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Socio-economic Profile of Women Prisoners

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF WOMEN PRISONERS



REPORT ON A MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

**Submitted to
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**

**By
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(2005- 2007)



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
P.S.G.R. KRISHNAMMAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(Accredited with Five Star status by NAAC)
(Autonomous and Affiliated to Bharathiar University)
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PREFACE

In recent times, the number of criminal offences committed by females has increased at a much higher rate than the number of crimes committed by males. In India it is estimated that the female crime rate has increased by 362.53 per cent for a period from 1971 to 1990. Socially the crimes committed by females are considered to be more serious when compared with the male criminality because of the role played by a woman as mother, wife, caretaker and more to say a central figure in the family. The various dimensions of women and crime has recently been developed into a broad field of research in the areas of Social Work, Sociology, Criminology and Women Studies. Starting from Otto Pollak (1950), Smith (1962), Sharma (1965), Ahuja (1969), Elliott and Voss (1974), Elizabeth Winshuttle (1981), Nagla (1982), Rani (1983), Khosh (1986) Joseph (1992),

Saxena (1994) etc., are notable researchers who immensely contributed to the knowledge of women and crime. For the past two decades the topic of women and crime has began to attract much attention because of renewed interest in Women and Economic Development.

Research and experience have indicated that women in comparison to men are no different in terms of their personality, achievement, motivation, dependency and other related attitudes. Therefore there is a vast potential remaining untapped, which could be fully handled and guided to join the main stream of economic development. They have proved themselves successful in all fields in which they have been given an opportunity. The concern to develop women resulted from the fact that they represent 50 per cent of the world population, but receive only 10 per cent of the world's income and own less than 1 per cent of the assets. In this juncture a micro level study on socio-economic status of women prisoners was planned to suggest various strategies for their rehabilitation.

With this intention a proposal has been sent to the University Grants Commission (UGC) South-Eastern Regional Office, Hyderabad. The Commission promptly accepted the proposal and sanctioned the financial assistance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely thank the UGC (SERO) for promptly accepting the proposal and sanctioning the financial assistance.

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I thank **Mr. Karhan Sinha,** Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore District, **Mr. S. Rajendran,** Superintendent of Prison, District Central Prison, Coimbatore, for their help and support in collecting the data and completing the project.

I have to thank all the respondents for their excellent co-operation. Apart from the women respondents who came under our sample, a large number of key informants also have to be thanked for their enthusiastic response.

I thank all the staff members of the department for their timely help in preparing the final report. I specially thank **Mrs. K. Deeppa, Dr.K.Sumathi, Mrs. Sumathi Ramu and Mrs. L. Lakshmi,** for extending technical support.

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INTRODUCTION

Service cell by Educational institution



“Hate the sin not the sinner.” The saying of honourable Bapu should gain reality in the development process of India with human face.

India will be raised with the power of the spirit and the flag of peace and love. Our country has a very great culture and heritage and believes in the importance of raising the divinity in each soul which will enable us to bear hunger and thirst, heat and cold.

In India the institutions are really better in their aims and objectives than the institutions of other countries. In Swami Vivekananda's words, Indian culture teaches us to believe the following:

- ◆ Each soul is potentially divine.
- ◆ The goal is to manifest the divine within by controlling nature, external and internal.
- ◆ Do this either by work or worship or psychic control or philosophy – by one or more, or all of these and be free. This is the whole of religion. Doctrines or dogmas, or rituals or books, or temples or forms, are but secondary details.

Our Indian women are considered to be holier than men and purer; but recently the crime rate by women has gone up and the number of women prisoners keep increasing. There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing. Hence the researcher has conducted a study on the socio-economic profile of the women prisoners to find the root cause for the women to turn into criminals.

Need of the study

Traditionally, the Indian woman has been the foundation stone of the family and society in general. She creates life, nurtures it, guards and strengthens it. In her task, as mother, she plays a vital role in the development of the nation. She is, as wife and mother, committed to serving the family, but she is also its center, for it is through her that the family is perpetuated and in this lies the pride of her status in society at large. She is the transmitter of tradition, the instrument by which Indian

culture is preserved. If the foundation is not solid or carefully maintained by those responsible for her protection, not merely the family but the society itself is bound to crack and dismember. Modernization, industrialization and urbanization have been invoked to account for the upsurge of female delinquency because they correlate closely with each other. As urbanization increases traditional roles decrease with increased mobility, people loose stability and continuous personal relationships are disrupted.

There is a definite need for more in-depth and intensive study on female criminality to acquire greater insight into the problem. For the past two decades the topic of women and crime has begun to draw much attention because of the recent interest in women and their development.

There is a great need to study women in crime because the place and role of women in the Indian society has undergone considerable changes during the last two decades leading to a greater participation in the criminal activities by them. Since the research on women criminals is fragmentary in nature, scope and coverage, and is still in initial stages, the present study examines and explains women prisoners status in the socio-economic context.

Crime has become a major area of public policy and political debate, and to politicians and public commentators it is often seen as a sign of underlying problems in society. Governments, academic researchers and other commentators ask many questions about crime. Why do women commit crime? What is their socio-economic status? How should offenders be dealt with? How can the

rehabilitation process motivate the prisoners to lead a better life with values? These issues all arouse considerable discussion and debate. Enormous amount of information has been produced in the attempt to study the socio-economic profile of women prisoners.

In India, only a few studies worth their name have been conducted on prison life of women criminals in relation to their socio-economic background and prison life and as to how far the socio-cultural background influences a person to commit crime.

Objectives of the study

- i) To analyse the socio-economic background of the women prisoners.
- ii) To understand the nature and extent of crime.
- iii) To find out the suitable strategies for the rehabilitation of women offenders.

Importance of the study

- This study will help the social reformers to find the reasons for women to commit crimes and help them to devise remedial measures.
- This will also help the government officials and policy makers to draft new schemes for the upliftment of the women prisoners and the needy sector.

Methodology

During the first year of the project that is, April 2005-March 2006 an interview schedule (annexure I) was prepared and a pre-test was conducted with 10 respondents who accepted willingly.

During the second year information was collected from 88 respondents during September 2006 to December 2006. There were 148 women prisoners during September 2006 to December 2006 who were imprisoned for various crimes like murder, attempt to murder, theft, smuggling, prostitution etc. But only 88 prisoners co-operated with the researcher. The responses of 10 pre-test schedule was combined with 88 responses in the final analysis. The interview schedules were administered among the prisoners of Coimbatore District jail with prior permission obtained from the officials.

It was ensured that the response given in the interview schedule has been voluntary and with a purpose to know the real outcome of the analysis.

Sources of Data

The study consists of primary and secondary source of data. Primary data was collected by a structured Interview Schedule from women prisoners. It consist of personal profile, socio – economic background, causes and nature of crime, attitudes and expectations of the respondents and their future plan after release.

There were personal observations, interviews and group discussion. Through observation method various kinds of information were collected while being present in the prison. A number of hours spent in the prison enabled the researcher to understand the various functions of the prison. During the course of the interview close observation was possible to gather information regarding the behaviour of the inmates, their inter-personal relationships with the staff and inmates, etc. During the administration of the interview schedule the researcher opted more for an informal rather than a formal interview. It was more or less like a discussion rather than questioning them. Focussed group discussion technique to understand the attitude of prisoners (annexure II) was also very much helpful to establish a rapport with the respondents which made the purpose much easier to achieve.

The respondents participated very well in the discussion and revealed information freely without any hesitation.

Personal observation, discussion with the prison personnel and police officials and criminal records in the prison also form the part of data collection.

The secondary data was collected from various books and journals in academic institution libraries including Madras University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Bharathiar University, Home Science University, P.S.G. Arts and Science College, Bishop Appasamy College and from official sources like Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore, Central Prison, Coimbatore.

Nature of the Study

The present research is exploratory as the social economic and other factors are investigated in order to know the profile of the Women prisoners and to give suggestions for their rehabilitation.

Statistical Tools

The simple statistical tools* namely, mean, standard deviation, Chi-square analysis was adopted for the non-parametric test to perform the test of independence and goodness of fit. Tables and charts have been used to present the results wherever necessary.

- $\text{Mean} = \bar{X} = \frac{\sum X}{N}$

Where \bar{X} = arithmetic mean

Σ = sum of all the values of the variables X

N= number of observations

- $\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{N}$

Where O refers to the observed frequencies and E refers to the expected frequencies.

Operational Definitions

Crime – Crime is any act or behaviour by a person which violates the norms of society. It may be a theft, a robbery, a murder, sexual abuse or kidnapping.

Women Criminals – A woman who has been found guilty of criminal behaviour convicted under Indian Penal Codes and sentenced to imprisonment. The undertrial prisoners were also considered as prisoners for the purpose of the study.

Convicts - Convicts are those who are legally identified as criminals and undergoing punishment during the study period in the prison of Coimbatore.

Undertrials - Undertrials are those who are housed in prisons and for them the trial is pending before the court of law.

Remandant – A person who has been arrested under suspicion will be produced before a Magistrate within 24 hours and then kept in the jail for 15 days before the trial.

Chapterization

The present study has been categorized into five chapters.

The first chapter deals with Introduction and Methodology. In the Introductory part, the scope and importance of the study and objectives of the study are dealt with. The Methodology consists of research design, universe, tools of data collection, techniques of data collection,

In the second chapter the review of literature pertaining to women criminals are discussed.

In the third chapter the increasing number of women criminals in prisons and a description about Coimbatore District Central Prison was given.

The fourth chapter deals with data analysis and interpretation.

Findings, summary, conclusion and suggestions made are presented in the fifth chapter.

Limitations of the study

The study attempts to find out the socio-economic background of the females who have been imprisoned in Coimbatore District Central Prison during the course of the study. The convicts and under-trials and the remanded were considered as respondents in the present study. This is purely a socio-economic approach to understand the problem of female crime in the society in economic perspective. At geographical level the study is confined to Coimbatore District Prison.

ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN PRISONERS – A REVIEW

The various dimensions of women and crime has recently been developed into a broad field of research in the areas of Social Work, Sociology, Criminology and Women Studies. Starting from Otto Pollak (1950), Smith (1962), Sharma (1965), Ahuja (1969), Elliott and Voss (1974), Elizabeth Windshuttle (1981), Nagla (1982), Rani (1983), Khosh (1986) Joseph (1992), Saxena (1994), etc. are notable researchers who could contribute to the knowledge of women and crime. For the

past two decades the topic of women and crime has begun to attract much attention because of new interest in Women and Economic Development.

However, there has been a small group of writings specifically concerned with women and crime in India in the past, which reveals the causes for crime whereas the present study focuses on the socio-economic profile of women prisoners and suggests suitable strategies for their rehabilitation.

1. Elliott and Voss (1974) found out from their researches that troubled parent-child relationships are more often reflected in female than in male delinquency, but that school factors are more directly linked than parental rejection to adolescent law violation.

2. Elizabeth Windschuttle (1981) found that women who live in restrictive, more anonymous urban environments, who are more independent of the male protectors but more dependent on the labour market and thus more subject to the vagaries of the industrial economy, are more likely to turn to crime. According to her finding, women's crime was greater in the urban areas than rural areas. Women's crime also accounted for a much higher proportion of the total crime in the city than in the countryside.

3. Sohoni (1989) from her sample of 120 women criminals found that 60 per cent of the sample came from the age group of 22 to 41 years, while those below 22 years and above 41 years accounted for 20 per cent each; 93.33 per cent were

married and the sample include more persons of depressed or backward caste. The association of crime with urban living was also found.

4. Nagla (1991) revealed that 60 per cent female offenders belong to the age-group of 30 to 50 years. The study showed that a large number of female offenders are young and adult at the time of committing crimes, which means that the interpersonal relations in the family after marriage create adjustment problems for women and sometimes force them to indulge in deviant behaviour.

5. Mathews (1992) found that a tempting situation, compulsion or persuasion by others, etc., are also significant to the problem of female offences. In the study conducted in Kerala it was found that the majority of the women criminals were married. But among the women caught for immoral activities, as high as 60.71 per cent were living as separated, 55 per cent were deserted women among the offenders, who have to suffer the malady of quarrels among parents.

6. Saxena (1994) found that women offenders had stressful relations with their husbands. Their marital life had undergone severe conflicting situations involving oppression, cruelty, rejection and humiliation. Husband's adultery, his illicit affairs with other women, immoral behaviour of husbands contributed significantly in motivating married women to resort to crimes of murderous violence. The majority of the women offenders convicted for homicidal activities, were poorly adjusted to the family settings.

7. Pachauri S.K.(1999) found that training and treatment of women prisoners is often badly neglected. For properly appreciating the problems of women prisoners, the fact has to be borne in mind that women prisoners have an entirely different criminal profile to male prisoners and a women's social reality is substantially different from that of men. This difference should be reflected in their treatment in the criminal justice system, and particularly in their treatment in prisons.

8. Dr. Saraswathi Mishra (2002) made a study on problems of female prisoners. She opined that through police and jail reforms, socially handicapped females, who get uprooted from their social environment for 14 years or so, can be made normal citizens of society to some extent at least and consequently the chances of their committing crime again become very bleak.

9. Mridula Maniyar (2004) made an attempt to understand the life-style of women criminals and suggested therapeutic approaches which would be useful for their rehabilitative programmes for the female offenders.

10. Thomas William A and Christopher A.J., (2004) extensively analysed on criminality of women in sociological and social work perspective. Their work also probes into the prison system, facilities available and especially how effective is the prison life in correcting the fallen women.

11. Pandey Awdesh SP Singh K.R. (2006) opined that imprisonment of mother with dependent young child is a problematic issue. The study purports to review

the status of women prisoners and their young children living with them and suggesting policy measures for their development.

12. Bawa S.K. (2007) explores the reasons for which women are compelled to commit heinous crimes. It endeavors to study the women convicts of Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

Journals

13. Misra and Gautam (1982) revealed that the female criminality increased as the level of education decreased and vice versa. Thus it may be said that women criminals are generally younger in age, married, illiterate and also come from low economic classes. This reflects women's nature (adjustment), need (economic and social condition) and situation (environmental) for the explanation of crime and criminality.

14. Suman Jain (1995) opined that segregation in prison leads to degeneration of human values. Prisoners acquire a jail mentality which can be broken down by regular visits by the family or by regular contact through letters.

15. Ramalaxmi G (1995) has analysed the recent trends in female criminality. She points out that the female criminality has increased after 1960.

16. Dr. Satya Sundaram I (2004) found that in spite of several legislation and committees, the condition of Indian jails is deplorable. Women prisoners have to

suffer several indignities on account of their gender. Political will is the prime instrument that can transform our institutions of correction.

17. Manju Dahiya and Chander Bhan (2004) made a sociological study. The study revealed that 68.80 per cent of women offenders were involved in murder. The study disclosed that the largest section had no gainful occupation in terms of money as they were involved in household work which has not been ascribed any status in our society.

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Journals

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Counselling centre



WOMEN IN PRISONS

In India 1.7 per cent female criminality was reported in 1971, which increased to 2.2 per cent in 1981 and 3.4 per cent in 1991. A further increase of 5.4 per cent was reported in 2002 (details on Women Prisoners in different Jails as on June, 1997 is given in annexure III and the details on women involvement in crime in Coimbatore city is given in annexure IV). Its alarming figure in the recent past has attracted the attention of our social and political system which has to find the direction and plan in a determined manner to check its faster growth in the light of economic development with human face.

Central Prison in Coimbatore

The Central Prison, Coimbatore, was established during the year 1872. This prison, during the freedom struggle had illustrious freedom fighters like V.O. Chidambaram and Periyar E.V. Ramasamy.



Periyar EVR

Thiru.V. O. Chidambaram was confined in this prison from 9.7.1908 to 1.12.1910. A memorial was constructed in respect of this leader in front of this prison.



V. O. C. while in Central Prison, Coimbatore



A popular picture of VOC

Area of the prison

Originally it had around 201.76 acres of land including the built up area. Lands for Government institutions, broadening of road etc., took away nearly 34 acres of the land and now the prison has 167.76 acres. The main prison consists of 60 acres built up area, 24 acres of gardens and rest are parade ground, play ground, staff quarters and open area.

Security arrangements

This Central prison is classified as High Security Prison and fundamentalists and dangerous prisoners and prisoners concerned with serial bomb blast case of Coimbatore are lodged here. So security is given top priority. The Central Reserve Police Force is guarding the outer periphery round the clock. The security is strengthened with the help of live wire fencing on the compound wall and modern equipments like Colour Circuit Television system, Multizone Door Frame Metal detector and X ray scanner are installed for the surveillance of the prisoners. All

the prisoners' records are completely computerized and provide easy access for information regarding prisoners.

Staff pattern

This prison is headed by the Superintendent of Prisons assisted by two additional superintendents of Prison (one for Administration and the other for work relating to High Security) and Jailor in the Executive side (details are shown in annexure IV) and personal Assistant and Office Manager in the Ministerial side with supporting staff. There is a post Factory Manager assisted by Masters and other Technical Staff on the manufacturing side.

