningful and credible study. The investigator thus, enlisted all the married women, working in those offices/institutions. The women, who were not included in the study, were the women who were not married, married but widowed, with less than 2 years of job experience, and the women whom the investigator could not locate. Thus, the population consisted of 450 married women (Figure 3).

3.3   Operational Definitions

The terms used in the present study are operationally defined here.

3.3.1 EMPLOYED WOMEN :

Women having at least 2 to 3 years of experience in gainful employment in the six employing agencies of Jorhat, Assam.

3.3.2 TRADITIONAL HOMEMAKING :

Traditional homemaking is the task performance in male dominated family structure, where the home responsibility was predominantly carried out by the wife.

3.3.3 MODERN HOMEMAKING :

Modern homemaking is the task performance in the family, where the homemaking responsibility was shared equally by the husband and wife or the homemaking activities were carried out by husband more than his wife.

3.3.4 PHYSICAL FACILITIES :

Referred to the possession and use of various equipment and appliances in selected areas of homemaking as well as in the presence of various facilities at home for better homemaking.

3.3.5 ATTITUDE :

Attitude is the intensity of positive or negative effect for or against a psychological object. In this study, attitude refers to having favourable or unfavourable attitude towards working women by the respendents.

3.3.6 PROBLEM :

The difficulties faced by the employed women in order to cope up with their employment. The problem may occur at home or outside the home.

3.4 Variables and Their Relationship

The various independent and dependent variables, along with the intervening variables, were used in the study as follows : (Fig. 4).

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3.4.1 INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

The independent variables used in the present investigation were as follows.

3.4.1.1 Personal and Demographic Variables : The personal and demographic variables concerned both respondents and their husbands, as well as the respondents only.

A. Variables Concerning Both the Respondents and their Husbands

a. Occupational class

b. Income

c. Educational qualification

d. Difference of age between husband and wife

e. Type of marriage

f. Type of family

g. Size of family

h. Number and ages of children

i. Type of residence.

B. Variables Concerning The Employed Women Only

a. Age of the respondent

b. Years of job experience

c. Hours of work at work place

d. Distance between home and work place

e. Type of vehicle used to go to work place

3.4.2 INTERVENING VARIABLES

The intervening variables are those variables which act as both independent and dependent variables under different circumstances of treatment. In the present investigation, the modern and traditional homemaking were the intervening variables. It depended on personal and demographic variables and at the same time, acted as independent variable to find out the physical facilities, attitude and problems according to traditional and modern families.

3.4.3 DEPENDENT VARIABLES

The dependent variables in the present investigation were as follows :

3.4.3.1   Use of equipment and appliances in selected areas of homemaking.

3.4.3.2   Availability of facilities for better homemaking.

3.4.3.3   Attitude of employed women towards working women

3.4.3.4   Problems faced by the employed women

a.   Problems in carrying out responsibilities of household work.

b.   Problems with paid help.

c.   Problems due to undue rigidity of family members.

d.   Problems with community facilities and services.

