# CHAPTER - III

# SOCIAL DIMENSION

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## *SOCIAL DIMENSION*

Narsingpur is a composite village of multi-ethnic and multi-caste groups. The castes and a tribe comprise gotras, families and sexes in the village. The various social units are threaded together through a common Hindu religious ideology which makes for homogenization of the structural units. Traditionally the village has grown from a segmentary social structure to the organic one of today. In the past the ethnic groups; viz., the Bengali and the Manipuri settled as segmentary communities but gradually they draw close are and the other communities like the Hindustani and the Barman have joined the process of organic emergence of the village. Thus, it is a village different from its past. The structural matrix of the village is un-raveled in the following analysis of various social units and their inter-relations.

**Ethnic Groups / communities**

*An ethnic group is a self-perceived group of people who hold a common set of traditions not shared by others with whom they are in contact* (De-Vos and Romanucei Ross 1975). The ethnic plurality of Narsingpur comprises three major groups; namely, Bengali, Manipuri and Hindustani and a non-existent group, the Barman. The groups are called communities in the local parlance. As all of them are the Hindus or Hinduized they practise the Hindu way of life. The following table sheds light on the population of each ethnic group.

### 3.1 : Distribution of Households into the Ethnic Groups

| Ethnic groups | Number of Households | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Bengali | 314 | 82.63 |
| Manipuri | 57 | 15.00 |
| Hindustani | 8 | 2.11 |
| Barman | 1 | 0.26 |
| **Total** | **380** | **100** |

The table shows that the Bengali households constitute 82.63% of the total households in the village followed by the Manipuri's 15%, the Hindustani's 2.11% and the Barman's 0.26%. Clearly, the Bengali is a numerically preponderant group and exeept the Manipuri no other group is structurally significant in the village. The Bengali community (ethnic group) is formed of the population having Bengali as the mother tongue of the people and have a common culture. The Manipuri is a group in the village belonging to the larger Manpuri Society and culture. The Hindustani are the people migrated largely form the north and/or eastern states of India such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The mother tongue of a group is a dialect of Hindi or some other provincial language. The Barman is a tribal group in the Barak Valley itself. All these groups not only maintained their linguistic and cultural identities but seek their spouses generally from their own caste/tribe in the Barak Valley or in the regions of their ancestral habitats. Not only the migration characterized the ethnic and general character of the village but also their distribution into various castes/tribe that make a motley of the life in the village.

**Caste / Tribe**

The village is also a multi-caste village. Caste is one of the distinct characteristics of Hindu Social organization. *Members of a caste believe in a common descent from a remote historical past mythical or divine ancestor, even though all links with him may not be traceable; a caste, within the setting as a wider social order based on the ascriptive principle as status determination, assigns to members and groups within it a defined place in the social hierarchy, and prescribes for them certain civil and religious rights and disabilities. It limits their choice of occupation. Further, a caste either on its own or through sub-castes within its fold requlates the behaviour of the membesr with regard to common-ensality, social intercourse and endogamy and it may have councils to enforce the operation of the caste regulations over members living in a more or less defined territory* (B.R. Chauhan- 1998).

On the other hand, *A tribe is a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous with no specialization of functions, ruled by tribal officers, hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect, recognizing social distance with other tribe or caste, without any social obliquy attending to them, as it does in the caste structure, following tribal traditions, beliefs and customs, illiberal or neutralization of ideas form alien sources above all, conscious of a homogeneous ethnic and territorial integration.* (D.N.Mazumder-1956). The castes and a tribe in the village are shown in the table 3.2.

## 3.2 : Distribution of Households into the Castes/Tribe

| Sl. No. | Caste / Tribe | Number of Households | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Nath | 258 | 67.89 |
| 2 | Singha (Meitei) | 53 | 13.95 |
| 3 | Sharma (Bengali) | 20 | 5.26 |
| 4 | Dey | 10 | 2.64 |
| 5 | Goswami | 6 | 1.58 |
| 6 | Dutta | 4 | 1.05 |
| 7 | Bania | 4 | 1.05 |
| 8 | Dev | 3 | 0.78 |
| 9 | Sharma (Meitei) | 3 | 0.78 |
| 10 | Chakraborty | 2 | 0.52 |
| 11 | Das | 2 | 0.52 |
| 12 | Koiri | 2 | 0.52 |
| 13 | Chanda | 2 | 0.52 |
| 14 | Mahanta | 1 | 0.26 |
| 15 | Sarkar | 1 | 0.26 |
| 16 | Paul | 1 | 0.26 |
| 17 | Rajkumar/Rajkumari | 1 | 0.26 |
| 18 | Shill | 1 | 0.26 |
| 19 | Ray | 1 | 0.26 |
| 20 | Shahami | 1 | 0.26 |
| 21 | Kurmi | 1 | 0.26 |
| 22 | Baishnab | 2 | 0.52 |
| 23 | Barman (Tribe) | 1 | 0.26 |
| **Total** | | **380** | **100** |

The table reveals that the social structure of the village comprises 22 castes and a tribe. The Nath constitutes (67.89%) of the households followed by the Meitei Singha (13.95%), the Bengali Sharma (5.26%), the Dey (2.64%), the Goswami (1.58%), the Dutta and the Bania (1.05% each), the

Deb and the Meitei Sharma (0.78% each), the Koiri, the Das, the Chanda and the Chakraborty (0.52% each), the Mahanta, the Sarkar, the Paul, the Rajkumar (Meitei), the Shill, the Ray, the Shahami, the Kurmi and Barman Tribe (0.26% each) and the Baishnab/Bairagi (0.52%). The figures clearly show the numerical preponderance of the Nath households followed by the significant presence of the Meitei Singha and the Bengali Sharma households. Looking at these castes/tribes in terms of the caste/tribe categories makes more a sociological sense of them in the discussion that follows.

**Caste / Tribe categories**

All the households of the people in the village are firstly divisible into two categories of caste and tribe, and then the households belonging to caste are divisible into the three caste categories; namely, the General Castes, the Other Backward Castes and the Scheduled Castes as shown in the table 3.3.