Accommodation

The authorized accommodation of this prison is 2208 (male 2124 + female 84). However, this prison has to cater for the convicted and undertrial prisoners whenever the sub-jails are over crowded in the 3 districts of Coimbatore, The Nilgiris and Erode. The average accommodation is normally more than 2500. The convicted prisoners are classified as follows:

- a. Prisoners sentenced to death
- b. Lifers
- c. Long Termers
- d. Short termers

The convicted prisoners are classified as A & B class. For remand, it is special and ordinary class. There are persons detained under the TPDA (Tamilnadu

Prohibition and Detention Act), NSA (National Security Act) and POTA (Prohibition of Terrorists Act).

Diet

Improved diet scheme was introduced in all the central prisons in Tamil Nadu state with effect from 1.10.1982. Special diet with sweet is issued on the occasion of independence and Pongal Day. 115 grams of chicken for non-vegetarian prisoner and rava kesari and one plantain is being issued once in a week with effect from 10.12.2006 as per Government Order No.1139, Home Department. Other than this Voluntary organizations and Philanthropists are permitted to issue sweets and meals on festival occasions. In the women prison children are provided with chicken on alternative days. For vegetarians kesari sweet and banana are given on Sundays.

Clothing

Convicted prisoners are given prison clothing as per the scale prescribed in the Tamilnadu Prison Manual Volume II. Remand and under trial prisoners are provided with minimum bedding and they are permitted to remain in their own clothing and when unable to provide themselves with sufficient clothing, clothing other than convict dress is provided to them at Government cost as per rules.

Water supply

Protected water supply arrangements have been provided for drinking purposes. At times of emergency water supply is obtained through corporation lorry. For gardening, factory and bathing purposes, water from the bore wells are used.

Industrial units

The factory section of this prison is the biggest in the Prison department of Tamilnadu state. This department has been classified as “Service Department”. All the supplies are made available on free of cost to the government department. The object of running the industries here is only with a view to engage the convicted prisoners during their term of imprisonment inside the prison and at the same time to train them in one of the trades which will be useful for them to settle and rehabilitate themselves outside after their release. The industrial units functioning here are Handloom section, Weaving, Tailoring, Book binding, Painting and Spinning.

Stitching Jute bags



Weaving, one of the major units of this prison has the capacity of 101 power looms. Sixty five numbers of Terry cotton looms and 36 numbers of cotton looms are functioning in the weaving section. The product range of this weaving unit is convict clothing, bandage, guaze, and terry cotton etc. The entire requirements of terry cotton cloth meant for the uniforms of the Tamil Nadu Police, Prison and Fire Service departments are produced here. Also the entire clothing and bedding requirements of prison department for the prisoners are met by this prison.

Medical and sanitary facilities

There is a full fledged hospital with 2 full time Assistant Surgeons, one Staff Nurse, two Pharmacists and three male Nursing Assistants. The bed strength of the hospital is 90. The Senior Civil Surgeon of the Coimbatore Medical College (CMC) Hospital is the Medical Officer of this Prison Hospital. One Assistant surgeon (Sidha) visits this prison once a week to give treatment to prisoners in Sidha. One Psychiatrist from the CMC Hospital visits this prison once a week. The Dentist attached to the CMC Hospital visits this prison twice a week. There is a clinical laboratory attached to the prison hospital. A Lab Technician from the CMC Hospital serves this prison once a week. There is a portable X-Ray Machine attached to the prison hospital. The Radio-Grapher attached to the CMC also attends this prison once a week. Besides, specialists in various fields from the CMC attend to the needy prisoners once in a week.

Education

Adult Education scheme is taught in the school attached to the prison. 1st to 5th standard classes under adult education function for the prisoners. There is a library attached to the prison school. Besides, books from the local library are rotated every month. The prisoners are encouraged to continue their studies further through correspondence courses. Indira Gandhi National Open University, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University and Bharathiar University Centres function in this prison.

Garden

Though vacant land is available to the extent of 62.78 acres, only a small portion of land is under cultivation due to water scarcity. Nearly 3500 trees were planted by the Forest Department outside the prison lands and maintained. Further 316 saplings of various kinds of trees were planted on 11.6.2005. These saplings were donated by a Voluntary Organisation called “SIRUTHULI’ under Green Kovai Clean Kovai scheme.

Interview and letters to prisoners

The prisoners are permitted interviews or meetings with their relatives as per existing rules. Interview petitions are issued free of cost. Interview petitions are written by a person deputed by a Non-governmental Organisation “CROPS”, Coimbatore. All the prisoners are permitted to write and receive letters as per rules.

Classification Board

There is a Classification Board consisting of five members viz., the Superintendent, Additional Superintendent, Jailor, Additional Superintendent (Factory), and Medical Officer with a view to decide the kind of work to be given to the prisoners after ascertaining the prisoners capacity, attitude and aptitude. This helps them to learn a good trade and acquire proficiency in it and use the same as his / her livelihood after release.

Recreation and Cultural activities

The prisoners are provided with materials for indoor games like carom and chess. Radio and Television sets (29 inch colour screen) are provided at different points. There is 35 mm projector and films donated by philanthropists are screened for the benefit of prisoners once in a fortnight,. Out door games like tennicoit, badminton, volley ball etc., are also available.

There is a canteen for the prisoners wherein toilet articles, tobacco items and biscuits, writing materials etc. are sold to the prisoners. Tea, boiled egg, vadai, sweet and savouries are also available in the canteen.

Reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners



With a view to transform the prisoners who were not able to continue their studies due to their incarceration and who missed formal schooling, sincere efforts have been taken by the prison administration to provide education facilities to them.

Besides the medical facilities as enumerated above, Health Camps are organized every month with the help of non-governmental organizations such as Rotary Club and Lions Club. So far health camps on screening of Tuberculosis, eye camp, dental camp and hearing aid to the needy prisoners, skin disease, gastro, ENT (Ear,Nose and Throat), Cardiac, Ortho and HIV (Human Immuno-deficiency Virus) and thorough screening of prisoners for all ailments have been done.

Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore, is extending services like counseling, training in tailoring, and making jute bags. They are also sponsoring tailoring machines and orders to the prisoners for their rehabilitation.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The responses from the respondents have been consolidated into the following data for a thorough and an in-depth analysis. The social background of the respondents is analysed considering the age-wise distribution, educational status, religion, caste, community, place of origin, parental status and their family size, number of siblings, order position of the respondents, marital status, place of residence, number of children, family type and family size (after marriage).

Table 1

Age wise distribution of the respondents

Age wise classification (years)	No. of respondents	Percentage
< 20	2	2
21 - 25	12	12
26 – 30	9	9
31 – 35	21	22
36 – 40	15	16
41 –45	12	12
46 – 50	8	8
51 – 55	7	7
56 – 60	4	4
> 61	8	8
Total	98	100

From table 1 it is clear that the highest number of women prisoners belong to the age group of 31– 35 ranging to 22 per cent. It is really a point of concern that majority of the women prisoners are young and in an impressionable age group. The agewise distribution of the women prisoners ranges between 2 per cent and 22 per cent. The least has been recorded with the age group of less than 20 years.

Table 2

Educational status of the respondents

Educational status	No. of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	52	53
Primary	21	22
Middle	9	9
Secondary	12	12
Graduate & above	4	4
Total	98	100

Since majority of the women prisoners are young, it is interesting to concentrate on their educational status. Table 2 presents the educational status of the women prisoners. The table represents that the least percentage (4) of women prisoners belong to the graduate level. It also depicts that illiteracy level is 53 per cent which is the highest among the women prisoners. It is understood from the table that the educational status plays a vital role in the study as it is found to be very much influential in terms of attitude.

Table 3

Religion of the respondents

Religion	No. of respondents	Percentage
Hindu	90	92
Muslim	5	5
Christian	3	3
Others	-	-
Total	98	100

Table 3 represents the religion of the respondents. The maximum number of women prisoners belong to the Hindu religion with 92 percentage. The respondents belonging to Muslim and Christian religion are about 5 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

Table 4

Caste wise distribution of the respondents

Caste	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Koundar	26	27
Naidu	11	11
Nadar	4	4
Chettiar	4	4
Devar	6	6
Harijan	12	12
Others	35	36
Total	98	100

The above table 4 represents the caste wise classification of the respondents. The highest percentage of 27 is witnessed among the caste of Koundar. Twelve per cent of the respondents are Harijans. Eleven per cent of the respondents belong to the caste of Naidu. Thirty six percent of the respondents belong to the others category which represents castes like Reddi, Gowder, Aachari, Labai, Mudaliar etc.

Table 5

Community wise distribution of the respondents

Community	No. of respondents	Percentage
OC	12	12
BC	63	64
MBC	1	1
SC/ST	22	23
Total	98	100

The responses are also categorized according to community in table 5. The table reveals that 64 per cent of the respondents belong to backward classes and 23 per cent of the respondents belong to scheduled castes. Only 12 per cent of the women prisoners are from other castes whereas only 1 per cent are from most backward community.

Table 6

Place of origin of the respondents

Place	No. of respondents	Percentage
Rural	77	79
Urban	21	21
Total	98	100

Place of origin and place of residence are also influential factors in moulding an individuals' character and behaviour. Table 6 states the place of origin of the respondents, which reveals that 79 per cent of the respondents belong to the rural and 21 per cent to the urban.

Table 7

Parental status of the respondents

Status	No. of respondents	Percentage
Living	65	66
Deceased	33	34
Total	98	100

The parental status of the respondents is depicted in table 7 which shows that majority of the respondent's parent were living which is 66 per cent. The minority of 34 per cent stated that their parent are deceased.

Table 8

Parental family size of the respondents

Family size (in number)	No. of respondents	Percentage
Upto 4	31	32
5-8	60	61
>8	7	7
Total	98	100

Since the family size before marriage plays a vital role in determining the nature of the individuals, it is depicted in table 8. It states that 61 per cent of the respondents' family size are between 5-8. Thirty two per cent of them have their family size upto 4 and the least of 7 per cent have their family size greater than 8. The above table reveals that the majority of the women prisoners are from large families.

Table 9

Number of siblings of the respondents

No. of siblings	No. of respondents	Percentage
Nil	7	7
1	24	25
2	16	16
3	23	24
4	12	12
5	7	7
6	4	4
7+	5	5
Total	98	100

To examine the family background of the women prisoners the researcher was also focused on the number of siblings and birth number of the respondents. Table 9 reveals that 25 per cent of the respondents have 1 sibling, 24 per cent of the respondents have 3 siblings. 7 per cent of the respondents are the only child to their parent.

Table 10

Order position of the respondents

Order Number	No. of respondents	Percentage
Order Number one	33	34
Order Number Two	25	26
Order Number Three	13	13
Order Number Four	13	13
Order Number Five	8	8
Order Number Six	4	4
Order Number Seven and above	2	2
Total	98	100

Table 10 analyses the birth order of the respondents where 2 per cent of the respondents are the 7th child for their parent which is recorded to be the least. The highest of 34 per cent are first borns.

Table 11

Marital status of the respondents

Marital status	No. of respondents	Percentage
Married	54	55
Widow	23	24
Divorcee	12	12
Unmarried	9	9
Total	98	100

The marital status of the respondents is given in table 11. It shows that 55 per cent of the respondents are married. Only 9 per cent of the respondents are unmarried, 24 per cent of them are widows, 12 per cent are divorced.

Table 12

Place of residence of the respondents

Place	No. of respondents	Percentage
Rural	70	71
Urban	28	29
Total	98	100

The place of residence of the respondents is recorded in table 12 which depicts that majority of respondents reside in rural areas (71 per cent) and 29 per cent residing in urban area.

Table 13

Classification of respondents based on their children

Children	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	59	66
No	39	44
Total	98	100

Table 13 shows that 66 per cent of respondents have children and 44 per cent have no children.

Table 14

Gender wise classification of the children of the respondents

Male children	No. of respondents	Percentage	Female children	No. of respondents	Percentage
No male children	19	32	No female children	15	25
1 – 2	12	20	1 – 2	14	41
3 – 5	28	48	3 – 5	20	34
Total	59	100	Total	49	100

Table 14 reveals the gender of the children of the respondents. It shows that 32 per cent of the respondents have no male children. It is clear that 20 per cent of the respondents have male children ranging between 1-2 and 48 per cent of the respondents have male children ranging between 3-5.

Twenty-five per cent of them have no female children, 41 per cent of the respondents have female children ranging between 1-2 and 34 per cent of the respondents have female children ranging between 3-5. Four children are staying with their mothers in the prison (below 4 years).

Table 15

Family type of the respondents

Family type	No. of respondents	Percentage
Nuclear	49	50
Joint family	29	30
Not applicable	20	20
Total	98	100

Table 15 reveals the family type of the respondents, classified into three types. Majority is the nuclear type with 50 per cent of respondents belonging to this group. 30 per cent to the joint family group and 20 per cent to neither of these groups which represents staying alone or staying with others.

Table 16

Family size of the respondents (after marriage)

Family size	No. of respondents	Percentage
Upto 4	50	51
5 –8	27	28
>8	1	1
not applicable	20	20
Total	98	100

Table 16 depicts the family size of the respondents after marriage. The highest percentage of 51 represents that the family size was upto 4. Twenty eight per cent of the respondents belong to the family size of 5 to 8. The least of 1 per cent was recorded for those who have more than 8 as their family size. 20 percent of the respondents have their family size less than 2.

The economic profile of the respondents is analysed by the occupation of the respondent, occupation of the husbands, monthly family income, ownership and type of the house residing, savings, property, jewels.

Table 17

Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	No. of the respondents	Percentage
House wife	16	16
Business	24	25
Service	4	4
Labour	49	50
Others	5	5
Total	98	100

It is apparent from the table 17 that 50 per cent of the women prisoners belong to the occupation of labourers. 25 per cent are in the field of business, 16 per cent are housewives, 5 per cent belong to the others category which represents involvement in prostitution. The least is recorded for the respondents belonging to the occupation of service sector. From the table it is clear that majority of the respondents are labourers.

Table 18

Occupation of the respondent's husband

Occupation	No. of the respondents	Percentage
Farmers	2	4
Business	10	18
Service	2	4
Labour	30	56
Others	10	18
Total	5	100

The occupation of the spouse is represented in table 18. The table depicts that 4 per cent of the occupation of the spouse are farming and 4 per cent involved in service sector. Fifty six per cent are labourers, 18 per cent are involved in business and remaining 18 per cent are idle at home.

Table 19

Monthly family income of the respondents

Income (in rupees)	No. of respondents	Percentage
< 2000	60	61
2001- 5000	25	26
5001-10000	8	8
>10001	5	5
Total	98	100

The above table presents the monthly family income of the respondents. It is being noted that 61 per cent of the respondents belong to the income group of less than rupees 2000. It is 26 per cent between the income of rupees 2001 to 5000 and meager proportion of 5 per cent with income of greater than rupees 10001.

Table 20

Classification of respondents based on ownership and type of the house

House	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Type of house	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Rent	72	73	Katcha	8	8
Own	26	27	Thatched	19	19
	--	--	Tiled	52	54
	--	--	Pucca	19	19
Total	98	100		98	100

Table 20 represents the ownership and type of house of the respondents. Seventy three per cent of the respondents live in rented house. Twenty seven per cent of the respondents live in their own house.

The type of the houses have been categorized into tiled, katcha, thatched and pucca. Majority of the respondents were residing in the tiled house by 54 per cent, 19 per cent of each were residing in the thatched and pucca houses. Only 8 per cent were residing in the katcha houses.

Table 21

Classification of respondents based on their savings

Savings	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	22	23
No	73	77
Total	98	100

Table 21 represents the classification of respondents based on the savings. 77 per cent of the respondents did not have any savings. 23 per cent of respondents had savings.

Table 22
Classification of respondents based on the amount of their savings

Savings (in rupees)	No. of respondents	Percentage
< 50000	10	45
50001- 100000	6	27
100001-300000	4	19
>300001	2	9
Total	22	100

Table 22 observes the savings of the respondents. The highest proportion of 45 per cent of the respondents have their savings less than rupees 50,000, 27 per cent possess savings between rupees 50001 to 100000. Nineteen per cent possess savings between rupees 100001 to 3,00,000. The least of 9 per cent of the respondents have their savings greater than rupees 3,00,001.

Table 23

Classification of respondents based on their property

Property	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	50	51
No	48	49
Total	98	100

Table 23 represents details about respondents possessing property. Fifty one per cent of the respondents have property and 49 per cent have no property. The respondents' property includes agricultural land, house, plots and flats.

Table 24

Classification of respondents based on their property value

Property (in rupees)	No. of respondents	Percentage
<50,000	15	30
50,001 – 1,00,000	16	32
1,00,001 – 3,00,000	11	22
>3,00,001	8	16
Total	50	100

Table 24 depicts the property details in terms of rupees, 32 per cent of the respondents possess property worth ranging between rupees 5,0001 to 1,00,000, 30 per cent of the respondents have property worth of less than rupees 50,000, 16 per cent of the respondents have property worth greater than rupees 3,00,001.

Table 25

Classification of respondents based on possession of jewels

Jewels	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	53	54
No	45	46
Total	98	100

Table 25 depicts that only 54 per cent of the respondents possess jewels and remaining 46 per cent do not possess jewels.

