

## EMPLOYED WOMEN IN POONA

in whose case the number of women belonging to families with fathers or brothers in Poona was only fifteen.

Finally, we may examine the relationship between the dependency load and the community of the women workers. The two major communities to which a large proportion of white-collar women in our sample belonged were Brahmin and Christian. The medians of dependency load for Brahmins and Christians were found to be approximately equal, being 1.66 and 1.65 respectively. If, however, we compare the percentage of women having dependency load more than 2.7 adult units in these two communities, it appears that more Brahmins (about 25 per cent) than Christians (about 16 per cent) belonged to this category. As is to be expected, if we take lower dependency load groups, reverse was the case. The only exception was that the percentage of women belonging to 0.9 dependency load group was somewhat higher for Brahmin than for Christian women. But then this was so because more Brahmin than Christian women lived alone in Poona.

Among blue-collar working women median dependency load was highest for women belonging to Depressed classes, it was fairly high for Padmasali women and lowest in the case of Waddar and Maratha women. Thus, the medians of dependency load for these four communities were 2.57, 1.58, 1.18, and 1.15 respectively.

### *Summary*

The data on which this paper is based, were collected by the author in 1956. The Poona-Survey and Resurvey data provided useful background material for the study. Occupations, both white-collar and blue-collar, in which women workers were found in large numbers were chosen and samples were chosen from each.

The families of the women workers were analysed by size and sex of the family head. Further the earnings of these workers, according to their occupations, were examined. Finally, the dependency load on the working women was estimated, both for white-collar and blue-collar women.