### 3.3 : Distribution of Households into the Castes/Tribe by Caste/ tribe Categories

| Sl. No. | Caste/Tribe | Caste/Tribe Category | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | General Castes | Other Backward Castes | Scheduled Castes | Schedule Tribes | Grand Total (%) |
| 1 | Nath | – | 258(82.42) | – | – | 258(67.89) |
| 2 | Singha (meitei) | – | 53 (16.92) | – | – | 53 (13.95) |
| 3 | Sharma (Bengali) | 20(38.47) | – | – | – | 20 (5.26) |
| 4 | Dey | 10(19.23) | – | – | – | 10 (2.64) |
| 5 | Goswami | 6 (11.54) | – | – | – | 6 (1.58) |
| 6 | Dutta | 4 (7.69) | – | – | – | 4 (1.05) |
| 7 | Bania | – | – | 4(28.58) | – | 4 (1.05) |
| 8 | Dev | 3 (5.76) | – | – | – | 3 (0.78) |
| 9 | Sharma (Meitei) | 3 (5.76) | – | – | – | 3 (0.78) |
| 10 | Chakraborty | 2 (3.84) | – | – | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 11 | Das | – | – | 2(14.29) | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 12 | Koiri | – | – | 2(14.29) | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 13 | Chanda | – | – | 2(14.29) | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 14 | Mahanta | 1 (1.92) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 15 | Sarkar | 1 (1.92) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 16 | Paul | 1 (1.92) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 17 | Rajkumar/ Rajkumari | 1 (1.92) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 18 | Shill | – | – | 1 (7.14) | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 19 | Ray | – | – | 1 (7.14) | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 20 | Shahami | – | – | 1 (7.14) | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 21 | Kurmi | – | – | 1 (7.14) | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 22 | Baishnab (Bairagi) | – | 2 (1.52) | – | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 23 | Barman (Tribe) | – | – | – | 1 (100) | 1 (0.26) |
| | **Total** | **52 (100) (13.69%)** | **313 (100) (82.36)** | **14 (100) (3.68%)** | **1 (100) (0.26%)** | **380 (100)** |

The data show that almost the entire (99.74%) households in the village belong to the caste people and an insignificant fraction (0.26%) to the tribal people. The houses of the Other Backward Castes constitute the largest portion (82.36%) of the total households followed by the General Castes

(13.69%) and the Scheduled Castes (3.68%). The category of General Castes comprises 11 Castes. Five of these castes are the Brahmin castes; namely, Sharma (Bengali), Sharma (Meitei), Goswami, Mahanta and Chakraborty, and the other castes are Dey, Dev, Dutta, Sarkar, Paul and Rajkumar Castes. Of these, the Sharma (Bengali) constitutes largest group (38.47%) followed by Dey (19.23%), Goswami (10.54%), Dutta (7.69%), Dev and Sharma (Meitei) (5.76% each), Chakarborty (3.84%) and Mahanta, Sarkar, Paul and Rajkumar/Rajkumari (1.92% each.). The Other Backward Castes category consists of two castes; viz., the Nath (Yogi) with (82.42%), the Manipuri Singha (Meitei) with (16.92%) and Baishnab with (1.52%) of the households in the village. The households of the scheduled Castes category comprise the Bania's (28.58%), the Das's, the Koiri's and the Chanda's (14.29% each) and the Shill's, the Ray's, the Kurmi's and the Shahami's (7.14% each). The only houseolds of the Scheduled Tribe category belongs to the Barman.

The analysis clearly indicates that the OBCs is the largest and numerically preponderant caste category and the same position is held by the Nath within the OBCs, by the Brahmin (Bengali Sharma) within the General Castes and by the Bania in the SCs. The STs is a minority group in the village.

**Caste/Tribe and the Ethnic Identity**

The 22 castes and one tribe in the village are also distributed into four ethnic groups by their households in the table -3.4.

**3.4 : Distribution of the Households into the Castes/Tribe by Ethnic Groups**

| Sl. No. | Caste/Tribe | Ethnic Group | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Bengali | Manipuri | Hindustani | Barman | |
| 1 | Nath | 258 (80.89) | – | – | – | 258(67.89) |
| 2 | Singha (Meitei) | – | 53(92.99) | – | – | 53(13.95) |
| 3 | Sharma (Bengali) | 20 (6.36) | – | – | – | 20 (5.26) |
| 4 | Dey | 10 (3.19) | – | – | – | 10 (2.64) |
| 5 | Goswami | 6 (1.91) | – | – | – | 6 (1.58) |
| 6 | Dutta | 4 (1.27) | – | – | – | 4 (1.05) |
| 7 | Bania | – | – | 4 (50%) | – | 4 (1.05) |
| 8 | Dev | 3 (0.95) | – | – | – | 3 (0.78) |
| 9 | Sharma (Meitei) | – | 3 (5.26) | – | – | 3 (0.78) |
| 10 | Chakrabarty | 2 (0.63) | – | – | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 11 | Das | 2 (0.63) | – | – | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 12 | Koiri | – | – | 2 (12.5%) | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 13 | Chanda | 2 (0.63) | – | – | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 14 | Mahanta | 1 (0.31) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 15 | Sarkar | 1 (0.31) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 16 | Paul | 1 (0.31) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 17 | Rajkumar/Rajkumari | – | 1 (1.75) | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 18 | Shill | 1 (0.31) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 19 | Ray | 1 (0.31) | – | – | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 20 | Shahami | – | – | 1 (25%) | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 21 | Kurmi | – | – | 1 (25%) | – | 1 (0.26) |
| 22 | Baishnab (Bairagi) | 2 (0.63) | – | – | – | 2 (0.52) |
| 23 | Barman (Tribe) | – | – | – | 1 (100) | 1 (0.26) |
| Total | | **314(100)** | **57 (100)** | **8 (100)** | **1 (100)** | **380 (100)** |

The table shows that the Bengali is the largest differentiated group of 15 castes followed by the Hindustani of four castes, the Manipuri of three castes and the Barman of one tribe. Of the Bengali households the largest number consists of the Nath (80.89%) followed by the Sharma (6.36%), the Dey (3.19%), the Goswami (1.91%), the Dutta (1.27%), the Dev (0.95%), the

Chakraborty, the Das and the Chanda (0.63% each), the Mahanta, the Sarkar, the Paul, the Shill and the Ray (0.31% each) and the Baishnab/Bairagi (0.63%). Of the Manipuri households (92.99%) belong to the Singha (Meitei), (5.26%) to the Sharma (Meitei) and (1.75%) to the Rajkumar caste. The Singha are the OBCs and the other two are the Brahmin (General Castes). The Hindustani households are largely (50%) shared by those of the Bania caste followed by those of the Koiri (25%) and the Shahami and the Kurmi (12.5% each). The Hindustani households have also a sub-group; namely, the Bhojpuri group consisted of the Koiri and the Kurmi castes. There is only one Barman family in the village. Briefly, the Nath constitute the largest number of households in the Bengali, the Singha in the Manipuri and the Bania in the Hindustani group, and the Koiri form the largest sub-group within the Hindustani group.

**Gotra and Castes/Tribe**

The Castes and a tribe in various ethnic groups have further differentiation into gotras and titles. The gotra of a family in some castes and a tribe is avoided in selecting a life-mate whereas in some of the castes only blood relations upto three or four generations of father and mother (if known) are considered in the selection of spouse. The distribution of the **gotras** and their relationship with castes and ethnic groups is shown in the table -3.5.

