

Composition of Families

27. The data collected in the course of the enquiry regarding the composition of families shows that, as regards natural families, 35 per cent. of them contain only the husband and the wife, 21 per cent. contain a child under 14 in addition and 15 per cent. contain two children under 14 years of age. A comparison with the Sholapur family budget investigation shows that there only 24 per cent. of the natural families contain husband and wife only.

As regards joint households, the composition differs greatly, and it is difficult to single out any prevailing type or types of composition.

Age Distribution

28. The Lady Investigators were instructed to collect information regarding ages. This is always a matter of considerable difficulty owing to the ignorance of the workers but it is believed that the figures obtained are approximately correct (*i.e.*, the degree of accuracy is as great as can be expected in a country like India).

29. Out of the 1,394 wage earners for whom data could be collected, 1,108 were males and 286 females. The bulk (85 per cent.) of the male wage earners are above 15 and below 45, while the bulk (86 per cent.) of the women workers are above 15 and below 40.

30. The following table and chart illustrate the age-distribution of all workers :—

Number of Wage-Earners in Families by Age-Groups and Sex

Age-groups				Males	Females	Total	Percentage to total
Below 15	..	..	..	40	4	44	3.16
15-20	..	..	..	122	44	166	11.91
20-25	..	..	..	154	64	218	15.64
25-30	..	..	..	187	51	238	17.07
30-35	..	..	..	194	38	232	16.64
35-40	..	..	..	151	48	199	14.28
40-45	..	..	..	135	21	156	11.19
45-50	..	..	..	47	7	54	3.87
50-55	..	..	..	46	6	52	3.73
55 and over	..	..	..	32	3	35	2.51
Total ..				1,108	286	1,394	100.00