Table 26

Classification of the respondents based on the value of jewels

Value of jewels (in rupees)	No. of respondents	Percentage
<5,000	20	38
5,001 – 10,000	5	9
10,001 – 15,000	10	19
15,001-20,000	7	13
>20,001	11	21
Total	53	100

Table 26 reveals that majority of the respondents, i.e. about 38 per cent, have jewels worth rupees less than 5,000. Twenty one per cent have jewels worth greater than rupees 20,001. Nineteen per cent of the respondents have jewels worth ranging between rupees 10,001 to 15,000 and 13 per cent of the respondents have jewels worth ranging between rupees 15,001 to 20,000. Least per cent of 9 was recorded towards the respondents possessing jewels worth ranging between rupees 5001 to 10,000.

Table 27

Association between social and economic factors with crime rate

Sl.No.	Social and economic factors of the respondents	Chi-square table	Table value	Significant (S) or Not significant (NS)
1	Age-wise distribution	27.7	16.9	S
2	Educational status	68.51	9.49	S
3	Religion	60.33	5.99	S
4	Caste	58.12	16.9	S
5	Community	35.47	7.81	S
6	Place of origin	32	3.84	S
7	Parental status	10.44	3.84	S
8	Family size (before marriage)	43.21	5.99	S
9	Number of siblings	36.04	14.1	S
10	Birth order	54.89	12.6	S

11	Marital status	351.86	7.81	S
12	Place of Residence	18	3.84	S
13	Children	9.44	3.84	S
14	Family size(after marriage)	50.16	7.81	S
15	Family type	13.51	5.99	S
16	Occupation	69.05	9.49	S
17	Occupation of the spouse	48.59	9.49	S
18	Monthly family income	78.08	7.81	S
19	Ownership of the house	21.59	3.84	S
20	Type of house	44.44	7.81	S
21	Property	3.28	7.81	NS**
22	Savings	6.36	7.81	NS
23	Jewellery	2.39	9.49	NS

Hypothesis

H₀ : The crime rate is independent of the social and economic factors of the respondents.

H₁ : The crime rate is dependent of the social and economic factors of the respondents.

An attempt was made to access the degree of association between the social and economic factors and the crime rate of the women prisoners through Chi-square test. The calculated value of the Chi-square test statistics at 5 per cent level of significance (the calculated value of Chi-square is greater than the table value)

indicates the rejection of the hypothesis stating that the crime rate is significant with the social and some economic factors. The highest dependency is on the social factors like educational status, religion, place of origin, marital status and family size (after marriage). The highest dependency is on the economic factors like occupation of the respondents and monthly income. There were few economic factors like property, savings and jewellery which indicates the accepting of the hypothesis stating that the crime rate is not significant with these economic factors. Hence, the crime rate is not dependent on these economic factors.

An attempt was made by the researcher to understand the nature and extent of the crime of women prisoners.

Table 28
Nature of crime of the respondents

Nature of Crime	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Murder	5	5
Attempt to murder (quarrel)	10	10
Attempt to murder (dowry)	13	13
Immoral trafficking	12	12
Theft	24	25
Smuggling	34	35
Total	98	100

The above table 28 shows the nature of crime of the respondents. It is clear that 35 per cent of the respondents are involved in smuggling, 25 per cent found to

be involved in the crime of theft, 5 per cent of the respondents are involved in murder and 13 per cent being involved in the attempt to murder for dowry.

Table 29

Classification of respondents based on their response over the reasons

Response over the reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Known	37	38
Not known	61	62
Total	98	100

The above table specifies the responses over the reasons for the commitment of crime by the respondents. It reveals that majority of (62 per cent) the respondents were not aware of the reason and only 38 per cent were aware of the reason.

Table 30

Reasons for commitment of crime by the respondents

Reasons for commitment of crime	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Poverty	28	75
Need for Money	5	14
Illegal relationship	3	8
Vengeance	1	3
Total	37	100

Table 30 reveals the reason for commitment of crime. It depicts that for 75 per cent poverty was the reason for the commitment of crime, 14 per cent needed

money which was the reason for the commitment of crime of the respondents. Only 3 per cent committed the crime due to vengeance.

Table 31
Method of crime by the respondents

Method of crime	No. of respondents	Percentage
Counter feiting Arson	1	3
Pushed children inside well	1	3
Sexual involvement	12	32
Transporting opium	8	22
Illegal transportation of ration rice	6	16
Opium cultivation	4	11
Dummy medical practitioner	1	3
Robbery of sarees	2	5
Pushed husband (murder)	2	5
Total	37	100

It is seen that from the table 31 that 32 per cent are sexually involved. Transporting opium is 22 per cent, followed by 16 per cent in the illegal transportation of ration rice. Five per cent each towards the robbery of sarees and pushed husband (murder). Three per cent each towards counter feiting arson and pushed children inside well.

Table 32
Classification of respondents based on the place of arrest

Place of arrest	No. of Respondents	Percentage
At Home	70	71
At Lodge	13	14

At Road	6	6
At the Railway Station	9	9
Total	98	100

It is clear from the table 32 about the place of arrest of the respondents 71 per cent which is the majority stated that they were caught at home. Fourteen per cent of the respondents were arrested at lodge, 9 per cent were caught in railway station and 6 per cent of them were caught on the roads.

Table 33

Classification of respondent based on the punishment status

Punishment status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Remand	46	47
Under trails	36	37
Convicts	16	16
Total	98	100

From the above table, it is clear that majority of women prisoners are under trial (47 per cent) and remand (37 per cent). Only 16 per cent are convicts.

Table 34

Classification of respondents based on number of times in prison

No. of times in prison	No. of respondents	Percentage
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1	86	88
2	10	10
3	1	1
4	1	1
Total	98	100

Table 34 represents the number of times the women prisoners have been in prison. 88 per cent of the respondents are imprisoned for the first time. 10 per cent of the respondents are in prison for the second time. Only one per cent of them are in prison for the third time and the fourth time.

Table 35

Frequency of the respondent's opinion on the problems to be faced after release

Problems to be faced after release	Frequency*
Economic	80
Personal	20
Familial	60
Children's future	28
Employment	30

No problem	05
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* multiple response

It is observed from the table that the respondents perceived that they would face problems in all spheres of life in future because of their imprisonment. Majority of the respondents felt that they have to face severe economic problems because of their absence in the family, the expenses incurred during the case proceedings, debt burden, etc. Sixty per cent opined that they have to face many problems to resettle in their family after release. Twenty eight per cent were worried about their children's future, for 30 per cent it is the employment problem. Only 20 per cent felt that they will have personal problems, which may affect their mental as well as physical health. For 5 per cent there would be no problem.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The survey carried out among 98 women prisoners highlights the following findings.

The social background of the women prisoners are

- 22 per cent of the women prisoners are in the age group of 31-35 followed by 16 per cent in the age group of 36-40 years.
- 53 per cent of the respondents are illiterate
- 92 per cent of the women prisoners belong to the Hindu religion.

- 27 per cent of women prisoners belong to Kounder caste followed by Harijan and Naidu.
- 64 per cent of the respondents belong to the backward community and only one per cent belong to the most backward community.
- 79 per cent have their origin in the rural areas.
- Majority of the respondents' parents were living.
- 61 per cent of the respondents have the family size between 5-8 members before marriage.
- 25 per cent of the respondents have only one sibling.
- 34 per cent of the respondents are first born in the family, followed by 26 per cent who are second born.
- Majority (55 per cent) of respondents are married.
- Majority of the prisoners are residing in rural areas.
- 66 per cent of the respondents have children.
- 48 per cent of the respondents have male children ranging between 3 to 5 numbers.
- 41 per cent of the respondents have female children ranging between 3 and 5.
- 50 per cent of the respondents belong to nuclear family type.
- 51 per cent of the respondents have a family size of up to 4 members.
- Majority of the respondents and their husbands are labourers.
- 61 per cent of the respondents' family income is less than rupees 2,000.

The economic profile of Women Prisoners



- 50 per cent of the respondents were labourers and 25 per cent have business as their occupation.
- 56 per cent of the respondents' husbands are labourers but 18 per cent are idle at home.
- 61 per cent of the respondents have a monthly income of less than Rs. 2000.
- 73 per cent of the respondents live in rented houses.
- Majority are living in tiled houses.

- Only 23 per cent of the respondents have savings.
- 66 per cent of the women prisoners have savings less than Rs. 50,000.
- Only 9 per cent of them have savings greater than Rs. 3,00,000.
- 51 per cent of the respondents have property.
- 30 per cent of the respondents have property worth less than Rs. 50,000 and 16 per cent of the respondents have their property worth ranging between Rs. 50,000 and 1,00,000.
- Only 54 per cent possess jewels.
- For majority (38 per cent) the value of jewels worth less than Rs.5,000.

Association between the social and economic factors with the crime rate

Cutting



- In the chi-square test conducted for 5 per cent level of significance it is apparent that the crime rate is dependent on all social and economic factors. The highest dependency was towards the factors like educational status, religion, marital status and family size before and after marriage.

Nature and method of crime of women prisoners

- Majority (35 per cent) are involved in smuggling of opium, ration rice, followed by theft (25 per cent).
- Sixty two per cent of the respondents felt that the reason for commitment of crime is not known and 38 per cent were aware of the reason.
- Regarding the reason for commitment of crime, for 75 per cent it is due to poverty and for 14 per cent it is for the want of money.
- Regarding the method of crime 32 per cent are sexually involved, 22 per cent were involved in transporting opium.
- Majority of the respondents were arrested at home (71 per cent).
- Majority of women prisoners are under trial (47 per cent) and on remand (37 per cent).
- Only 16 per cent are convicts.
- Majority of the respondents are in the prison for the first time (87 per cent).
- It is observed that the respondents perceived that they would face problems in all spheres of life in future because of their imprisonment. Majority felt that they have to face severe economic problems and family problems.

Highlights from the Focused group discussions – Attitude

- Many answered that they have visitors.
- Prisoners belonging to the higher income groups said that their families were greatly affected due to their imprisonment. It was not so in the lower income groups.
- Many were the bread-winners of their families. So their absence meant the loss of income and so their families were in debt.
- Many answered that they need a lot of support for their families.
- Many felt guilty and repentant.
- Many were very much aware that doing crime is wrong.
- Many think that they deserve their punishment.
- They believe in god, but belief alone is not a solution to the problems.
- Many of them have no idea as to how to make their life useful now or latter.
- Most of the participants opined that they may be induced to commit the crime again by husbands, middlemen and brokers.
- Many were eager to start life again freshly.
- They felt that they could not play useful roles in society.
- They wanted to pursue honest careers provided the circumstances are favourable.
- They need proper guidance to start and run small businesses with financial assistance.
- They were very happy to participate in adult education classes, tailoring classes, provided by the NGOs in the prison. Any such training will be welcomed by the inmates.

- They advise the women especially to avoid coming to prison by committing crime.
- They wish to be recognized and treated as humanbeings.
- They are doubtful about their role in enlightening society.
- They do not think that it is possible for them to bring about a social change.
- Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore, is extending services like counseling, training in tailoring and making jute bags.

Regarding the Prisoners' Surroundings

- Women felt that it is comfortable for them
- Health taken care of
- Child care facilities
- Feel secure and protected

Life Behind the Bars

The photographs recreate the life of women prisoners behind the bars, their environs, day-to-day life, as well as developmental activities by the authorities, non-governmental activities (Annexure-VII).

SUGGESTIONS

Rehabilitation refers to a programmed effort to alter negative attitudes and behaviour of inmates with a view to eliminate the future criminal behaviour. After

the release the prisoners have to become socially, morally, economically, emotionally strong to lead a peaceful life in the society. Follow up programmes play a crucial role in this regard.

The following measures can be implemented either as preventive or curative steps to curb crime as well as help women criminals to alter their life in a wholesome approach at all levels.

- ✓ Since majority of prisoners belong to the middle age group, they can be easily redeemed through counselling.
- ✓ They have the stamina and strength to work hard, so details of job opportunities and small business avenues can be explained to them.
- ✓ Business with simple skill technology can be advised.
- ✓ Papads, masalas, selling fresh vegetables (ready to cook) in the early hours in urban areas will have more place and time value. In the evenings also selling fresh flowers and vegetables nearby educational institutions, banks and government offices will fetch a good income for the sellers. Prisoners can be told about this type of prospective small business ventures, which do not require much capital.
- ✓ Educational institutions, especially academicians through the extensional services can address the women convicts in the prison and also provide skill training, motivate the target women make them to involve themselves in economic activities after release.
- ✓ Younger women can be encouraged to do higher studies.
- ✓ Illiterates can be provided with technical skill training.

- ✓ Majority of the respondents belong to the Hindu religion and have faith in God. Hence, ethics and morals from religious literature can be stressed in the counselling. Religious discourses can be arranged with the help of institutions such as Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Shivanjali etc.
- ✓ Awareness on government schemes available for backward and other reserved communities can make the women to think about how many facilities, financial help etc. is given by government to Backward communities and realizing the importance of education. Guidance can be provided to educate their children.
- ✓ Since majority of the prisoners are married with a family size of up to 4 members, the male partners of the family should also be advised. Family counseling and family welfare measures can be helpful for the prisoners to change their criminal attitudes.
- ✓ Awareness should be created among the rural people about the severe consequences of committing crimes and its adverse impact on the family.
- ✓ Vocational training programmes in Tailoring, Glass painting, pot painting, Jute bag making, phenol making, incense stick making, pickles and papad making etc., can be extended to the prisoners by service oriented organizations.
- ✓ Released convicts should be encouraged to form co-operative societies to produce and sell the products.
- ✓ Convicts from near by areas can be formed as a group and register as self help groups and start small business with financial support from banks in which Non-Governmental Organisations can extend their support.

- ✓ Library facilities within the jail may enrich the values of the prisoners who can read.
- ✓ Local organizations can also have a humane approach in rehabilitating the women prisoners and show their ways to live with self– confidence.
- ✓ Government and legal authorities can also have a humanistic approach on ethical grounds. Women involved in crime the cases must be taken special care of and no woman should be retained for a long period in jail under trial.
- ✓ One can be made normal citizen of the respective societies to some extent atleast, and consequently the chances of their committing crime again will become remote.
- ✓ NGO’s can approach jail authorities to address the prisoners and make them to start small business through counseling.
- ✓ Social workers can help them to regain the confidence they need to lead a law-abiding and socially purposeful life after release.
- ✓ Government sponsored counseling centers at different places can help the women in coping with their inter-personal problem.
- ✓ Follow up study of released prisoner should be made to assess the impact of rehabilitative programmes so as to identify the problem areas and to make improvements in the programmes.
- ✓ In educational institutions there should be forums on rehabilitation programmes for bringing the change in the attitudes of the society towards prisoners especially women.
- ✓ Educating both the community and the released persons make the after care services more effective.

- ✓ The help of the voluntary agencies and educational institutions may very well be sought in this regard.
- ✓ The slow winning of confidence of the individual in such a way that the women prisoner may identify her own problem and also tries to find out the solution for that problem.
- ✓ In the process of rehabilitation not only their economic needs but also social and physiological needs must be given due consideration.
- ✓ The physical and mental health of the inmates should be given top priority. Yoga, meditation and Art of living classes etc., must be made mandatory.

It is concluded that the ultimate aim of rehabilitation programmes is to make, the women criminals to be accepted by the husband, family and society where they originally belong and bring them in the main stream of development process.

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ANNEXURE- I

SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF WOMEN PRISONERS

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Name
2. Date of birth
3. Age
4. Educational Status: i. Illeterate ii. Primary iii. Middle iv. Secondary v. graduate and above
5. Religion : i. Hindu ii. Muslim iii. Christian iv. Others (specify)
6. Caste :
7. Community: i. OC ii. BC iii. MBC iv. SC/ST
8. Place of origin
9. Parent
10. Parental family size
11. Number of siblings of the respondent
12. Birth number of the respondent to her parents (Order position)
13. Marital status : i. Married ii. Widow iii. Divorcee iv. Unmarried
14. Place of residence at birth : i. Rural ii. Urban
15. Do you have children? Yes / no
If yes – Number of male children / number of female children
16. Family type : Nuclear Joint family Not applicable
17. Family size : i. Upto 4 members ii. 5 to 8 iii. above 8 iv. not applicable
18. Respondent's occupation : i. House wife ii. Business iii. Service
iv. Labour v. Others (specify)
19. If married husband's occupation
20. Family income per month : i. < Rs.20000 ii. Rs.2001 to Rs. 5000
ii. Rs. 5001 to Rs. 10000 iv. > Rs. 10001
21. Ownership of house: Own / rent
22. Type of house: i. Tiled ii. Kutchha iii. Thatched iv. Pucca
23. Do you have savings? Yes / No
If yes – specify the amount in rupees

24. Do you have property? Yes / No

If yes – specify the value in rupees

25. Do you have jewels? Yes / No

If yes – specify the value in rupees

26. Nature of offence (specify)

27. Reason for crime (specify)

28. Method of crime

29. Place of arrest

30. Punishment status and period

31. Number of times in Prison (specify)

32. Are you accepting your crime? Yes / No

OC – other community

BC – backward community

MBC – Most backward community

SC/ST – Scheduled caste / Scheduled tribe

ANNEXURE - II

Questions for focused group discussions

Family

1. Do you have any visitors from your family?
2. What do they feel about the fact that you are in prison?
3. How does the family manage in your absence?
4. Do you need any support for them?