## 3.5 : Distribution of Households into the Gotras by Caste, Caste Category and Ethnic Group

| Sl. No. | Name of Gotra | Bengali | | | | Manipuri | | | Hind-ustani | Barman | Grand Total | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Gcs | OBCs | SCs | Total | Gns. | OBCs | Total | SCs | ST | Gcs. | OBCs | SCs | ST | Total |
| 1 | Shiva | 1 (2.38) | 258 (99.24) | | 259 (82.48) | | | | | | 1 (1.92) | 258 (82.95) | | | 259 (68.16) |
| 2 | Sandailya | | | | | 4 (100) | 27 (50.94) | 31 (54.38) | | | 4 (7.69) | 27 (8.68) | | | 31 (8.15) |
| 3 | Kashapa | 20 (41.65) | | 6 (100) | 26 (8.28) | | | | 7 (87.5) | | 20 (42.3) | | 13 (92.85) | | 33 (8.68) |
| 4 | Parashar | 6 (12.50) | | | 6 (1.91) | | | | | | 6 (11.54) | | | | 6 (1.57) |
| 5 | Madukailya | 4 (8.33) | | | 4 (1.27) | | 26 (49.06) | 26 (45.62) | | 1 (100) | 4 (7.69) | 26 (6.84) | | 1 (100) | 31 (8.15) |
| 6 | Alamman | 11 (22.91) | | | 11 (3.5) | | | | | | 11 (21.16) | | | | 11 (2.89) |
| 7 | Baisista | 3 (6.25) | | | 3 (0.95) | | | | | | 3 (5.76) | | | | 3 (0.78) |
| 8 | Katayani | 1 (2.38) | | | 1 (0.32) | | | | | | 1 (1.92) | | | | 1 (0.26) |
| 9 | Mala | | | | | | | | 1 (12.5) | | | | 1 (7.15) | | 1 (0.26) |
| 10 | Gautam | 2 (4.16) | | | 2 (0.63) | | | | | | 2 (3.84) | | | | 2 (0.52) |
| 11 | Baishnab (Bairagi) | | 02 (0.76) | | 2 (0.63) | | | | | | | 2 (0.52) | | | 2 (0.52) |
| **Total** | | 48 (100) | 260 (100) | 6 (100) | 314 (100) | 4 (100) | 53 (100) | 57 (100) | 8 (100) | 1 (100) | 52 (100) | 313 (100) | 14 (100) | 1 (100) | 380 (100) |

The data show that there are 11 Gotras in the castes and tribe. Of them 68.16% of the households belong to the Shiva gotra; 8.68% to the Kashapha, 8.15% each to the Sandailaya and Madukailya, 2.89% to the Alamman, 1.57% to the Parashar, 0.78% to the Baisista, 0.52% each to the Gautam and the Baishnab (Bairagi) and 0.26% each to the Katayani and the Mala gotra. Of the Other Backward Castes 82.95% households belongs to the Shiva gotra, 8.68% to the Sandailya and 6.84% to the Madukailya and 0.52% to the gotra less Baishnab. Of the General Castes 42.3% Households belong to the Kashapha, 21.16% to the Alamman, 11.54% to the Parashar, 7.69% each to the Sandailya and the Madukailya, 5.76% to the Baisista, 3.84% to the Gautam and 1.92% each to the Katayani and the Shiva Gotra. Of the Scheduled Castes 92.85%households belongs to the Kashapa and 7.15% to the Mala gotra. The only Barman (ST) family belongs to the Madukailya gotra. Of the Bengali ethnic group 82.48% households belong to the Shiva gotra, 8.28% to the Kashapha, 3.5% to the Alamman, 1.91% to the Parashar, 1.27% to the Madukailya, 0.95% to the Baisista, 0.63% to the Gautam, 0.32% to the Katayani and 0.63% to the Baishnab (Bairagi). Of the Bengali Other Backward Castes (Nath) 99.24% of the households belong to the Shiva gotra; 0.76% to the Baishnab. Of the General Castes 41.66% households belong to the Kashapha, 22.91% to the Alamman, 12.5% to the Parashar, 8.33% to the Madukailya, 6.25% to the Baisista, 4.16% to the Gautam and 2.38% to the Katayani. All the Scheduled Castes households belong to the Kashapa gotra. Of the Manipuri ethnic group 54.38% households belongs to the Sandailya and 45.62% to the Madukailya. Of the Manipuri Other Backward Castes 50.95% households belong to the Sandailya, 49.06% to the Madukailya; and all of the General Castes households belong to the Sandailya.

The households of the Hindustani ethnic group (all SCs) belong to the Kashapa (87.5%) and the Mala Gotras (12.5%).

**Family**

The fact that man is a member of biological species implies that there are certain deterministic conditions imposed upon his life. But by this implication the family, the basic unit of social organization, is not to be defined solely with reference to men's biological nature. The composition and principles of integration underlying the family makes it a functional unit and a socio-cultural agency simultaneously. *The family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household, interacting and inter-communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister creating a common culture* (Burgess and Locke 1953).

**Types of family**

By its composition the family in Narsingpur is largely differentiated into several actual categories. The categories are classified broadly into two analytical types; namely, the nuclear and the joint family. The analytical types are further divided into the sub-types into the actual categories. The actual categories, and analytical types and sub-types are shown in the table 3.6.