VARIABLES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

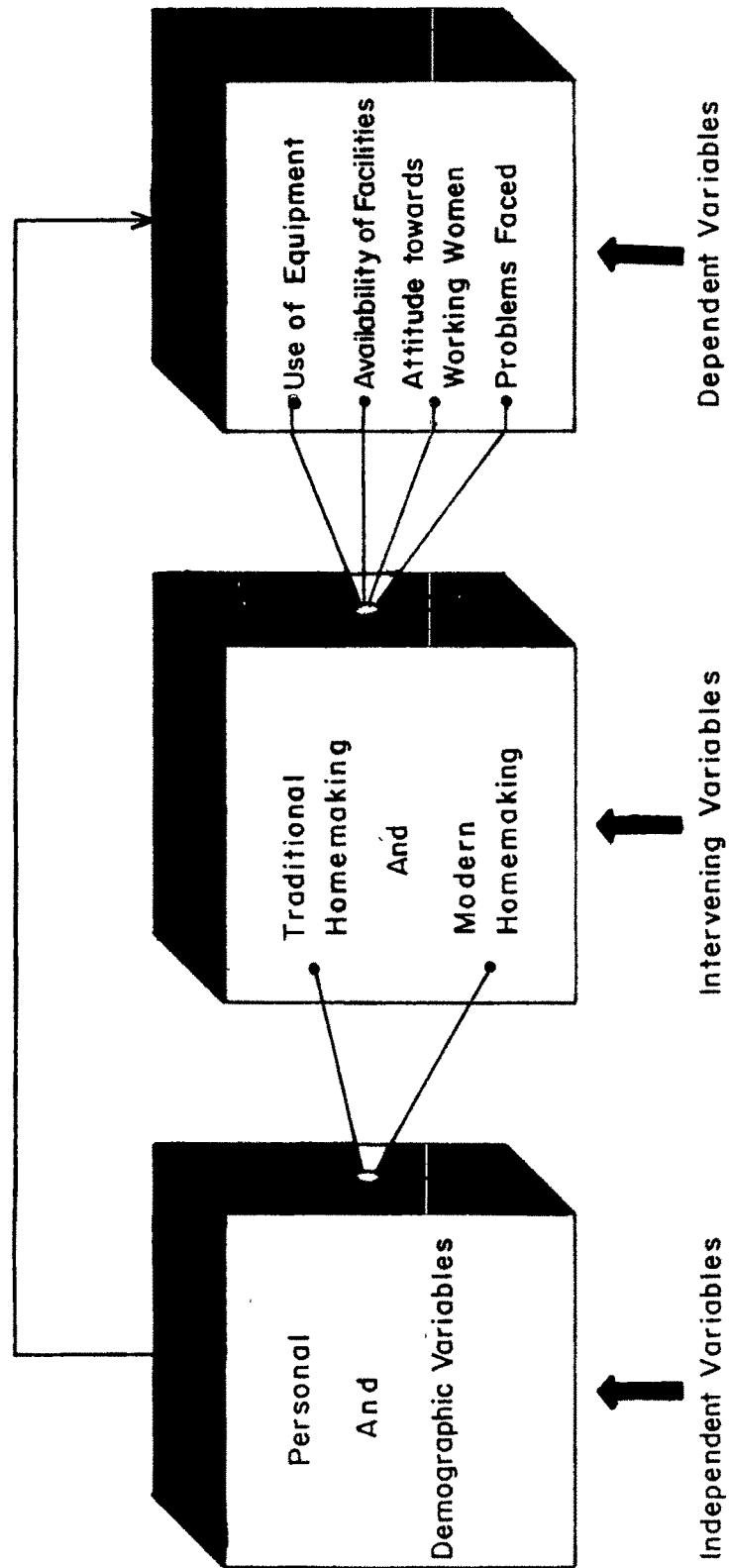| Independent Variables	Intervening Variables	Dependent Variables
Personal And Demographic Variables	Traditional Homemaking And Modern Homemaking	Use of Equipment Availability of Facilities Attitude towards Working Women Problems Faced

Fig. 4

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e.   Personal problems.

A diagramatic representation, showing the relationship
of the three types of variables mentioned above are given in
Figure 4.

3.5   Research Tool

Since the research design in the present investigation
was descriptive survey method, it required to collect the
information from the employed women of Jorhat City, through a
structured questionnaire.

3.5.1 CONSTRUCTION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire for collecting the information for
the present study was developed on the basis of pilot study
conducted by the investigator, review of literature from
various books, journals and papers, personal experience of
the investigator and also through discussion with   her
colleagues.   The various sections of the questionnaire were
developed according to the objectives (Appendix 1).   The
detail description of each section of the questionnaire is
presented here.

Section 1.

This section of the questionnaire contained questions
regarding preliminary information like personal   and
demographic variables of the respondent, which were used as
independent variables under the present investigation.

This section also contained the statements regarding attitudes of employed women towards working women. The attitude scale used in this part was standardised scale developed by S.Sultan Akhtar (1974, p.334-335). The scale was a five point likert scale having nineteen statments.

Section 2.