Perceptions

5. How do you feel being in the prison?
6. Are you aware that crime of any kind is wrong?
7. Do you believe that God can solve your problems?
8. Have you contemplated on making your life useful?

Outside (life after release)

9. When you go out what do you propose to do?
10. Will you continue to live the same life or a changed life after release?
11. Have you ever thought of pursuing a useful role in society?

12. Have you ever thought of pursuing honest careers in the future?

Expectations

13. What kind of help will you need from voluntary organizations?

14. Will you be interested in having anything useful in the prison?

15. What are your suggestions to the women of the outside world?

16. What is your appeal to the public?

Role in the society

17. Are you aware that you can enlighten the society?

18. Do you know that you can bring about a social change in your place?

ANNEXURE - III

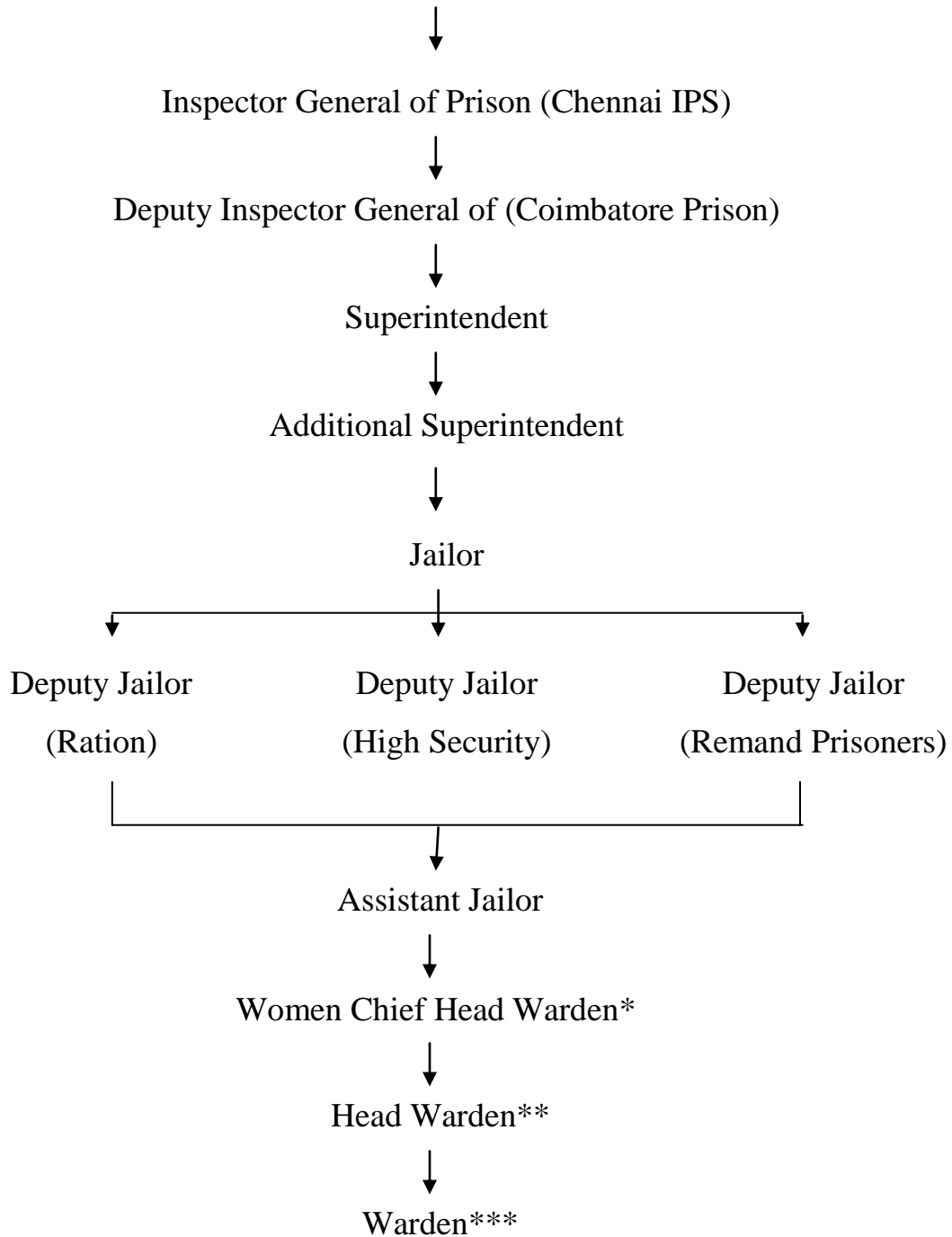
Women Prisoners lodged in Different Jails of India (as on June, 1997)

States	Number of Women convicts	Number of Women Under trial	Total
Uttar Pradesh	68	834	902
Madhaya Pradesh	293	449	742
Andhra Pradesh	101	524	625
Maharastra	194	491	685
Bihar	99	866	965
Delhi	47	354	401
West Bengal	121	284	405
Rajasthan	65	203	268
Punjab	83	307	390

Harayana	89	165	254
Mizoram	85	152	237
Orissa	40	205	245
Tamilnadu	115	196	311
Karnataka	16	206	222
Assam	27	77	104
Gujarat	48	119	167
Himachal Pradesh	6	2	8
Jammu&Kashmir	20	64	84
Kerala	78	106	184
Tripura	2	12	14
Meghalaya	2	4	6
Sikkim	Nil	2	2
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil

Source: Chatteraj, B.N. NICFC., Delhi, 2000.

ANNEXURE-V ADMINISTRATION CHART



*** 1 CHW**

**** 3 HW**

***** 9 W**

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ANNEXURE -IV

Women involvement in crime in Coimbatore city

Head of offences	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Murder	2	3	1	2	2	0
Attempt to murder	0	0	2	0	1	4
Kidnapping & abduct	1	0	0	2	0	0
Dacoity	0	0	0	1	1	0
Robbery	2	0	0	1	0	0
House burglary	3	1	0	3	2	2
Theft	67	44	35	46	40	35
Riots	47	36	66	70	122	82
Cheating	1	0	3	3	3	3
Hurt	12	3	7	10	3	10
Dowry death	0	3	5	0	6	2
Cruelty	22	17	11	24	4	16
Total	157	107	130	162	184	154

Source: Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore, 2006.