# 3.6. Distribution of Households into the Types of Family by Analytical Types in Narsingpur

| Sl. No. | Actual Types of Family | Nuclear Family | | | Joint Family | | | | | | | | Grand Total (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Normal | Abnormal | Total | Extending Vertically | | | Extending Vertically as well as Horizontally | Extending Vertically | | | Total Joint Family | |
| | | | | | Three Generation-Depth | Four Generation-Depth | Total | Three Generation Depth with Collaterals | Inclusive of Unmarried collaterals | Inclusive of Unmarried and married collaterals | Total | | |
| 1 | Husband and Wife (Conjugal family ) | 14 (7.69) | — | 14 (5.55) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 14 (3.68) |
| 2 | Husband, wife and unmarried children | 168 (92.31) | — | 168 (66.66) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 168 (44.21) |
| 3 | Uni-member family (Only ego) | — | 4 (5.71) | 4 (1.58) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 4 (1.05) |
| 4 | Father and unmarried daughter and son | — | 14 (20.0) | 14 (5.56) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 14 (3.68) |
| 5 | Father and unmarried daughter | — | 8 (11.42) | 8 (3.18) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 8 (2.12) |
| 6 | Mather and unmarried son and daughter | — | 28 (40.0) | 28 (11.11) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 28 (7.36) |
| 7 | Mather and unmarried son | — | 11 (15.71) | 11 (4.37) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 11 (2.89) |
| 8 | Mather and unmarried daughter | — | 5 (7.14) | 5 (1.99) | — | — | 0 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 5 (1.31) |
| 9 | Husband, wife unmarried children and Husband's Fathter or mother | — | — | — | 39 (72.22) | — | 39 (66.10) | — | — | — | 0 | 39 (30.47) | 39 (10.26) |
| 10 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, Husband's Parents. | — | — | — | 13 (24.07) | — | 13 (22.03) | — | — | — | 0 | 13 (10.15) | 13 (3.42) |
| 11 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, Husband's unmarried brother and sister, Husband's Father or mother. | — | | — | — | — | 0 | 12 (27.90) | — | — | 0 | 12 (9.37) | 12 (3.16) |
| 12 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, Husband's unmarried brother and sister, Husband's Parents. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 5 (11.62) | — | — | 0 | 5 (3.91) | 5 (1.31) |
| 13 | Husband, wife, unmarried children and husband's unmarried brother and sister. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 16 (88.88) | — | 16 (61.53) | 16 (12.5) | 16 (4.21) |
| 14 | Husband, wife, unmarried children Husband's married and unmarried brothers and Husband's Father or mother. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 12 (27.90) | — | — | 0 | 12 (9.37) | 12 (3.16) |
| 15 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, husband's married brothers and unmarried sister. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | — | 8 (100) | 8 (30.76) | 8 (6.25) | 8 (2.12) |
| 16 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, husband's married brothers and husband's Father or mother. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 7 (16.27) | — | — | 0 | 7 (5.47) | 7 (1.84) |
| 17 | Husband, wife married son & their unmarried children and Husband's Father or mother. | — | — | — | — | 5 (100) | 5 (8.47) | 0 | — | — | 0 | 5 (3.91) | 5 (11.31) |
| 18 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, Husband's married brother & unmarried sister & husband's Father or mother. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 4 (9.30) | — | — | 0 | 4 (3.12) | 4 (1.06) |
| 19 | Husband, wife, unmarried children Husband's parents, Husband's sister's son and daughter. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 3 (6.97) | — | — | 0 | 3 (2.34) | 3 (0.78) |
| 20 | Husband, wife, unmarried children, Husband's unmarried brother and Husband's Sister's children. | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 2 (11.12) | — | 2 (7.70) | 2 (1.56) | 2 (0.53) |
| 21 | Mather unmarried children and married daughter and her unmarried children. | — | — | — | 2 (3.70) | — | 2 (3.38) | 0 | — | — | 0 | 2 (1.56) | 2 (0.53) |
| | Total | 182 (100) | 70 (100) | 252 (100) | 54 (100) | 05 (100) | 59 (100) | 43 (100) | 18 (100) | 8 (100) | 26 (100) | 128 (100) | 380 (100) |

The data show that the family in the village is differentiated into 21 actual types. They are classified in largely differentiated two analytical types ; namely, the nuclear family (66.32%) of 8 actual types and the joint family (33.68%) of 13 actual types. Of the nuclear families the largest category (66.66%) is that of the husband-wife-unmarried children followed by that of the mother-unmarried son & daughter (11.11%), the father-unmarried daughter & son (5.56%), the conjugal family (5.55%), the mother-unmarried son (4.37%), the father-unmarried daughter (3.18%), the mother-unmarried daughter (1.99%) and the one-member family (1.58%). The nuclear family is further divided into two sub-types ; viz., the normal and the abnormal. The normal nuclear family consists of the husband-wife-unmarried children type (92.30%) followed by the conjugal family (7.69%). On the other hand, the abnormal sub-type, consists of the major pattern (40.9%) of the mother-unmarried son & daughter followed by the those of father-unmarried daughter & son (20.0%), the mother-unmarried son (15.7%), the father-unmarried daughter (11.42%), the mother-unmarried daughter (7.14%) and the unimember family (5.71%).

Of the Joint families the largest sub-type (30.47%) consists of the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's father or mother followed by the husband-wife-unmarried children-husbands unmarried brother & sister (12.6%), the husband-wife-unmarried children husband's parents (10.15%), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & sister-husband's father or mother; and the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's married & unmarried brother & husband's father or mother (9.37% each); the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's married brother & unmarried sister (6.25%), the husband-wife-unmarried children,

husband's married brother-husband's father or mother (5.47%), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & sister-husband's parents; and the husband-wife-married son-unmarried children-husband's, father or mother (3.91% each), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husbands married brother and unmarried sister-husband's father or mother (3.12%) and the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & married sister's children and the mother-unmarried children-married daughter & her unmarried children (1.56%) each. These actual types of the joint family are classified into three types of family; namely, the family extending vertically, the family extending vertically as well as horizontally and the family extending horizontally. The family extending vertically has two sub-types; viz., the three-generation depth and the four-generation depth family. The families of the three-generation depth of relations extending vertically comprise the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's father or mother (66.10%), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's parents (22.04%) and the mother-unmarried children-married daughter & her unmarried children (3.38%). The families of the four-generation depth extending vertically consists of the husband-wife-married son-unmarried children-husband's father or mother (8.47%). The sub-type of the families extending vertically as well as horizontally consists of the families with the three-generation depth among collaterals; namely, the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & sister-husband's father or mother and the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's married & unmarried brothers-husband's father or mother (27.90% each), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's married brother-husband's father or mother (16.27%), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried

brother and sister-husband's parents (11.52%), the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's married brother & unmarried sister and husband's father or mother (9.30%), and the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's parents- husband's sister's son & daughter (6.97%).

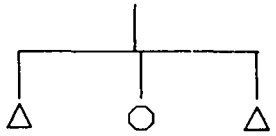
Within the sub-type of the families extending horizontally there are three actual categories; namely, the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & sister (61.53%), the husbands-wife-unmarried children-husband's married brother & unmarried sister (30.76%), and the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & married sister's children (7.70%). The sub-type has further two classes; viz.; the families inclusive of unmarried collaterals and those inclusive of unmarried as well as married collaterals. The former class comprises the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & sister (88.88%) and the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's unmarried brother & sister's children (11.12%). The latter class consists of the families of the husband-wife-unmarried children-husband's married brother & unmarried sister.

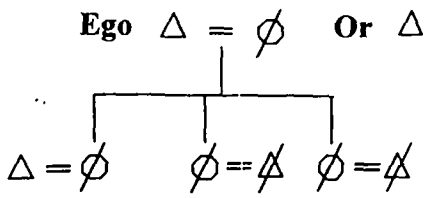
These various types and sub-types are represented here in the following diagrams.