The first part of this section of the questionnaire had four different subparts. Each subpart was pertaining to a particular area of homemaking. There were four areas of homemaking namely food, clothing, management of resources and child development and family relation. Each area contained statement for homemaking tasks. There were three columns for response. One was for the respondent, second was for husband and the third was for both. Each column had three response form, such as 'most of the time', 'sometime' and 'never or rarely'.

The respondents were asked to give one response in each column indicating the performance of the task whether by respondent, her husband, or both, with their frequency of performance.

The second part of this section contained list of modern equipment and appliances under each of the above mentioned area of homemaking. The respondents were asked to respond for the possession and use of the equipment and appliances.

It was assumed that some of the modern equipment and appliances were not used by the respondents. Here, the third part of this section contained nineteen different reasons for not using the modern equipment and appliances in homemaking. The respondents were asked to recognise their reason from the given list.

The fourth part of this section contained a description of facilities available at home for better homemaking. The respondents were asked to respond for the availability of those facilities in their homes.

Section 3.

This section of the questionnaire included statements regarding the problems faced by the employed women. The section was divided into five parts. Each part contained statements regarding a particular type of problem.

The different problems were pertaining to co-operation from family members in homemaking, problems regarding paid help, problems regarding community facilities, problems due to undue rigidity of family members and the personal problem of the respondents. The respondents were asked to recognise their own problems, if they faced.

3.5.2 VALIDITY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was given to different experts to find out its validity. The experts were from Faculty of Home

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Science, Centre of Advance Studies in Education (CASE) and Faculty of Psychology, M.S. University of Baroda. The experts were asked to check the questionnaire regarding -

1. Content of the questionnaire to see the coverage of the objectives under study.
2. Clarity and ambiguity in the use of language.
3. Format of the questionnaire.

The experts had suggested certain minor changes in the questionnaire which were incorporated before pretesting the questionnaire.

3.5.3 PRE TESTING OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was translated into Assamese language to avoid the fear of wrong expression by the respondents due to lack of sufficient knowledge of English. The translated questionnaire was shown to an expert who is the head of the Department of Assamese in J.B. College, Jorhat, for clarity in language with proper meaning conveyed in the English questionnaire.

The translated questionnaires were distributed to 50 employed women of different professions during the month of May-June 1990.

The data collected for pre-testing were analysed and some changes in the response form in the Section 2 of the questionnaire were made.

3.6   Data Collection

The questionnaire, which was ready for final data collection, was made pre-coded for easy coding and quick feeding into the computer for analysis. The questionnaire was printed in three different colours, each for one section (Appendix 2). The idea of using different colours in the questionaire was to help the respondents in breaking the monotony of filling up the questionnaire.

The data were collected between the months of October'1990 to March'1991. The investigator had administered as well as collected the questionnaires personally.

3.7   Analysis of Data

The data of the present investigation were analysed by employing the IBM-PC/AT 386 compatible Computer System.

3.7.1 CATEGORISATION OF VARIABLES

The variables, which were not categorised in the questionnaire, were clustered into categories to test the hypotheses.

3.7.1.1   Categories of Independent Variables

a. -- Type of Occupation (Srivastava, 1978)

1. Class I : Engineer,   Doctor,   Magistrate,
             Administrative Officer, Scientist,

Principal of School, Principal of College.

2. Class II: College teachers

3. ClassIII: School teachers, extension officers, Laboratory assistant, Clerk, nurses, police.

4. Class IV: Attendent/Peon/4th grade worker

b. Job Experience

    1.   1 - 4 years

    2.   5 - 10 years

    3.   More than 10 years.

c. Income

    1. Lower   :   Rs. 900 to 1500

    2. Lower middle :   Rs. 1501 to 2500

    3. Upper middle :   Rs. 2501 to 3500

    4. Higher   :   Above Rs. 3500.

d. Total hours of work at work place

    1.   3 - 5 hours

    2.   6 - 8 hours

    3.   More than 8 hours.

e. Distance between home and work place

    1.   Within walking distance

    2.   Use of a Vehicle.

f. Type of Vehicle used

    1.   Own vehicle

    2.   Public conveyance

g. Type of residence

    1.   Own house

    2.   Rented house

    3.   Quarter provided by the employer.

h. Educational Qualification

    1.   High School and below

    2.   H.S.L.C. Examination Passed

    3.   Undergraduate

    4.   Graduate

    5.   Postgraduate

i. Age of the respondent

    1.   26 - 35 years.