Chart 1

Age wise distribution of the respondents

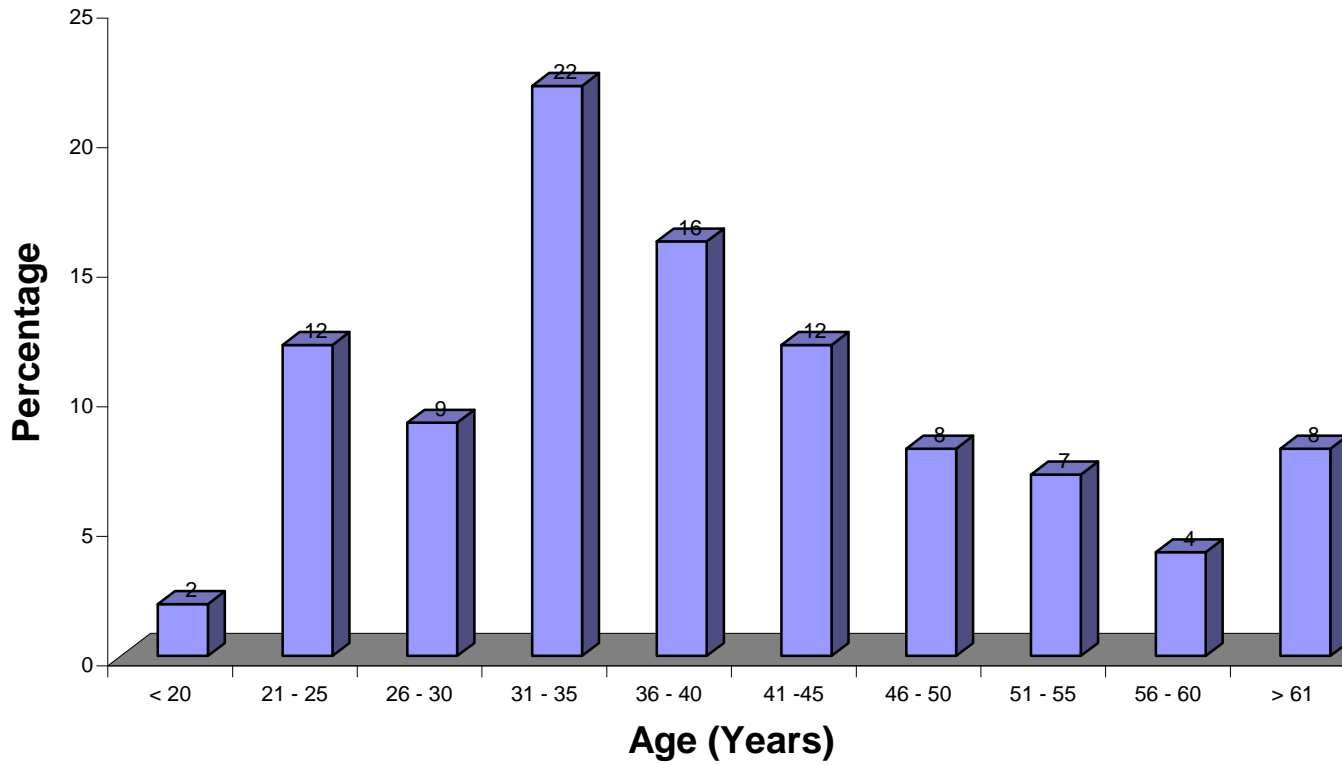


Chart 2
Educational status of the respondents

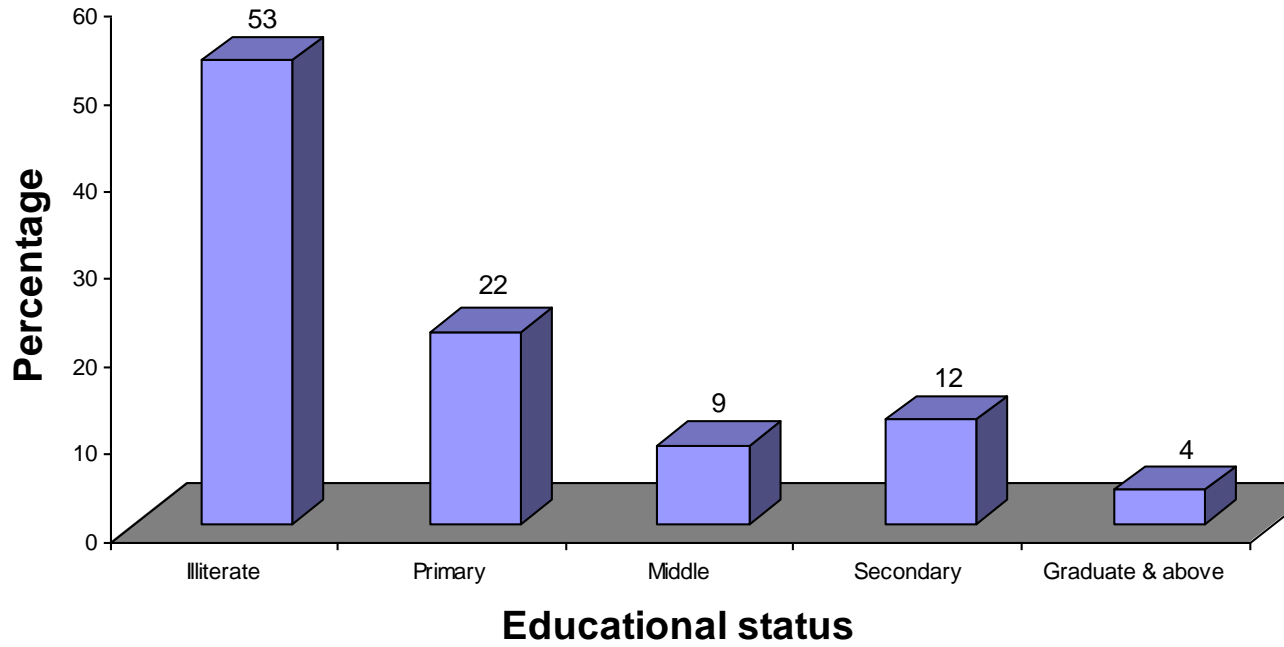


Chart 3
Religion of the respondents

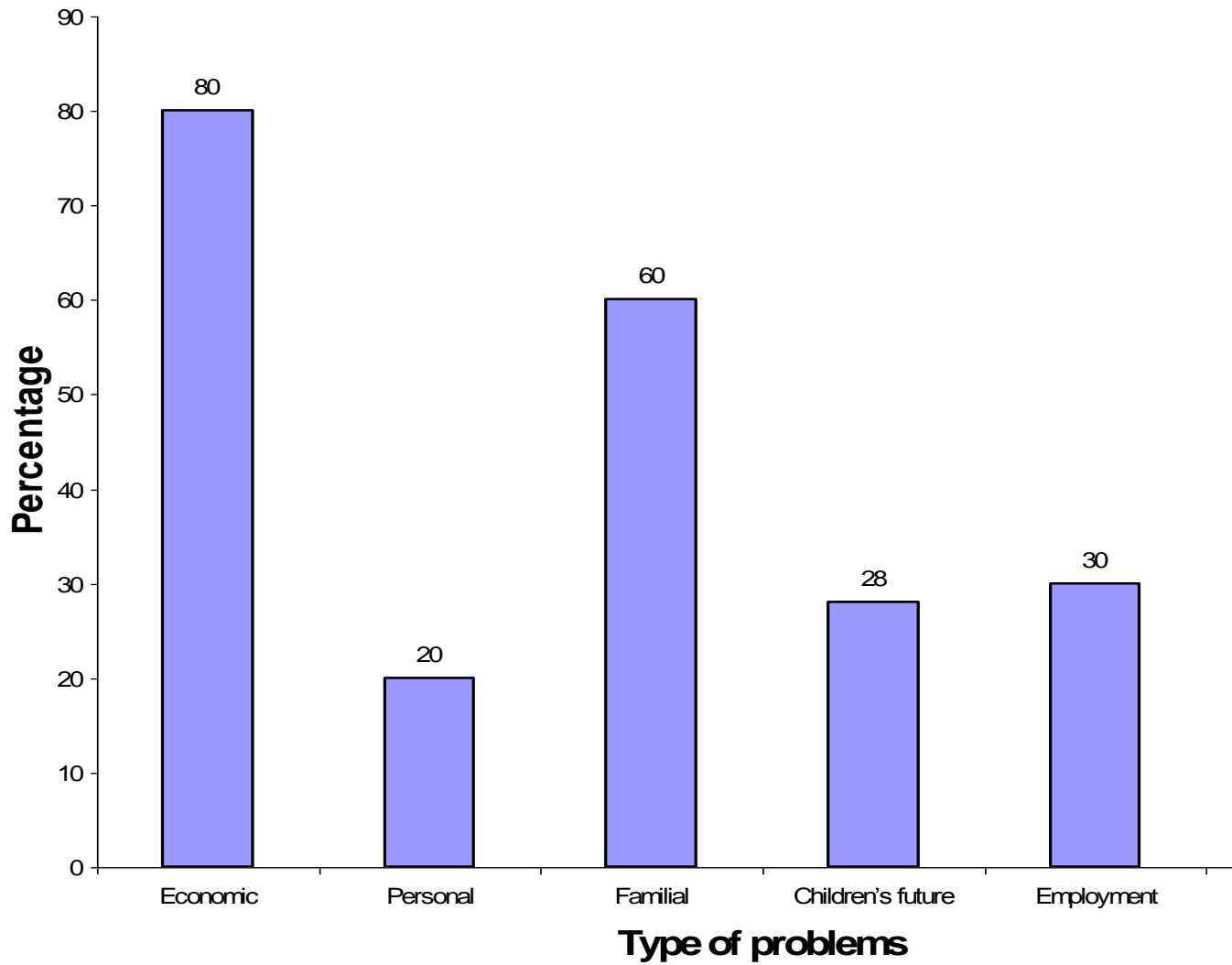


Chart 4
Caste wise distribution of the respondents

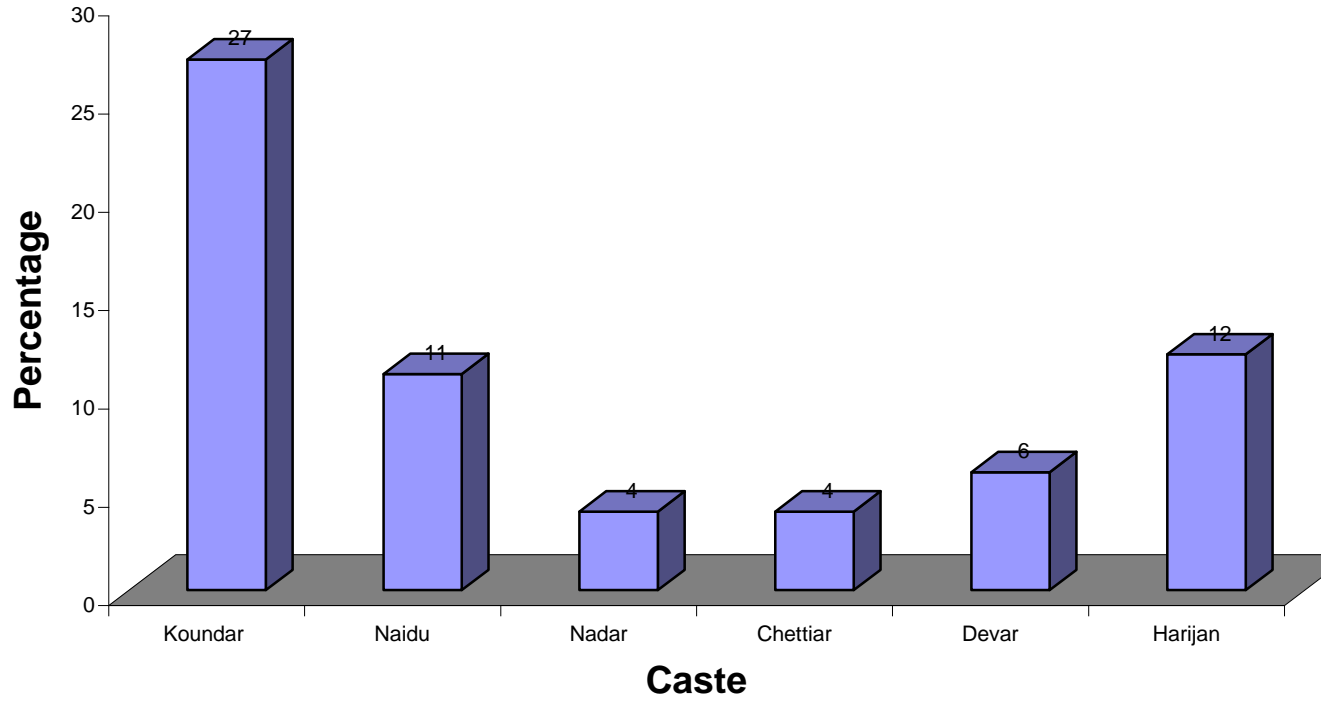


Chart 5
Community wise distribution of the respondents

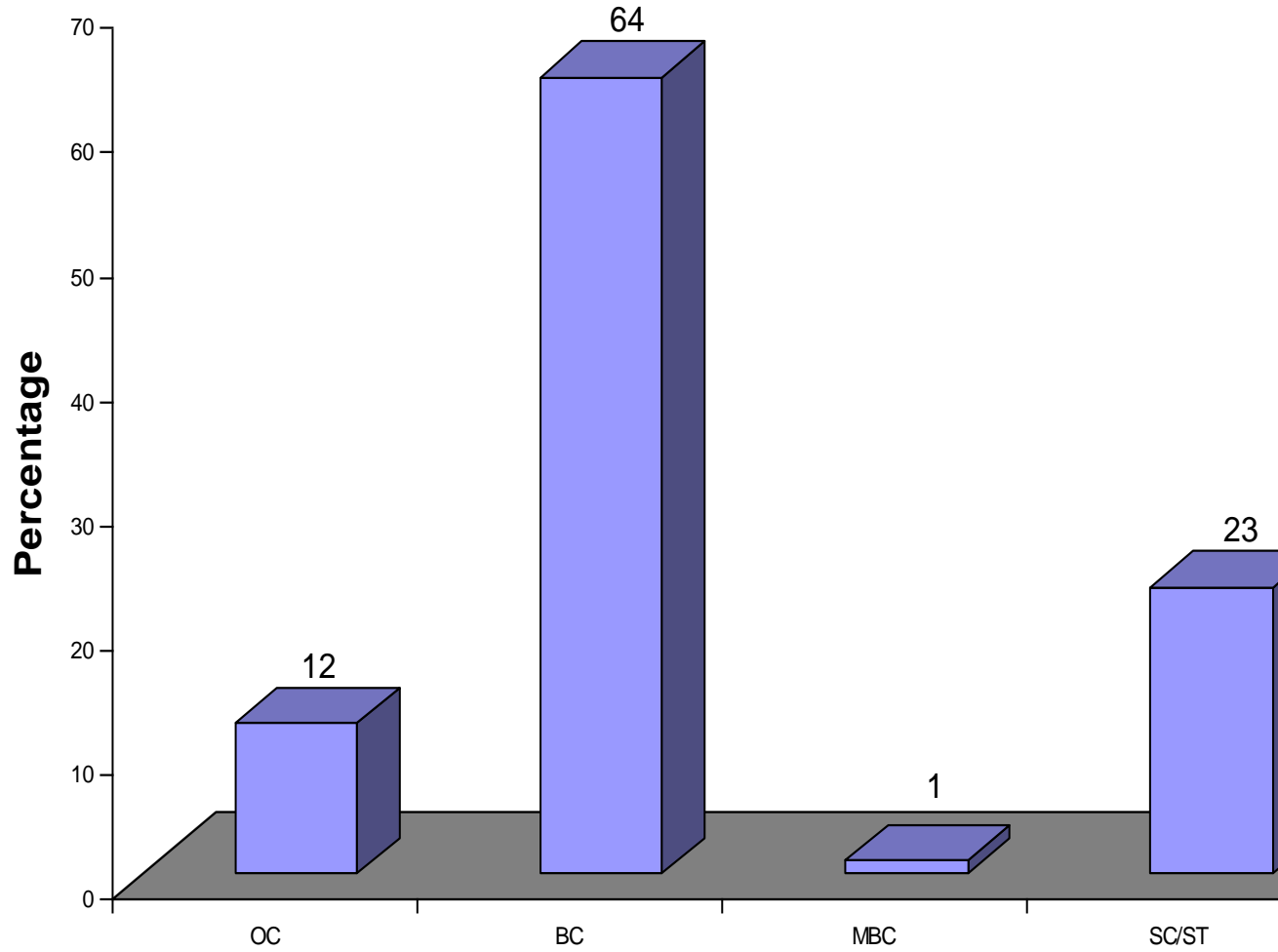


Chart 6
Place of origin of the respondents

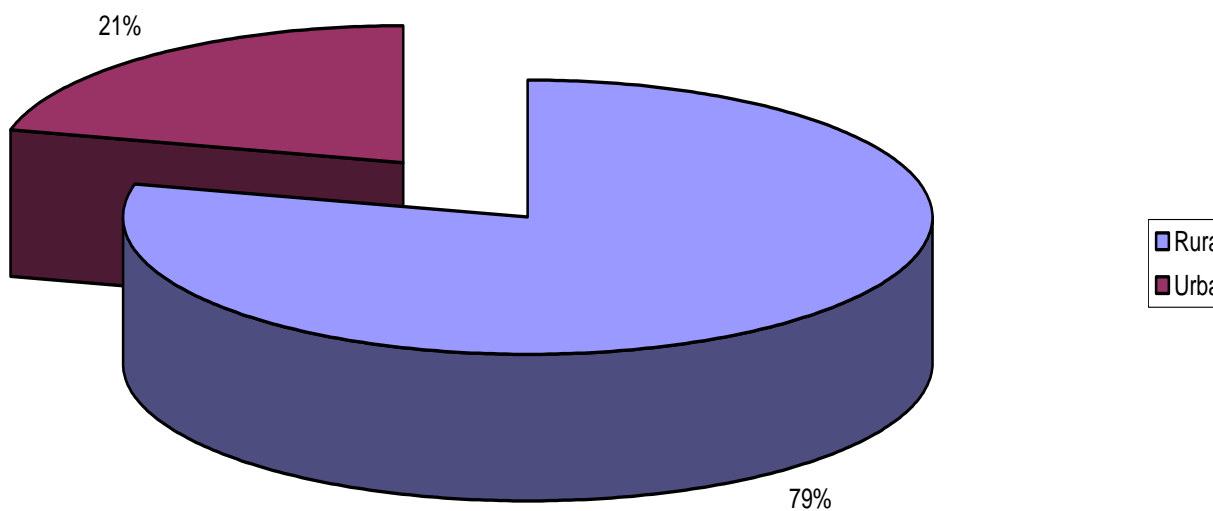


Chart 7
Parental status of the respondents

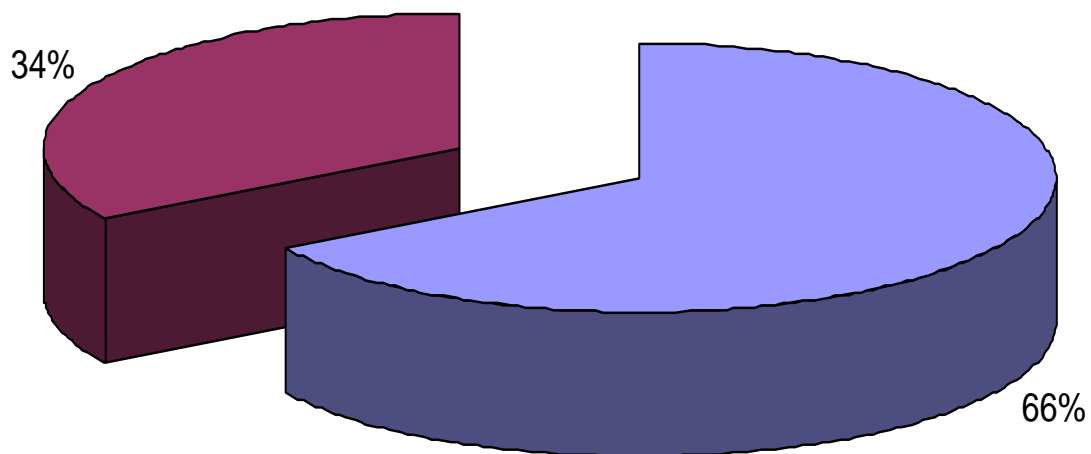


Chart 8
Parental family size of the respondents

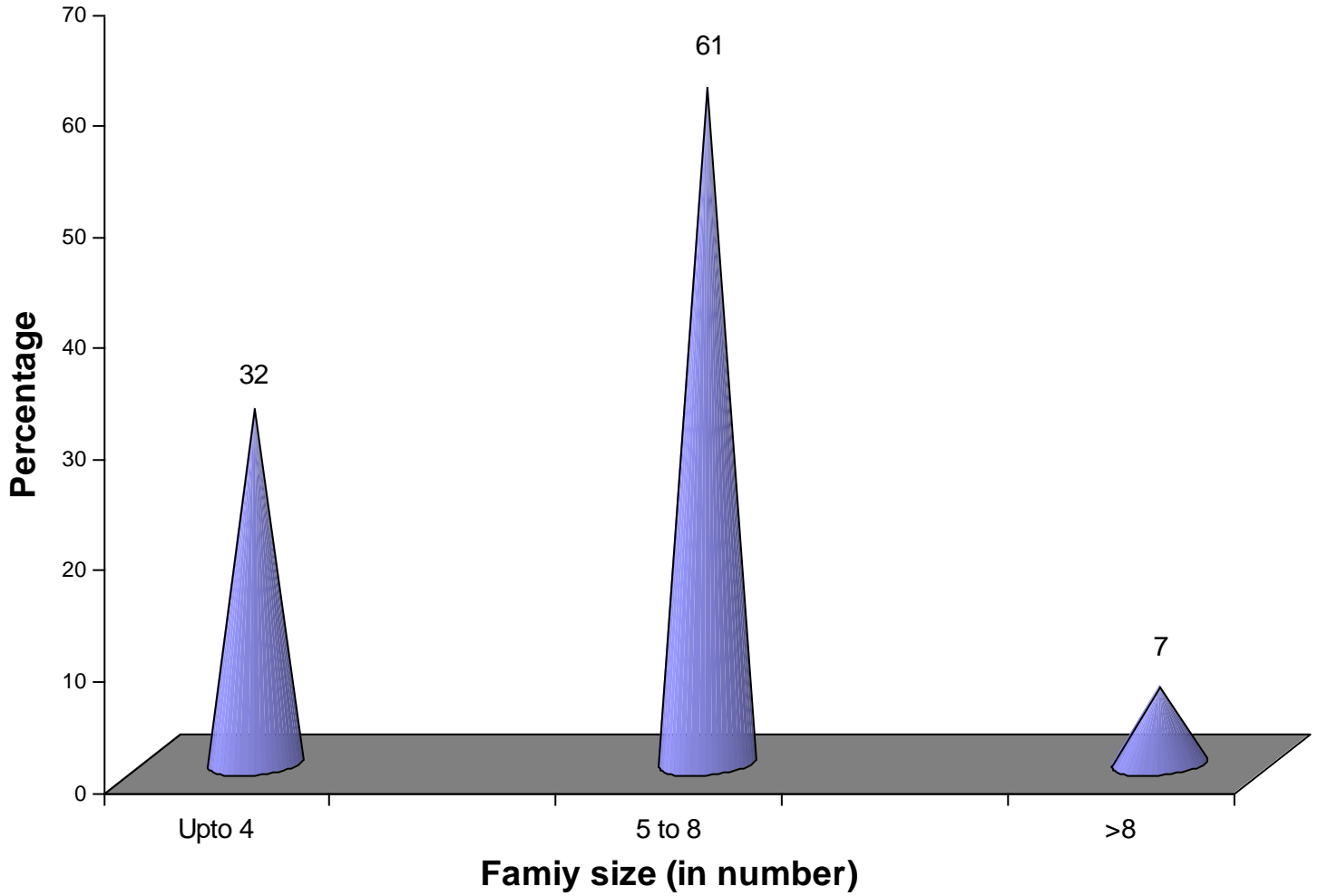