**Nuclear Family**

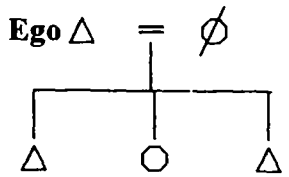
1. **Ego** △ = ○ Husband & wife (Conjugal Family)

2. **Ego** △ = ○ Husband, wife and unmarried children

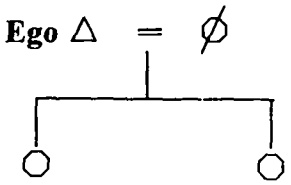


3. 

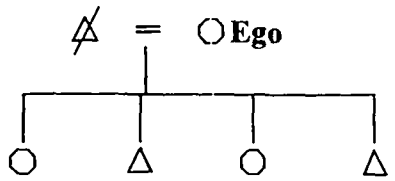

Ego only.(unimember)

4. 

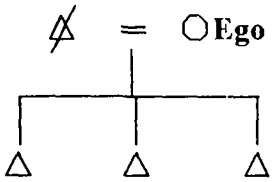

Father and unmarried daughter and son.

5. 

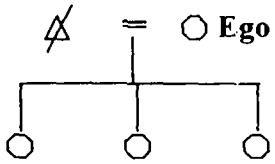

Father and unmarried daughter.

6. 


Mother and unmarried son and daughter.

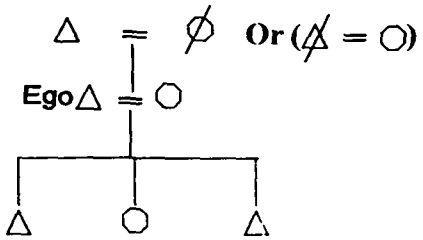
7. 


Mother and unmarried Son.

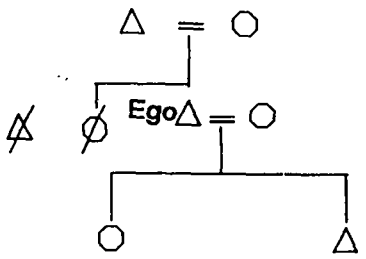
8. 


Mother and unmarried daughter.

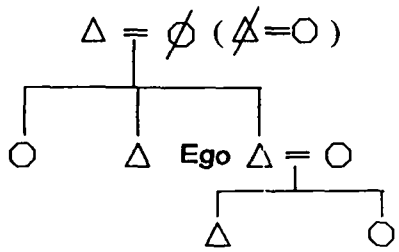
## Joint Family

9. 

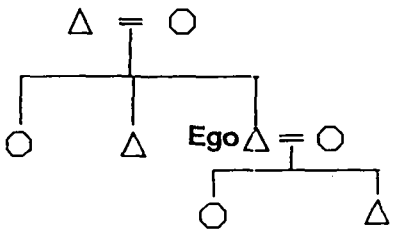

Husband, wife, unmarried children husband's father or mother.

10. 

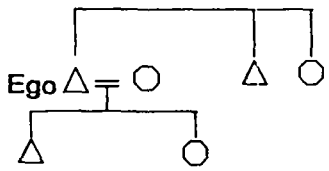

Husband wife, unmarried Children husband Parents.

11. 

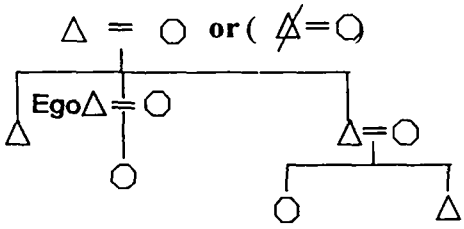

Husband, wife, unmarried children, husand's unmarried brother and sister husband' father or mother.

12. 

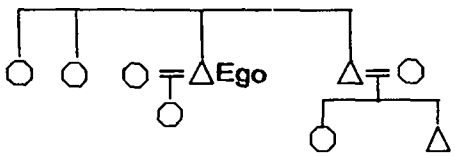

Husband, wife unmarried Children, husband's unmarried brother and sister, husband's parents.

13. 

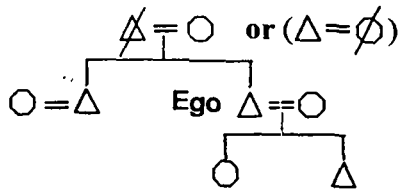

Husband, wife unmarried Children and husband is unmarried brother and sister.

14. 

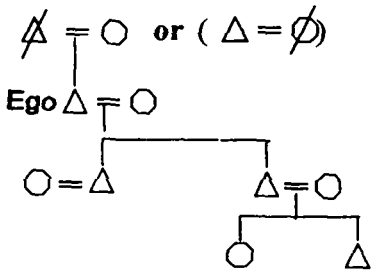

Husband, wife, unmarried children husband's married and unmarried brother and husband's father or fother.

15. 

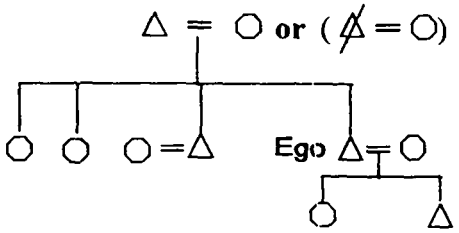

Husband, wife, unmarried childrens husband's married brother and unmarried sisters.

16. 

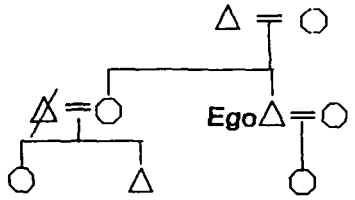

Husband, wife, unmarried childrens husband married brother and husband father or mother.

17. 

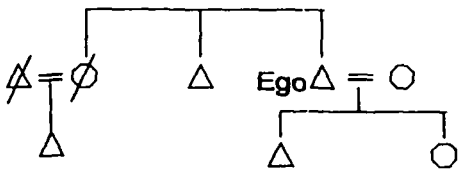

Husband, wife, married son and their children and husband's father or mother. (Four generation Family)

18. 

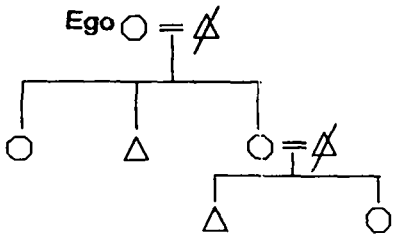

Husband, wife, unmarried children Husband mrrried brother and unmarried sister, husband's Father or Mother.

19. 


Husband, wife unmarried children husbands parents husband sister's son and daughter.

20. 


Husband, wife, husbands unmarried brother and husband's sister's children.

21. 


Mother, unmarried children and married daughter and her unmarried children.

**Family size**

The family in the village largely varies in terms of size of both the nuclear and the joint families. The nature of distribution of the family size and the relationship between the size and the type of family is shown in the following table - 3.7.