    2.   36 - 45 years.

    3.   Above 45 years.

j. Difference of age between the respondent and her husband

    1.   No difference

    2.   1 - 5 years

    3.   6 - 10 years

    4.   More than 10 years.

k. Type of marriage

    1.   Arranged by the couple

    2.   Arranged by others

l. Type of family

    1.   Nuclear

    2.   Joint

m. Size of family

    1.   Small family :   2 - 4 members

    2.   Medium family :   5 - 7 members

    3.   Large family :   More than 7 members.

n. Age of Children

    1.   Respondents having children below 9 years.

    2.   Respondents not having children below 9 years.

3.7.1.2   Categories of Dependent Variables. The dependent variables were categorised as follows to test the various hypotheses.

a.   Use of equipment and appliances in selected areas of homemaking

    1. More equipment :   Respondents using more than 50 per cent of equipment among the given numbers of equipment.

2. Less equipment : Respondents using less than 50 per cent of equipment among the given numbers of equipment.

3. No equipment : Respondents using no equipment.

b. <u>Availability of facilities at home for better homemaking</u>.

1. More facility : Respondents availing more than 50 per cent of the facilities among the given numbers of facilities.

2. Less facility : Respondents availing less than 50 per cent of the facilities among the given numbers of facilities.

3. No facility : Respondents availing no facility.

c. <u>Attitude of employed women towards working women</u>.

1. Highly favourable attitude : Mean + SD

2. Favourable attitude : Mean - SD to Mean + SD

3. Less favourable attitude : Mean - SD

d. <u>Problems faced by the employed women</u>.

1. More problem : Respondents facing more than 50 per cent problems among the given numbers of problems.

2. Less problem : Respondents facing less than 50 per cent problems among the given numbers of problems.

3. No problem : Respondents facing no problem.

3.7.1.3 Categories of Intervening Variables. Modernity
of homemaking, which was the intervening variable in the
present study was computed and categorised as follows :

Procedure :

Score 3 was given to 'most of the time' followed by 2
for 'some time' and 1 for 'never or rarely' in each of the
column of respondent, husband and both. firstly, the mean
score of respondent, husband and both columns were worked
out. The mean scores were checked in the modernity scale
which was ranged from 1 to 3. Higher the respondents score
traditional was the homemaking, where mooderately modern and
modern homemaking were towards lower to lowest score
respectively. Reverse was the case for husband and both
columns. Comparing in this manner each respondent, husband
and both columns got a new score, ranging from 3 to 1 for
modernity to traditionality. This newly computed scores were
added and the mean score for each respondent was worked out.
This mean score placed the family in the modernity scale
indicating modern, moderately modern or traditional.

Thus, the categories for modernity in homemaking were.

Modernity in homemaking	Scores
1. Traditional	1 - 1.6
2. Moderately modern	1.7 - 2.3
3. Modern	2.4 - 3.0

3.7.2 STATISTICS USED FOR ANALYSIS OF DATA

Mean

   a. To find out the modernity in homemaking.

   b. To find out the mean number of problem faced by traditional and modern families.

   c. Attitude towards homemaking.

Mean and Standard Deviation

   - To categorize the respondents according to their attitude towards employed women.

Percentage :

   a. To find out personal and demographic characteristics of respondents.

   b. To find out respondents' extent of favourableness of attitude towards working women.

   c. To find out the respondents using and possessing equipment.

   d. To find out the respondents having various facilities at home.

   e. To find out the respondents giving the reasons for not using modern equipment in homemaking.

   f. To find out the respondents facing various problem.

Chi Square

       -   To test the null hypotheses formed for the study.

Correlation coefficient

    a.   To find out the relationship between modernity in homemaking and personal and demographic characteristics.

    b.   To find out the relationship between attitude of employed women towards working women and the personal and demographic characteristics of respondents.