Chart 9
Number of siblings of the respondents

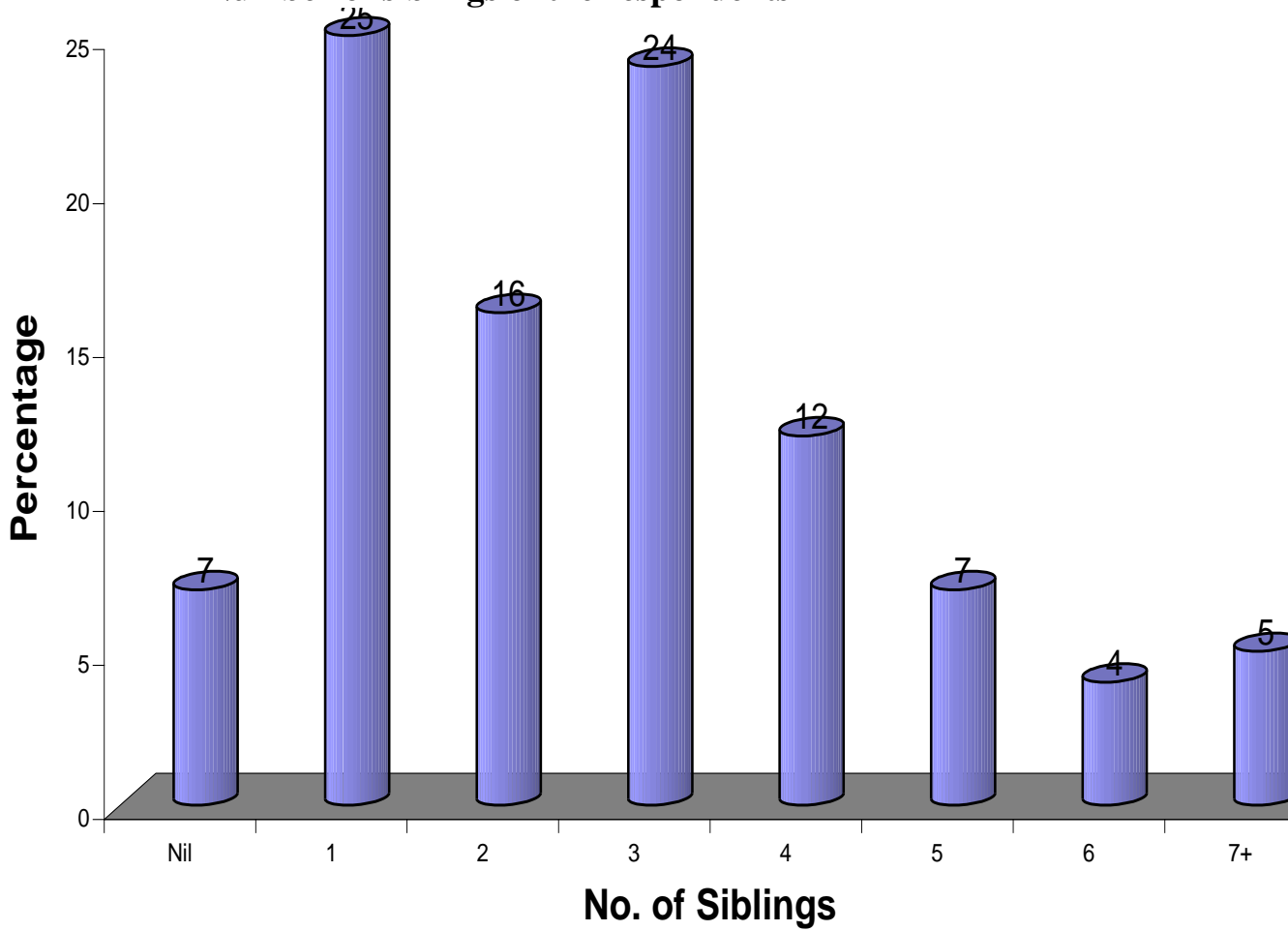


Chart 10
Order position of the respondents

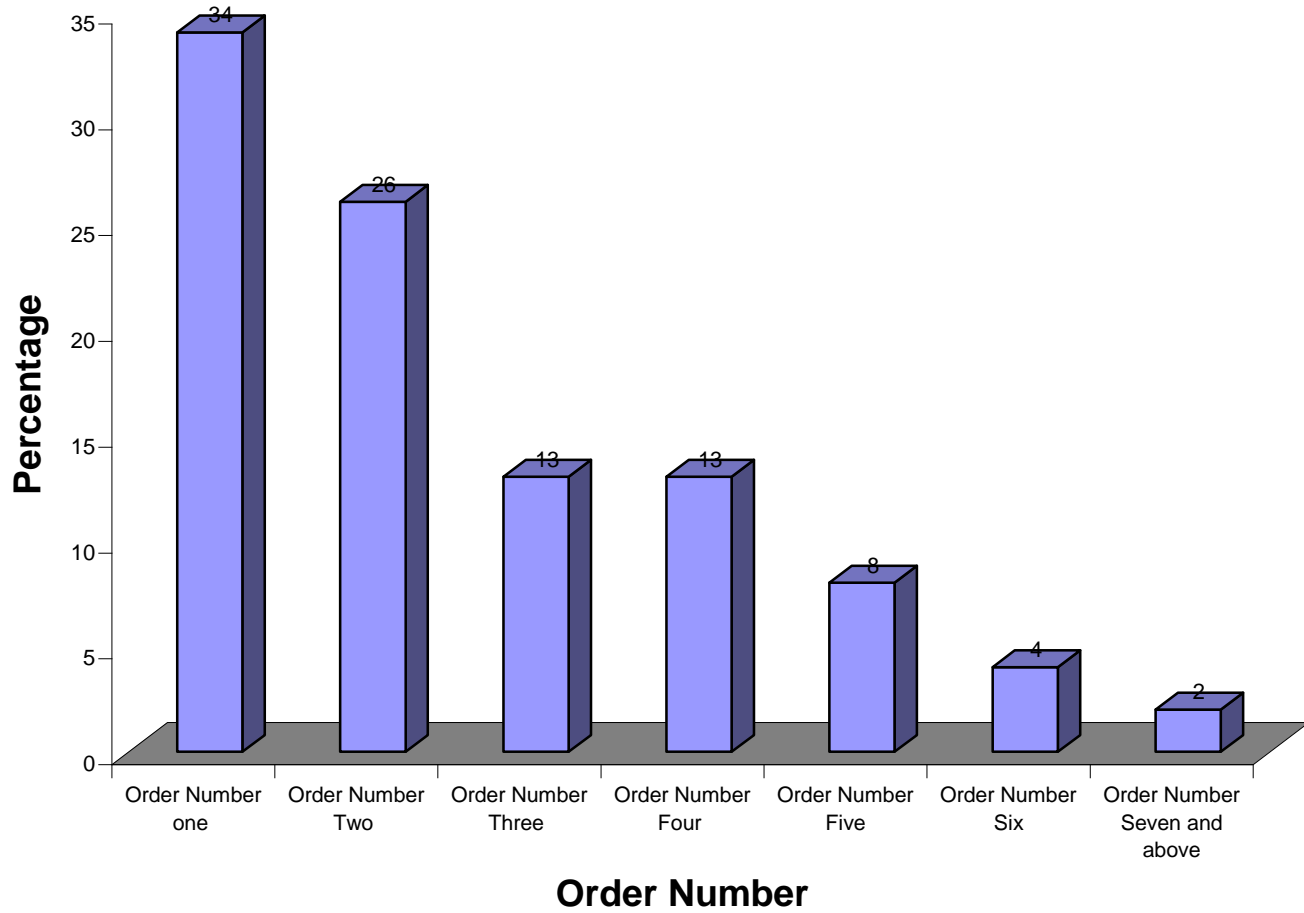


Chart 11
Marital status of the respondents

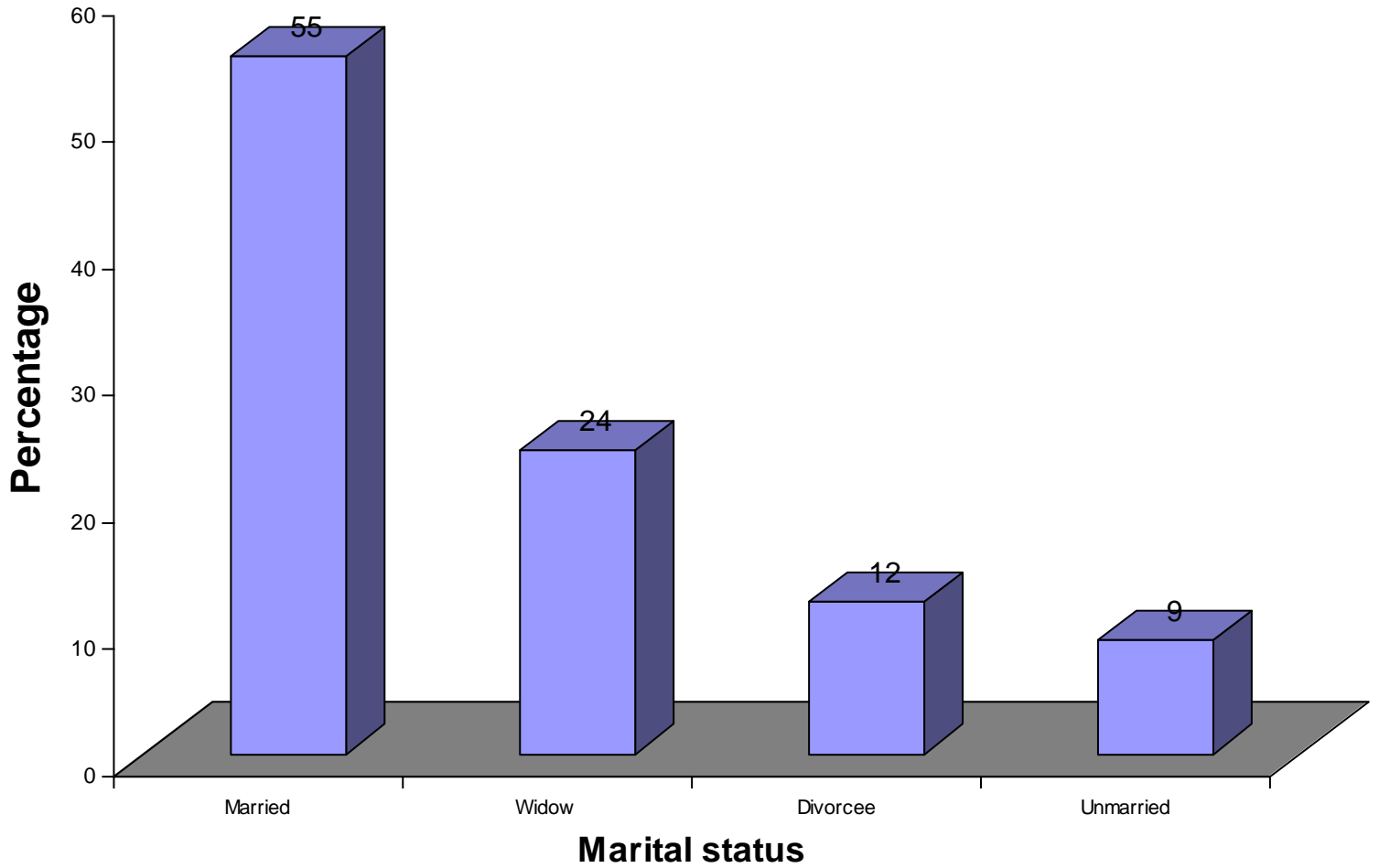


Chart 12
Place of residence of the respondents

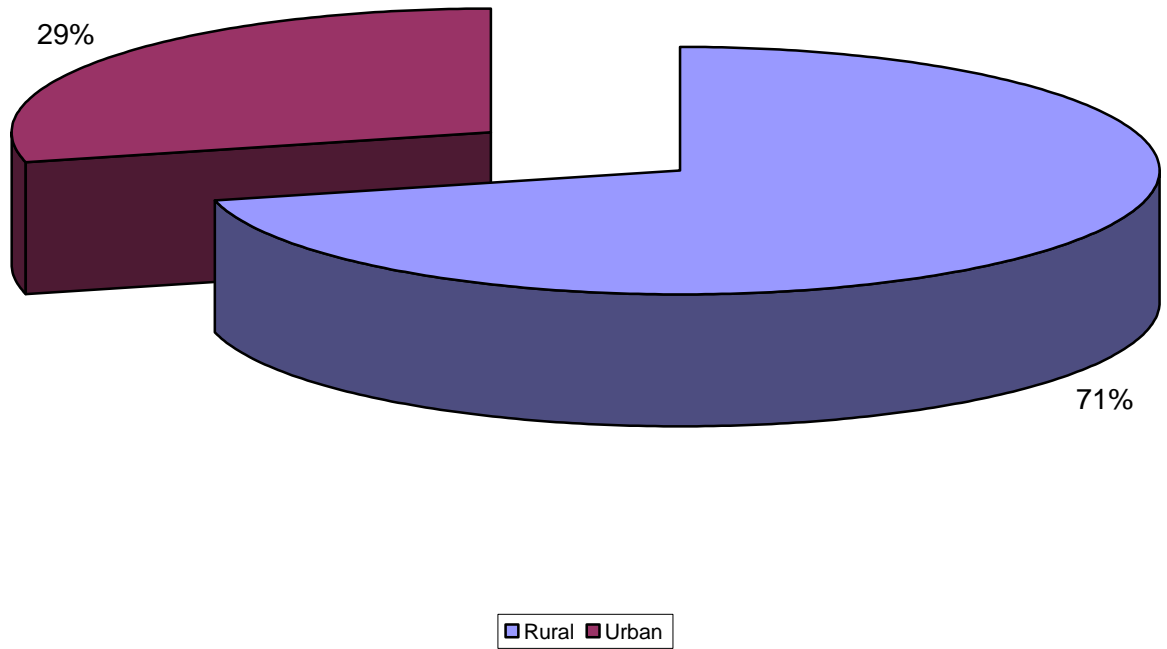


Chart 13
Classification of respondents based on their children

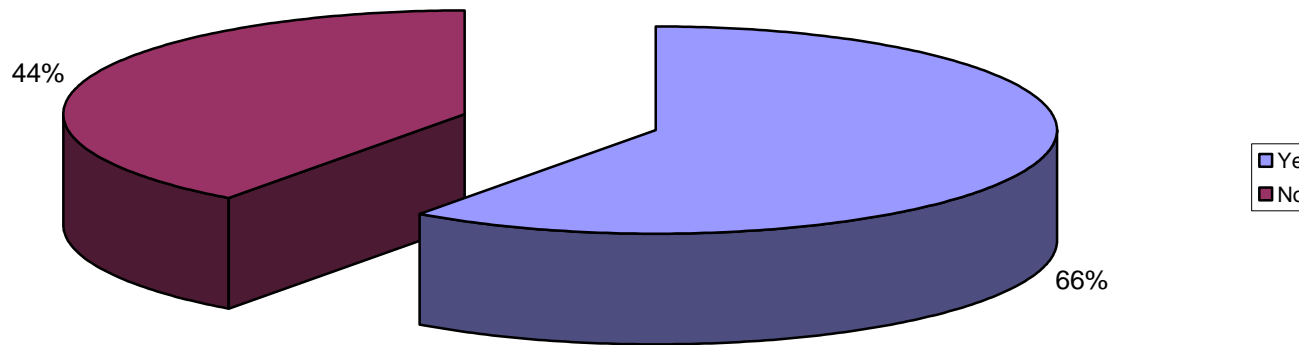


Chart 14
Gender wise classification of the children of the respondents

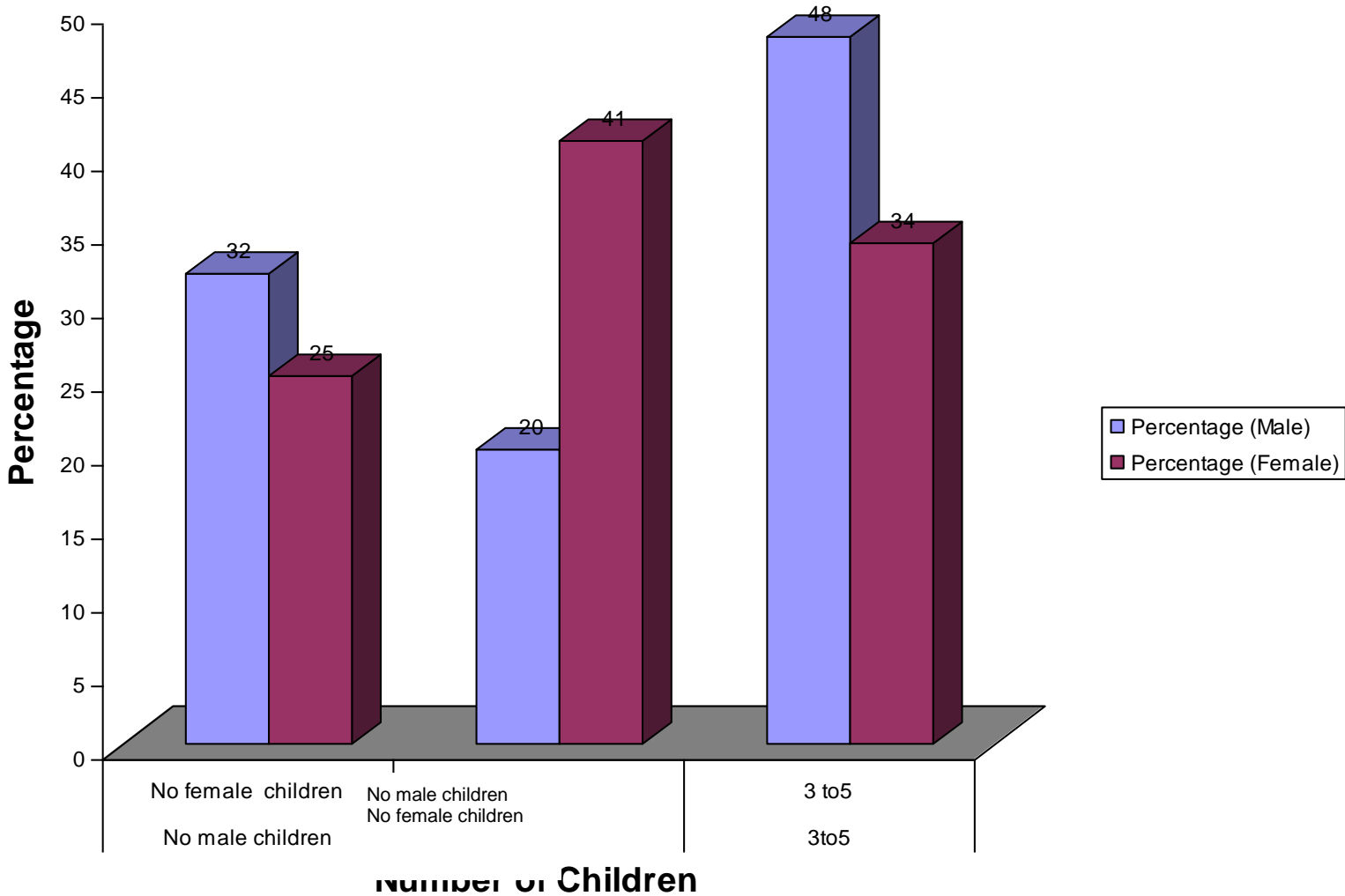


Chart 15
Family type of the respondents

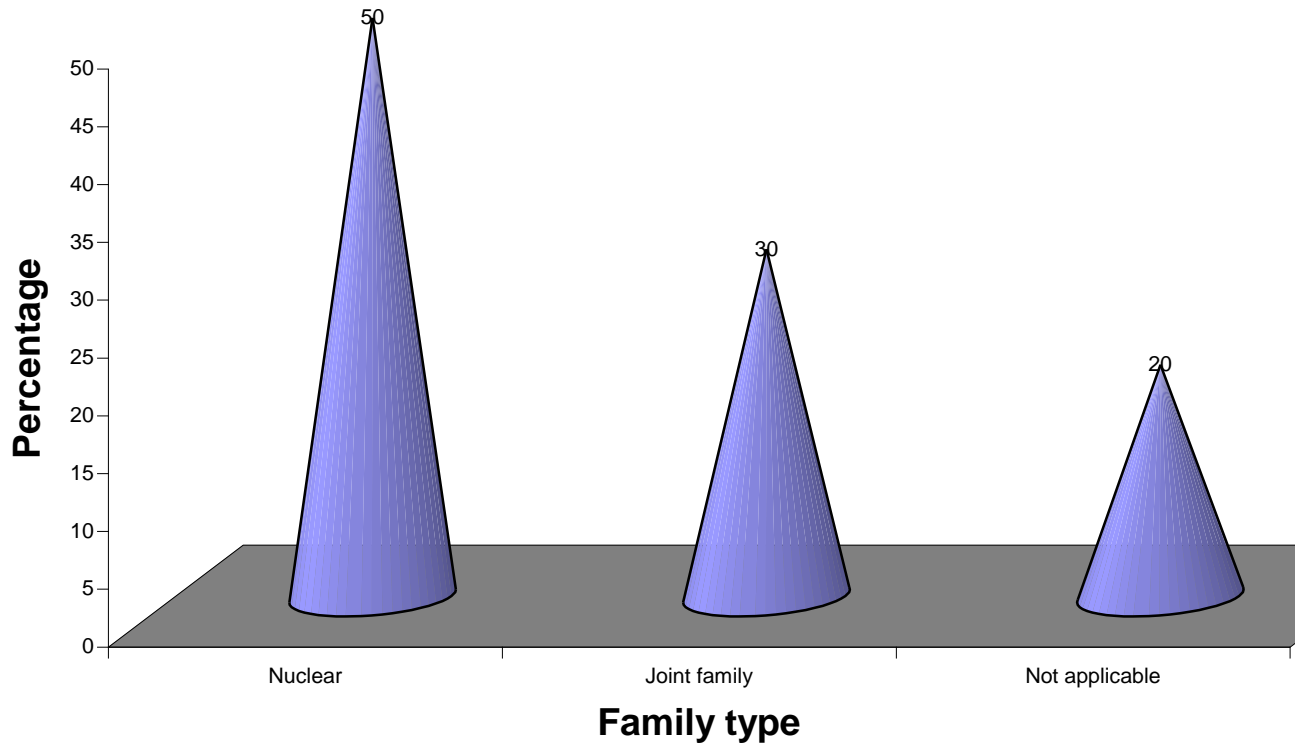


Chart 16
Family size of the respondents (after marriage)