**3.7: Distribution of the Households into the Size of family by Its Analytical Types**

| Size of Family | Nuclear family | Joint family | Total (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1-2 | 24 (9.53%) | – | 24 (6.3%) |
| 3-4 | 120 (47.6%) | 4 (3.13%) | 124 (32.64%) |
| 5-6 | 89 (35.3%) | 47 (36.71%) | 136 (35.79%) |
| 7-8 | 15 (5.96%) | 38 (29.68%) | 53 (13.95%) |
| 9-10 | 4 (1.58%) | 18 (14.07%) | 22 (5.78%) |
| 11-12 | – | 11 (8.59%) | 11 (2.99%) |
| 13-14 | – | 7 (5.46%) | 7 (1.85%) |
| 15 and above | – | 3 (2.34%) | 3 (0.7%) |
| **Total** | **256 (100) (66.32%)** | **128 (100) (33.68%)** | **380 (100)** |

The table shows that the size of family is constituted into the members numbering 01 to 15. The Nuclear family is comprises the sizes of 1-10 members the joint family those of 3-15 members and above. 94.47% families

constitute a size of 1-10 members and the remaining that of 11-15 members and above. Of the nuclear families 9.53% are formed of 01-02, 47.6% of 03-04, 35.3% of 05-06, 5.96% of 07-08, 1.58% of 09-10 members. On the other hand, of the joint families 3.13% families are formed of 03-04, 36.71% of 05-06, 29.68% of 07-08, 14.07% of 09-10, 8.59% of 11-12, 5.46% of 13-14, and 2.34% of 15 and more members. Therefore, the size of 03-06 members constitutes 68.43% of the total number of families and 82.9% of the nuclear families in the village. On the other hand, the size of the 05-08 members consists of 66.39% of the joint families. Moreover, 38.67% of the total number of families, 56.13% of the nuclear families and 3.13% of the joint families constitute the families as defined by the norm of *small family*; i.e., a family of up-to four members (parents and not more than two children). Also, it indicates that there is a positive co-relationship between the nuclear type and the small size of family and, on the other hand, a negative correlationship between the joint family and the small family.

**Marriage**

A family is a culmination of certain marital relationship(s) and, therefore, the institution of marriage has the essential role in social organization. Besides, the statuses of members attained through marriage not only differentiate them but also determine the nature of their functionality in a society.

The villagers are first differentiated into the married and the unmarried types and then, the latter into the married, the widower, the widows and the divorcee. The following table 3.8. sheds light on the marital status of the villagers.

**Marital Status**

**3.8 : Distribution of the Villagers into the Types of Marital Status by Sex**

| Marital Status | Sex | | Total (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | |
| **Unmarried** | 572 (56.52%) | 448 (49.34%) | 1020 (53.13%) |
| **Married** | 398 (39.32%) | 398 (43.83%) | 796 (41.46%) |
| **Widow** | – | 60 (6.60%) | 60 (3.12%) |
| **Widower** | 42 (4.16%) | – | 42 (2.19%) |
| **Divorcee** | – | 2 (0.23%) | 2 (0.10%) |
| **Total** | **1012 (100)** | **908 (100)** | **1920 (100)** |

The table shows that the villagers are divided into five marital types; namely, the unmarried, the married, the widow, the widower and the divorcee. Less than half of the villagers (46.87%) constitute the married (41.46%), the widower (3.12%), the widow (2.19%) and the divorcee (0.10%). And the rest of them (53.13%) are the unmarried including children. The widow or divorce in the Bengali, the Manipuri and the Hindustani groups are generally not permitted to remarry, and the divorcee women return to their parental houses. The cases of the widow and the widower are found mostly among the villagers of the low educational level and the Schedule Castes due to disease-related and other deaths. All the widowers in the village are found in the age bracket of 45-80 years. A widower generally of the age up to 40 years may remarry if he is facing the problem of rearing children from his diceased wife. Similarly, all the widows are in the age-group of above 45

years and have two or three children, whereas in some cases father-in-law is also alive.

**Unmarried Population**

Distribution of the Unmarried Population in a society or community reflects indirectly the patterns of their engagement in human development, family formation and marital occurrences. Less population in the age category below 21 years in general and in the case of males and of below 18 years in that of females clearly indicates their occupance with education or otherwise, tendency for small nuclear family and occurrence of adult marriages, whereas more population in that category indicates contrary to it. The table 3.9. reveals the distribution of unmarried villagers in Narsingpur.

## 3.9 : Distribution of Unmarried Villagers into the Age Categories by their Caste categories and Sex

| Age Group | General Castes | | | Other Backward Castes | | | Schedule Castes | | | Schedule Tribe | | | Grand Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 0-5 | 17 (14.40) | 30 (22.72) | 47 (18.8) | 80 (19.90) | 71 (23.82) | 151 (21.57) | 9 (17.64) | 6 (40.10) | 15 (22.72) | 1 (50) | 1 (50) | 2 (50) | 107 (18.70) | 108 (24.10) | 215 (21.07) |
| 6-10 | 31 (26.28) | 16 (12.13) | 47 (18.8) | 58 (14.42) | 60 (20.13) | 118 (16.85) | 8 (15.68) | 2 (13.33) | 10 (15.16) | – | – | 0 | 97 (16.97) | 78 (17.41) | 175 (17.15) |
| 11-15 | 9 (7.62) | 21 (15.90) | 30 (12.00) | 46 (11.44) | 48 (16.10) | 94 (13.42) | 7 (13.72) | 2 (13.34) | 9 (13.63) | 1 (50) | – | 1 (25.0) | 63 (11.02) | 71 (15.84) | 134 (13.14) |
| 16-20 | 21 (17.79) | 19 (14.39) | 40 (16.0) | 72 (17.9) | 53 (17.73) | 125 (17.86) | 7 (13.72) | 1 (6.66) | 80 (72.72) | – | 1 (50.0) | 1 (25.0) | 100 (17.49) | 74 (16.51) | 174 (17.06) |
| 21-25 | 13 (11.01) | 26 (19.69) | 39 (15.67) | 42 (10.45) | 32 (10.73) | 74 (10.57) | 9 (17.64) | 2 (13.34) | 11 (16.67) | – | – | 0 | 64 (11.19) | 60 (13.39) | 124 (12.16) |
| 26-30 | 10 (8.47) | 11 (8.34) | 21 (8.4) | 35 (8.70) | 19 (6.37) | 54 (7.71) | 6 (11.76) | 1 (6.66) | 7 (10.60) | – | – | 0 | 51 (8.92) | 31 (6.92) | 82 (8.04) |
| 31-35 | 7 (5.93) | 7 (5.30) | 14 (5.6) | 30 (7.46) | 11 (3.70) | 41 (5.85) | 3 (5.88) | – | 3 (4.54) | – | – | 0 | 40 (6.66) | 18 (4.01) | 58 (5.69) |
| 36-40 | 5 (4.23) | 1 (0.75) | 6 (2.4) | 23 (5.72) | 2 (0.68) | 25 (3.57) | 1 (1.96) | 1 (6.66) | 2 (3.03) | – | – | 0 | 29 (5.07) | 4 (0.99) | 33 (3.24) |
| 41-45 | 2 (1.69) | 1 (0.75) | 3 (1.2) | 11 (2.73) | 1 (0.34) | 12 (1.71) | 1 (1.96) | – | 1 (1.51) | – | – | 0 | 14 (2.45) | 2 (0.44) | 16 (1.57) |
| 46-50 | 3 (2.54) | – | 3 (1.2) | 4 (0.99) | 1 (0.34) | 5 (0.71) | – | – | 0 | – | – | 0 | 7 (1.23) | 1 (0.22) | 8 (0.79) |
| 50 and above | – | – | 0 | 1 (0.24) | – | 1 (0.14) | – | – | 0 | – | – | 0 | 1 (0.18) | 0 | 1 (0.09) |
| Total | 118 (100) | 132 (100) | 250 (100) | 402 (100) | 298 (100) | 700 (100) | 51 (100) | 15 (100) | 66 (100) | 2 (100) | 2 (100) | 4 (100) | 572 (100) | 448 (100) | 1020 (100) |

The table shows that 68.42% of the unmarried villagers are in the age bracket of 0-20 years and the remaining 31.58% in that of 21-50 years and above. If the table for the age-at-marriage of the villagers is looked at, one finds that practically the marriageable age among the villagers starts from the age of 21 years onwards. More than half (74.11%) the unmarried female villagers (including female children) belong to the age group upto 20 years, while 13.39% to the age group of 21-25 years, 6.92% to 26-30 years, 4.01% to 31-35 years, 0.99% to 36-40 years, 0.44% to 41-45 and 0.22% to 46-50 years. On the other hand, 64.16% of the unmarried male villagers (including male children) belong to the age group of upto 20 years, 11.19% to 21-25 years, 8.92% to 26-30 years, 6.99% to 31-35 years, 5.07% to 36-40 years, 2.45% to 41-45 years, 1.23% to 46-50 years and 0.18% to 50 years and above.

Of the General Castes, 65.6% unmarried villagers belong to the age group of upto 0-20 years and the remaining 34.4% to 21-50 years. Of their unmarried males 66.10% belong to the age groups of 0-20 years, while 11.01% to 21-25 years, 8.47% to 26-30 years, 5.93% to 31-35, 4.23% to 36-40 years, 1.69% to 41-45 years and 2.54% to 46-50 years. Of the unmarried females 65.15% belong to the age group of 0-20 years, while 19.69% to 21-25 years, 8.34% to 26-30 years, 5.30% to 31-35 years and 0.75% each to 36-40 and 41-45 years. Of the Other Backward Castes, 69.72% of the unmarried villagers belong to the age group of 0-20 years and the remaining 30.28% to 21-50 years and above. Within this caste, 63.68% unmarried male villagers belong to the age group of 0-20 years, while 10.45% to 21-25 years, 8.70% to 26-30 years, 7.46% to 31-35 years, 5.72% to 36-40 years, 2.73% to 41-45 years, 0.99% to 46-50 years and 0.24% 50 years and above. Similarly, 77.85% unmarried females belong to the age group of 0-20 years, while,

10.73% belong to 21-25 years, 6.37% to 26-30 years, 3.70% to 31-35 years, 0.68% to 36-40 years and 0.34% each to 41-45 and 46-50 years. Of the Scheduled Castes, 63.64% of the unmarried villagers belong to the age group of 0-20 years and the remaining 36.36% to 21-45years. Within this caste, 60.78% unmarried male villagers belong to the age group of 0-20 years, while, 17.64% to21-25 years, 11.76% to 26-30 years, 5.88% to 31-35 years, 1.96% each to 36-40 and 41-45 years. Similarly, 73.33% unmarried females belong to the age group of 0-20 years, while 13.34% to 21-25 years, 6.66% to 26-30 years, and 6.66% to 36 to 40 years. Of the Schedule Tribe, all belong to the age group of 0-20 years.

**Age at Marriage**

The age-at-marriage of a person reflects the level of development, gender attitudes, culture, health, and significance accorded to the institution of marriage itself in a given society. In the societies or communities with various socio-cultural and economic structures, one finds the fact of age at marriage and processes of change varying significantly. Age at marriage of the villagers in Narsingpur is shown in the table -3.10.

## 3.10 : Distribution of Married Villagers into the Age-at-Marriage by the Caste Categories and Sex

| Age-Group | Other Backward Castes | | | General Castes | | | Scheduled Castes | | | Scheduled Tribe | | | Grand Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 12-14 | – | 3 (0.29) | 3 (0.43) | – | 2 (2.15) | 2 (1.17) | – | – | – | – | – | 0 | – | 5 (1.09%) | 5 (0.56%) |
| 15-17 | – | 9 (2.59) | 9 (1.30) | 1 (1.29) | 4 (4.30) | 5 (2.94) | 1 (5.56) | 3 (17.64) | 4 (11.42) | – | – | 0 | 2 (0.45%) | 16 (3.49%) | 18 (2.00%) |
| 18-20 | 11 (3.20) | 44 (12.68) | 55 (7.96) | 2 (2.60) | 16 (17.20) | 18 (10.58) | 2 (11.12) | 4 (23.52) | 6 (17.14) | – | – | 0 | 15 (3.41%) | 64 (13.98%) | 79 (8.79) |
| 21-23 | 24 (6.97) | 106 (30.54) | 130 (18.81) | 5 (6.49 | 24 (25.00) | 29 (170.6) | 4 (22.22) | 8 (47.05) | 12 (34.28) | – | 1 (100) | 1 (100) | 33 (7.5%) | 139 (30.34%) | 172 (19.16%) |
| 24-26 | 43 (12.5) | 83 (23.91) | 126 (18.23) | 11 (14.28) | 26 (27.95) | 37 (21.76) | 3 (16.66) | 1 (5.88) | 4 (11.42) | – | – | 0 | 57 (12.95%) | 110 (24.02%) | 167 (18.60%) |
| 27-29 | 90 (26.16) | 54 (15.56) | 144 (20.83) | 19 (24.67) | 12 (12.91) | 31 (18.23) | 6 (33.33) | – | 6 (17.14) | 1 (100) | – | 1 (100) | 116 (26.36%) | 66 (14.42%) | 182 (20.27%) |
| 30-32 | 82 (23.83) | 19 (5.47) | 101 (14.61) | 18 (23.37) | 4 (6.30) | 22 (12.94) | 1 (5.56) | 1 (5.88) | 2 (5.71) | – | – | 0 | 101 (22.96%) | 24 (5.24%) | 125 (13.92%) |
| 33-35 | 45 (13.08) | 14 (4.04) | 59 (8.53) | 10 (12.98) | 3 (3.22) | 13 (7.64) | 1 (5.56) | – | 1 (2.85) | – | – | 0 | 56 (12.72%) | 17 (3.71%) | 73 (8.13%) |
| 36-38 | 30 (8.73) | 11 (3.17) | 41 (5.93) | 5 (6.49) | 1 (1.07) | 6 (3.52) | – | – | 0 | – | – | 0 | 35 (7.96%) | 12 (2.63%) | 47 (5.23%) |
| 39-41 | 12 (3.48) | 4 (1.15) | 16 (2.31) | 4 (5.19) | 1 (1.07) | 5 (2.94) | – | – | 0 | – | – | 0 | 16 (3.64%) | 5 (1.09%) | 21 (2.34%) |
| 42-44 | 7 (2.03) | – | 7 (1.02) | 2 (2.59) | – | 2 (1.17) | – | – | 0 | – | – | 0 | 9 (2.05%) | – | 9 (1.00%) |
| Total | 344 (100) | 347 (100) | 691 (100) | 77 (100) | 93 (100) | 170 (100) | 18 (100) | 17 (100) | 35 (100) | 1 (100) | 1 (100) | 2 (100) | 440 (100) | 458 (100) | 898 (100) |