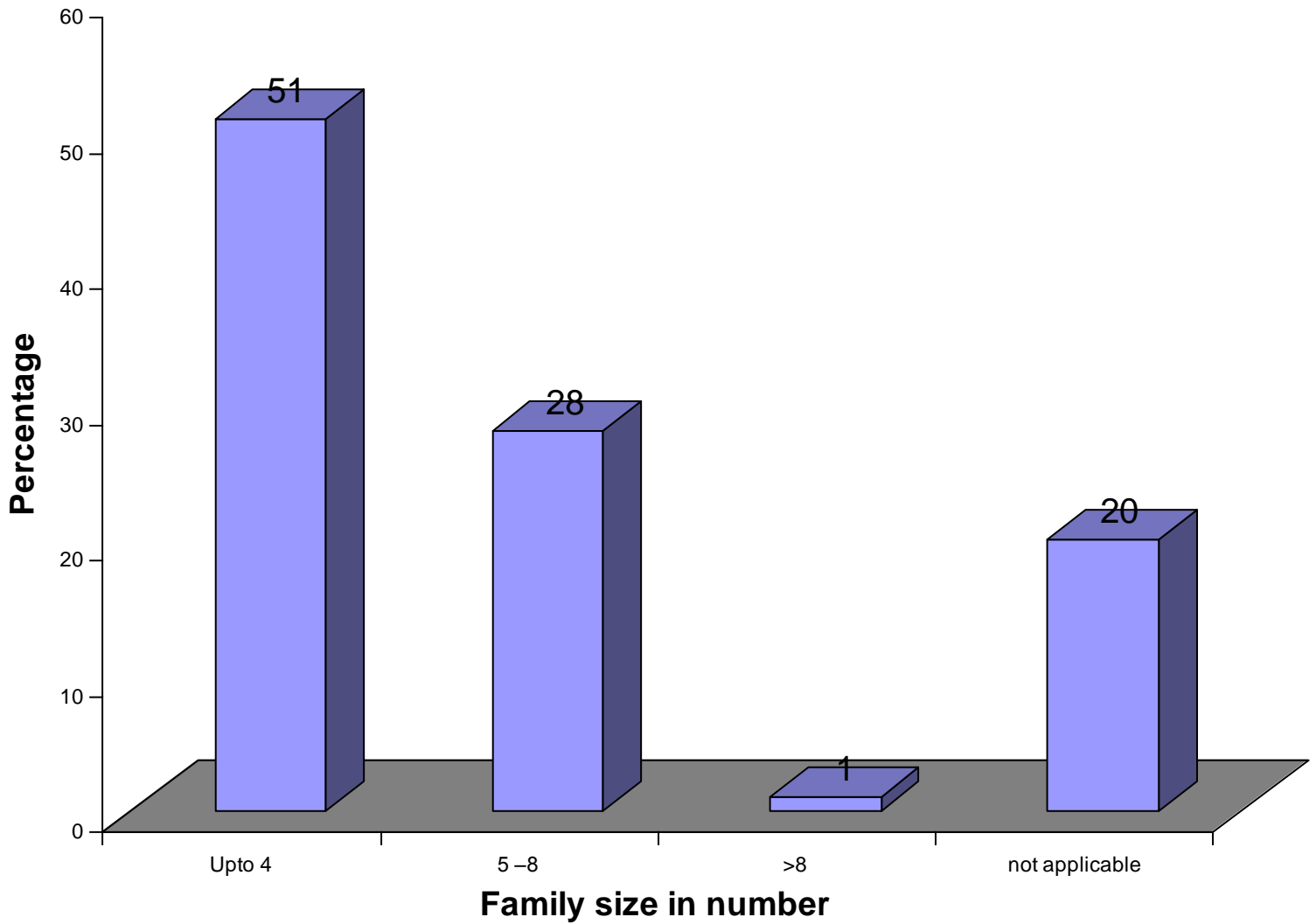


Chart 17
Occupation of the respondents



Chart 18
Occupation of the respondents' husbands



Chart 19
Monthly family income of the respondents

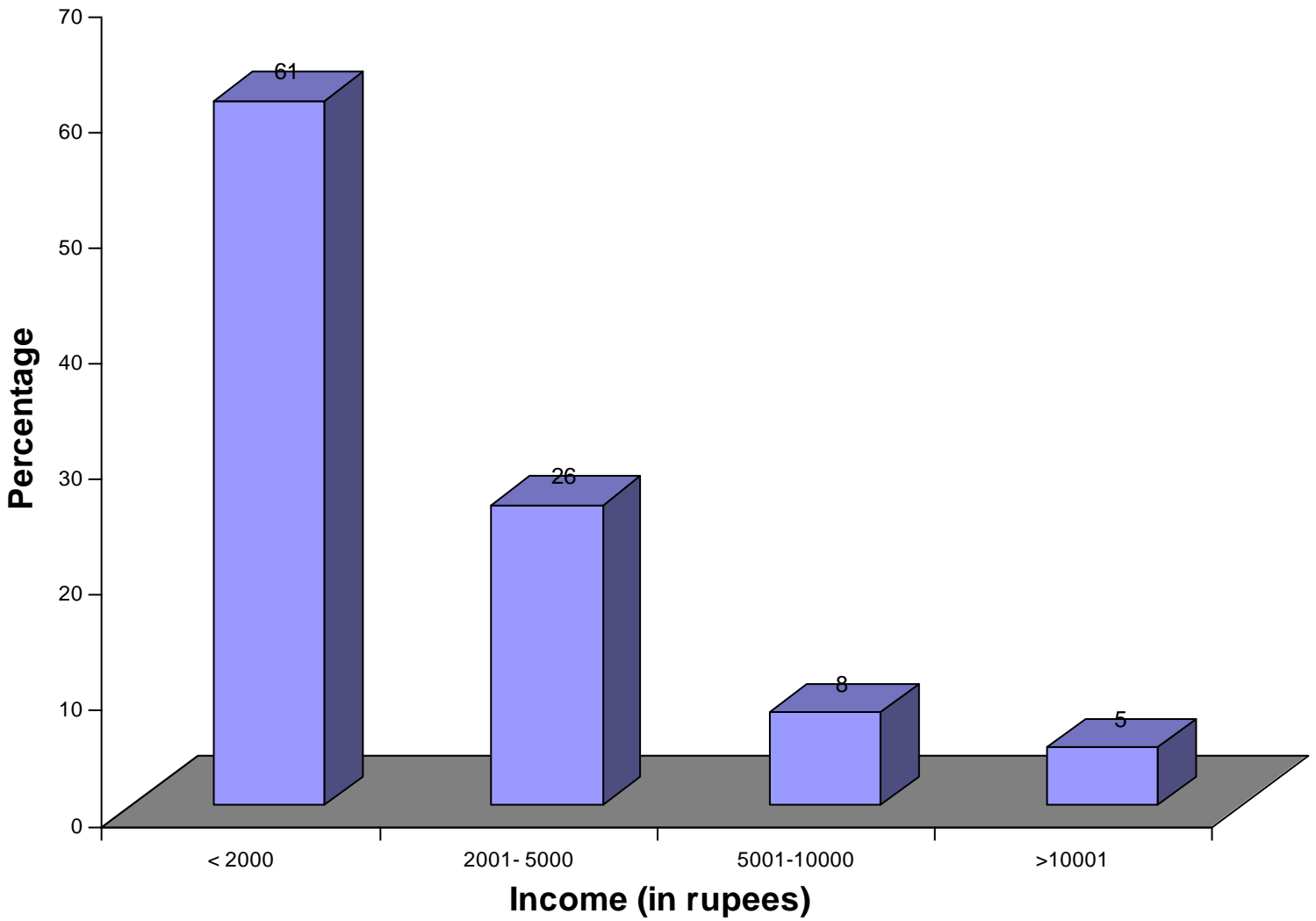


Chart 20
Classification of the respondent based on type of the house

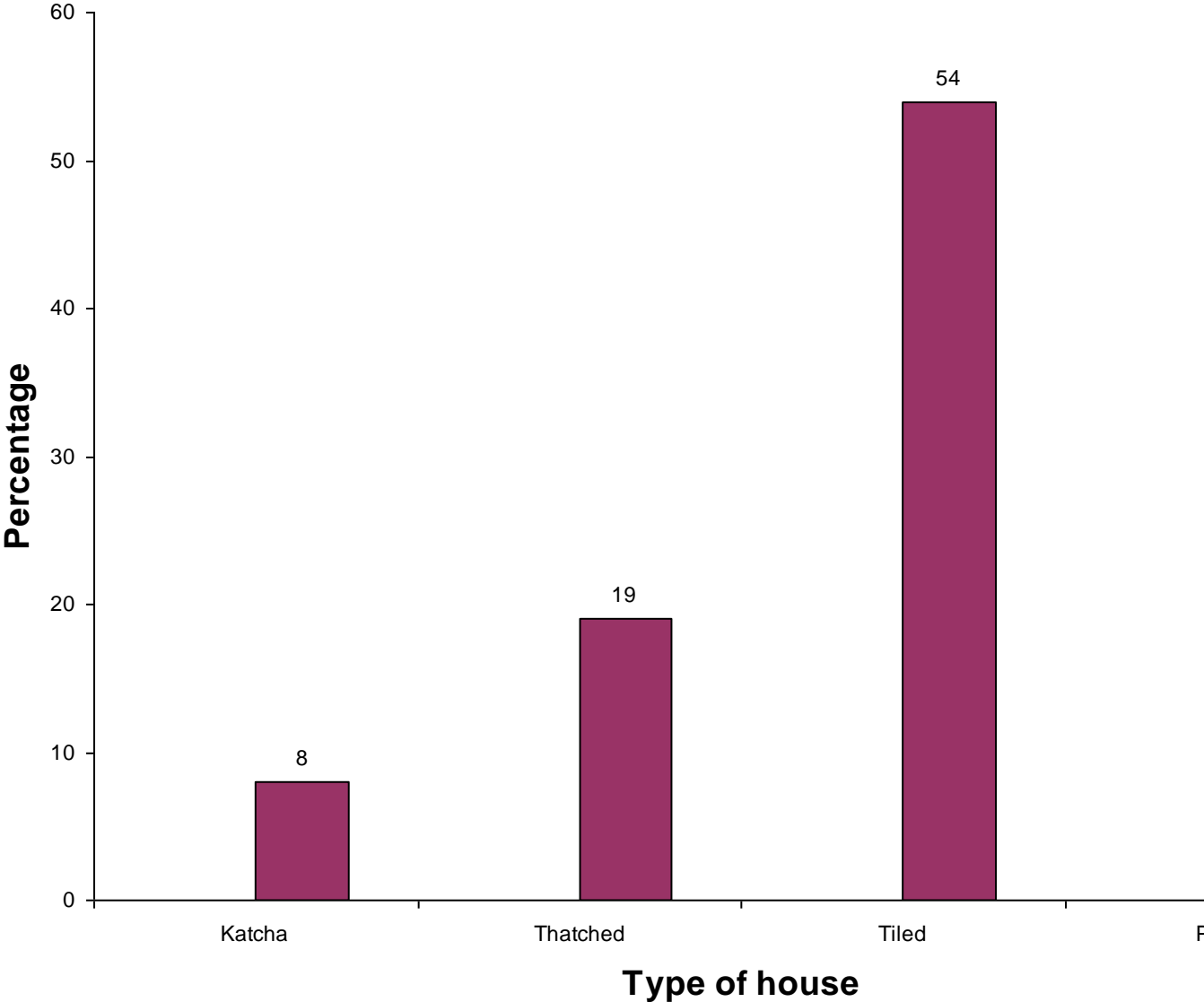


Chart 21
Classification of the respondents based on their savings

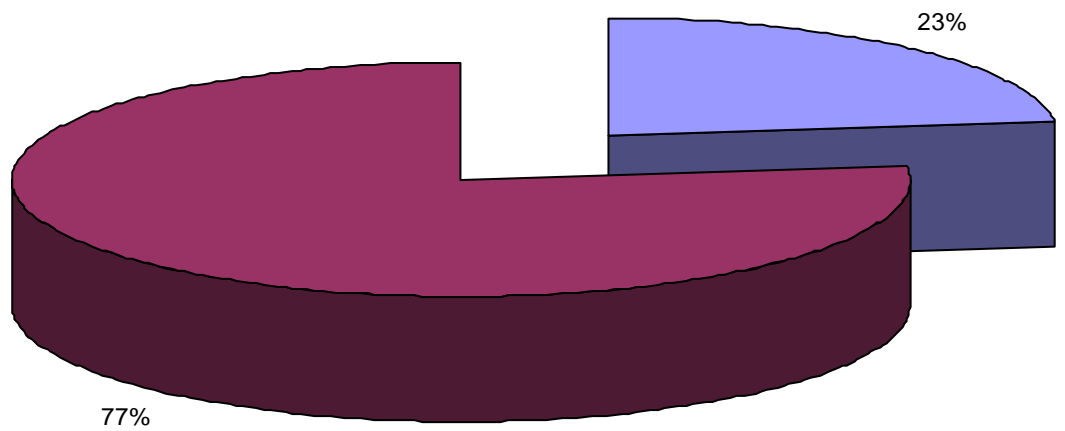


Chart 22
Classification of the respondents based on the amount of their savings

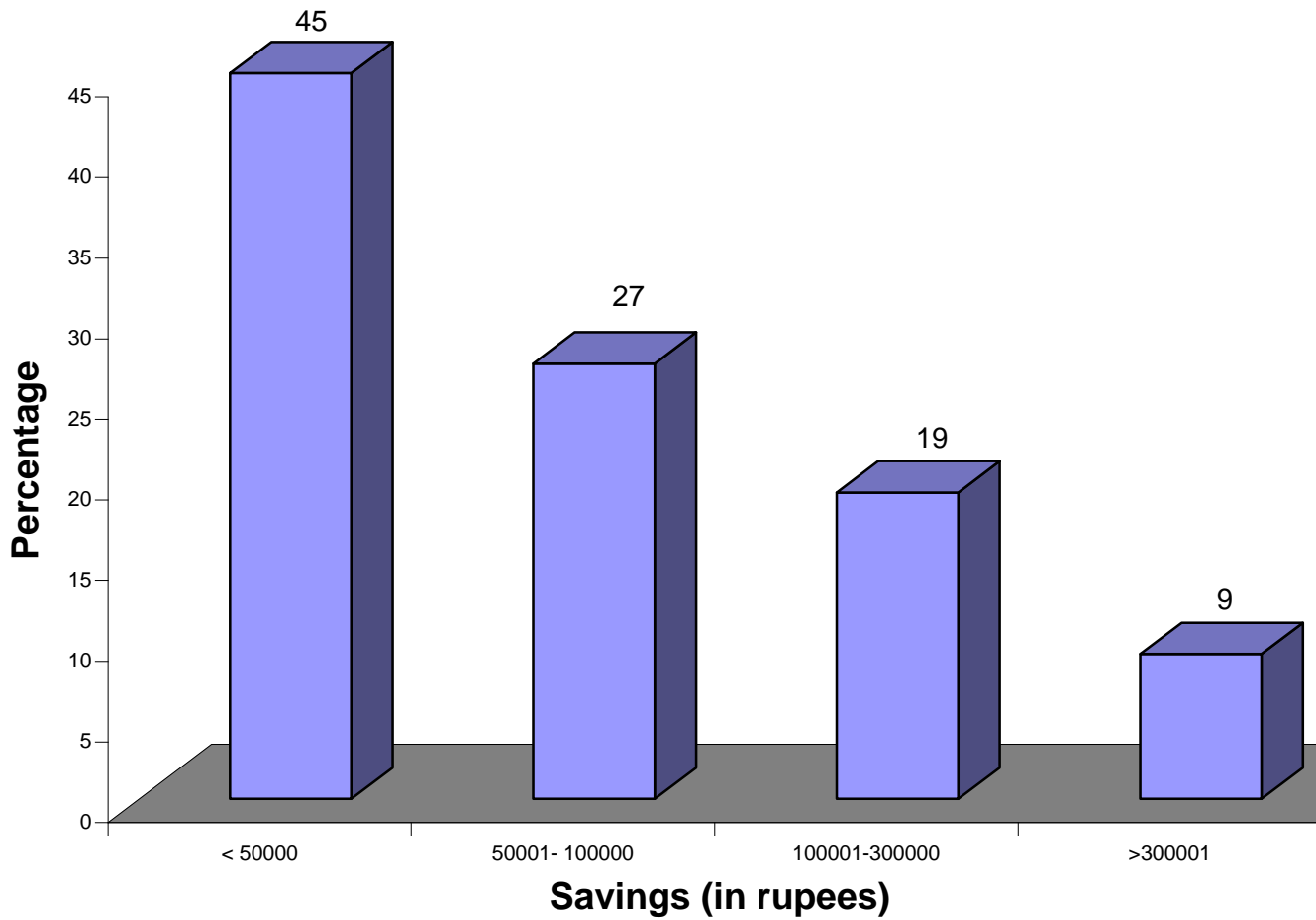


Chart 23
Classification of the respondent based on their property