The table reveals that 11.35% of the married villagers are in the age bracket of 12-20 years and the remaining (88.65%) in that of 21-44 years. Of them 4.58% of the females got married in the age bracket of 12-17 years. Further, of them 1.09% got married in the age group of 12-14 years, 3.49% in 15-17 years and 13.98% in 18-20 years. On the other, hand of the males 3.86% got married in the age bracket of 15-20 years, 0.45% in 15-17 years and 3.14% in 18-20 years. Thus, the minimum marriageable age for the females and the males is 12 and 15 years respectively. The range of age is 30 years in the case of both the sexes, i.e. the females (12-41 years) and the males (15-44 years). Of the remaining (88.65%) most of the total villagers (60.92%) got married in the age between 25-35 years; the females (82.76%) in the age between 18-29 years and the males (74.99%) in the age between 24-35 years. 30.34% of the females got married in the age group of 21-23 years, 24.02% in 24-26 years, 14.42% in 27-29 years, 5.24% in 30-32 years, 3.71% in 33-35 years, 2.63% in 36-38 years and 1.09% in 39-41 years. On the other hand, 7.5% of the males got married in the age group of 21-23 years, 12.95% in 24-26 years, 26.36% in 27-29 years, 22.96% in 30-32 years, 12.72% in 33-35 years, 7.96% in 36-38 years, 3.64% in 39-41 years and 2.05% in 42-44 years.

Of the Other Backward Castes 9.70% of the total married members are in the age bracket of 12-20 years and 3.20% males are in 18-20 years, while 2.88% female are in 12-17 years. 0.29% of the females got married in the age group of 12-14 years, 2.59% in 15-17 years and 12.68% in 18-20 years. On the other hand, 3.20% of the males got married in the age group of 18-20 years. The range of age in the case of female is 12-41 years i.e. 30 years and of the male is 18-44 years i.e. 27 years. In this case minimum marriageable

age for the females is 12 years and for the males is 18 years respectively. Of the remaining 30.54% of females got married in the age group of 21-23 years, 23.91% in 24-26 years, 15.56% in 27-29 years, 5.47% in 30-32 years, 4.04% in 33-35 years, 3.17% in 36-38 years, and 1.15% in 39-41 years. On the other hand6.97% of males got married in the age group of 21-23 years 12.5% in 24-26 years, 26.16% in 27-29 years, 23.83% in 30-32 years, 13.08% in 33-35 years, 8.73% in 36-38 years, 3.48% in 39-41 years and 2.035 in 42-44 years, It shows that most of the females (82.69%) got married in the age group of 18-29 years and the males (75.57%) in 24-35 years.

Of the General Castes, 14.70% of the total married villagers and 3.89% of the males got married in the age group of 17-20 years 6.45% of the females got married in age group of 12-17 years while 2.15% got married in the age group of 12-14 years, 4.30% in 15-17 years and 17.20% in 18-20 years Of the males 1.29% got married in the age group of 15-17 years and 2.29% in 18-20 years. The remaining 25.80% of females got married in the age group of 21-23 years, 27.95% in 24-26 years, 12.91% in 27-29 years, 4.30% in 30-32 years, 3.22% in 33-35 years and 1.07% each in 36-38 and 39-41 years. On the other hand, 6.49% of the males got married in the age group of 21-23 years, 14.28% in 24-26 years, 24.67% in 27-29 years, 23.37% in 30-32 years, 12.98% in 33-35 years, 6.49% in 36-38, 5.19% in 39-41 years and 2.59% in 42-44 years. It shows that the most of the females (88.86%) got married in the age bracket of 18-29 years and the males (76.30%) in that of 24-35 years.

Of the Schedule castes, 28.57% of the married members and 14.68% of the married males in the age bracket of 15-20 years, where as 17.64% of the females are in that of 15-17 years. Of the females 23.52% got married in the age group of 18-20 years. On the other hand, 5.56% of the males got married

in 15-17 years and 11.12% in 18-20 years. The range of age in the case of females is 15-32 years, i.e. 18 years and in case of the males is 15-35 years, i.e. 21 years. The remaining 47.05% of females got married in the age group of 21-23 years and 5.88% each in 24-26 and 30-32 years. On the other hand 22.22% of the males in 21-23 years, 16.66% in 24-26 years, 33.33% in 27-29 years and 5.56% each in 30-32 and 33-35 years. It shows that most of the males (83.33%) got married in the age bracket of 18-29 years and and the females (88.21%) in 15-23 years. The phenomena of child-marriage (below 18 years) and small age-bracket clearly indicate the low status of women in the caste group. Of the Schedule Tribe (Barman), the female got married in the age group of 21-23 years and the male in 27-29 years.

In sum, the village displaysed structural continuity and change of the village. The Bengali and the Manipuri, both, are the oldest groups living in the village. The Hindustani and the Barman came to stay in the village in wake of the colonial tea plantation legacy and the Government Services in contemporary times respectively. The phenomenon of caste is found distributed across all the groups except the Barman (ST) and that of gotra across all the groups including the Barman. Thus, a process of structural multiplication has been taking place for the last 100 to 200 years. But more significant is inter-structural relationship. The segmental structures in the earlier times have tied together into a village community in the contemporary times. They have come to share some of the patterns of gotra, sex, family and marriage in the village.

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