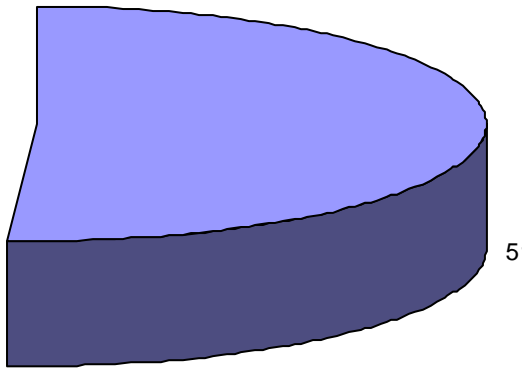
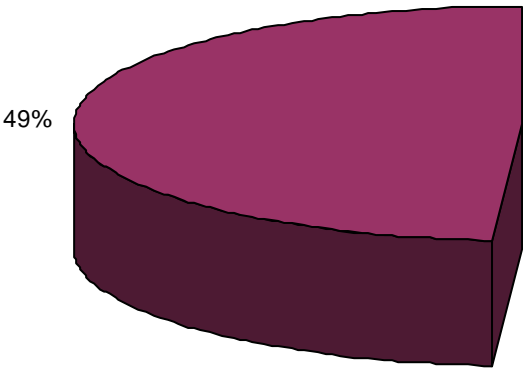


Chart 24

Classification of the respondents based on their property value

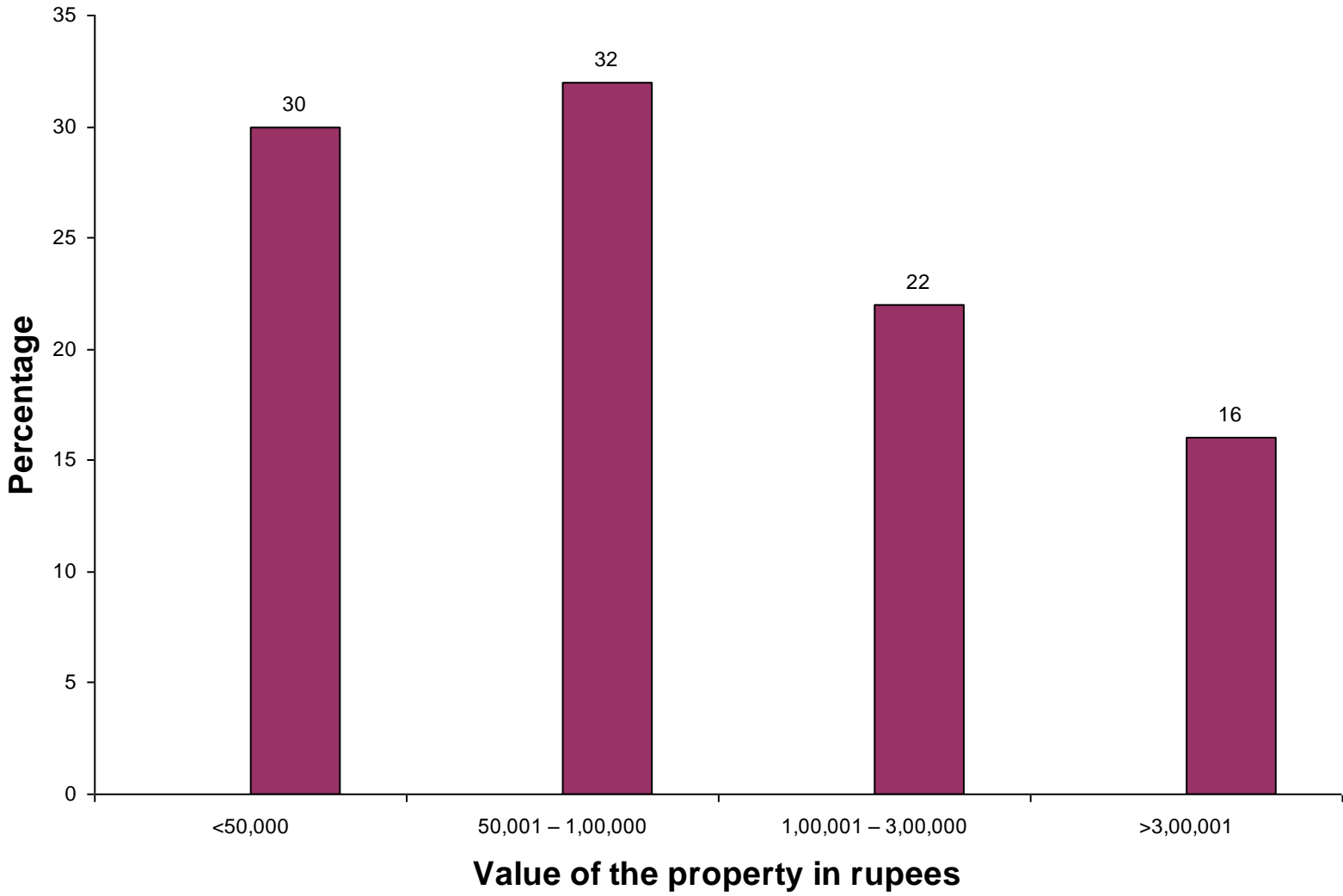


Chart 25
Classification of the respondent based on possession of jewels

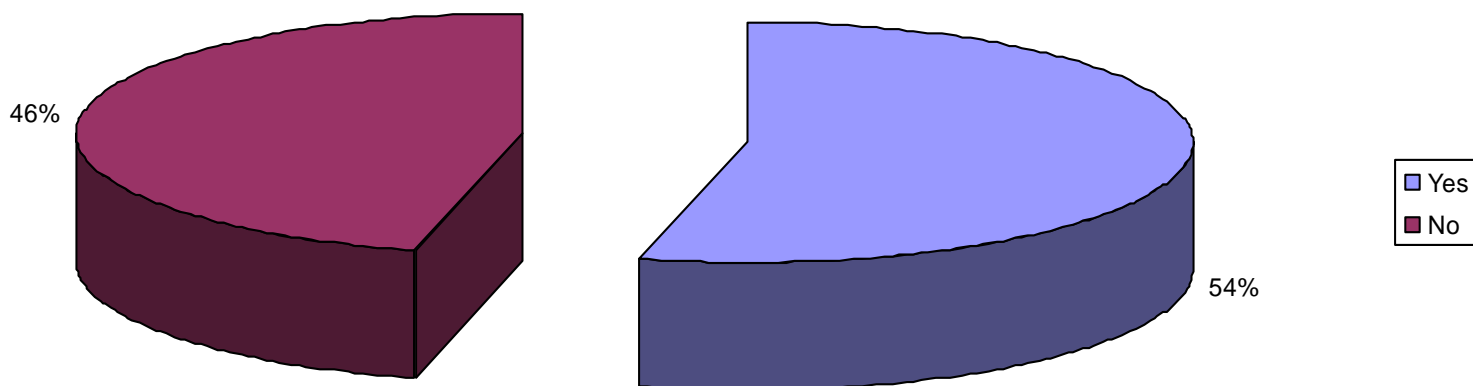


Chart 26
Classification of respondents based on the value of jewels

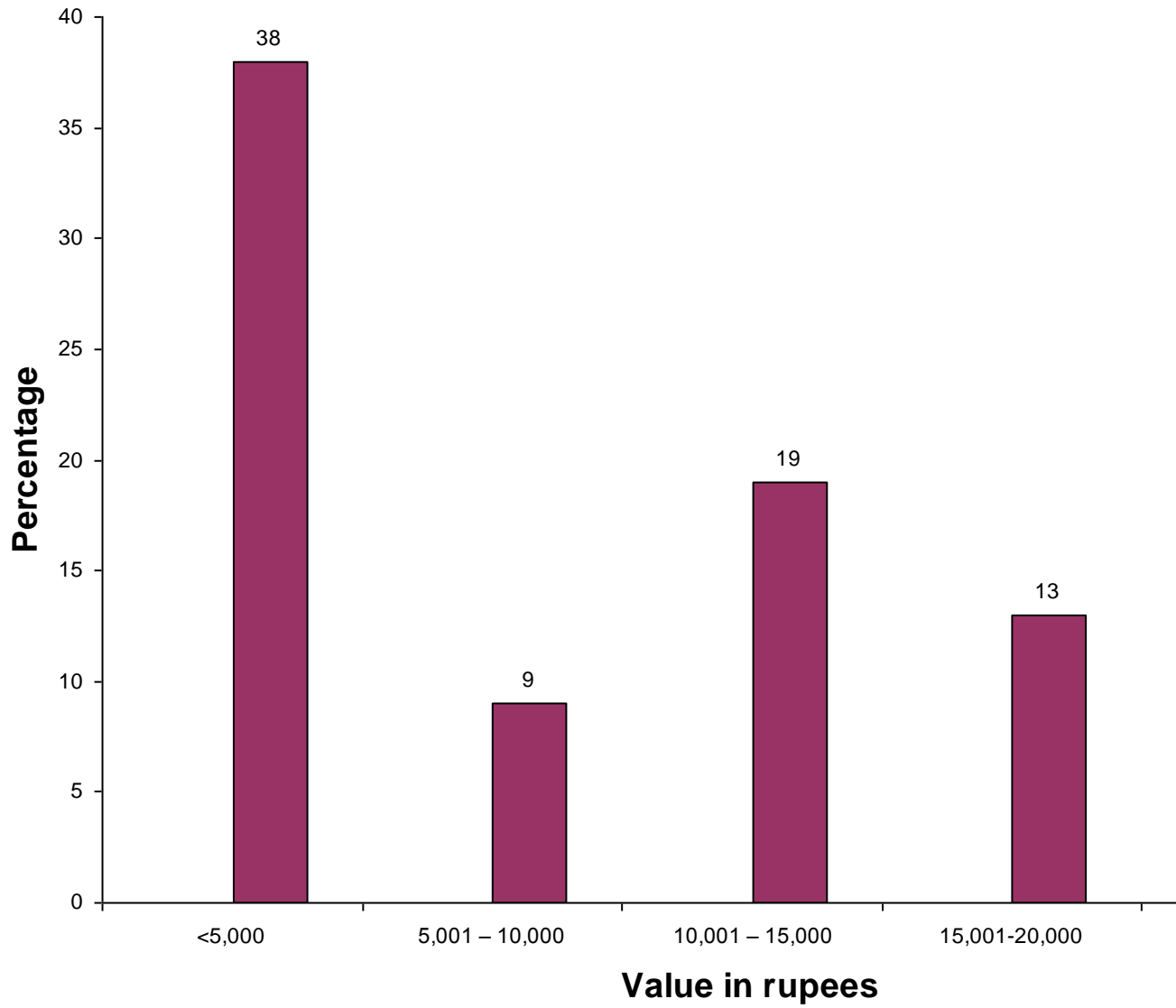


Chart 27
Nature of crime of the respondents

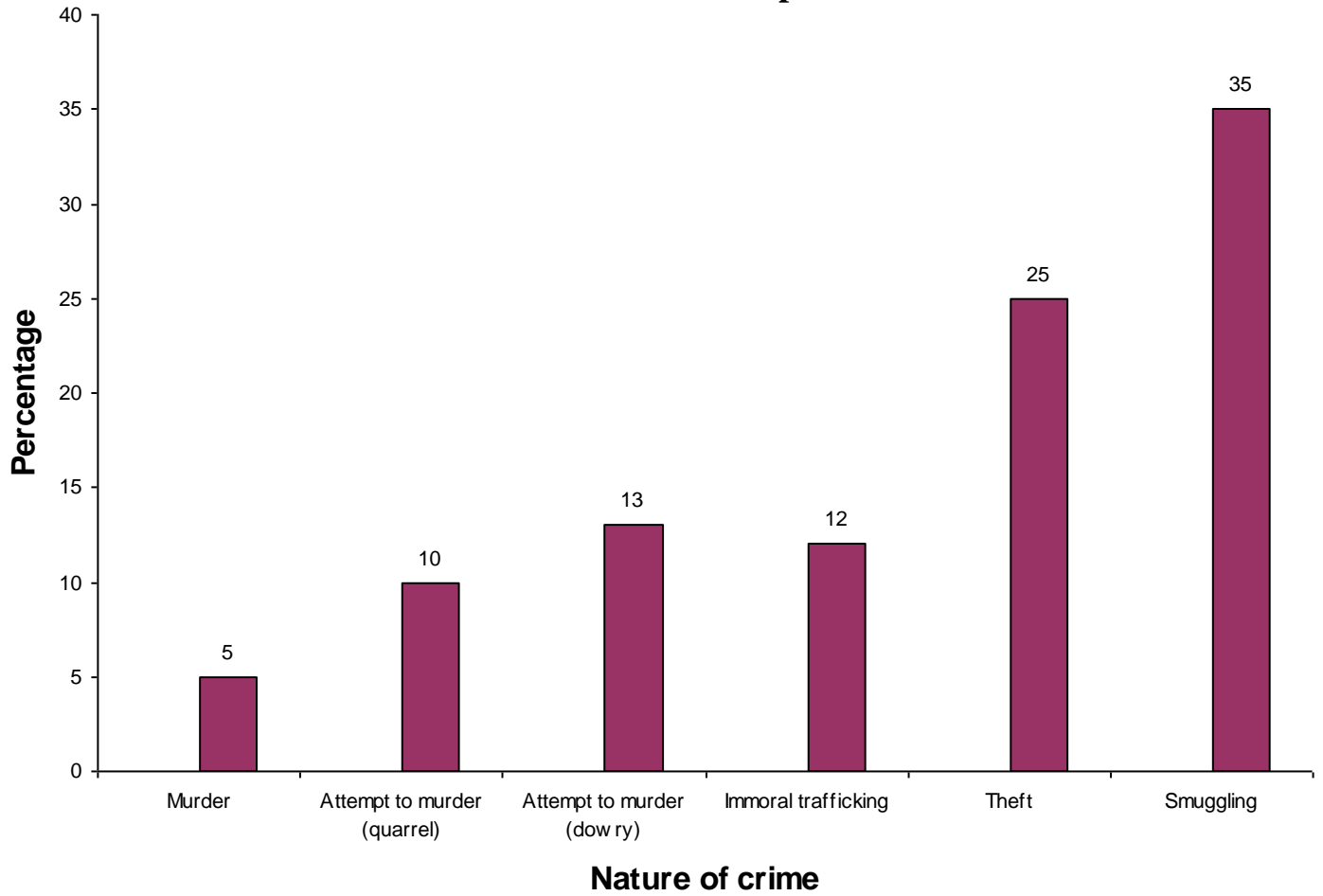


Chart 28
Classification of respondents based on their response over the reason

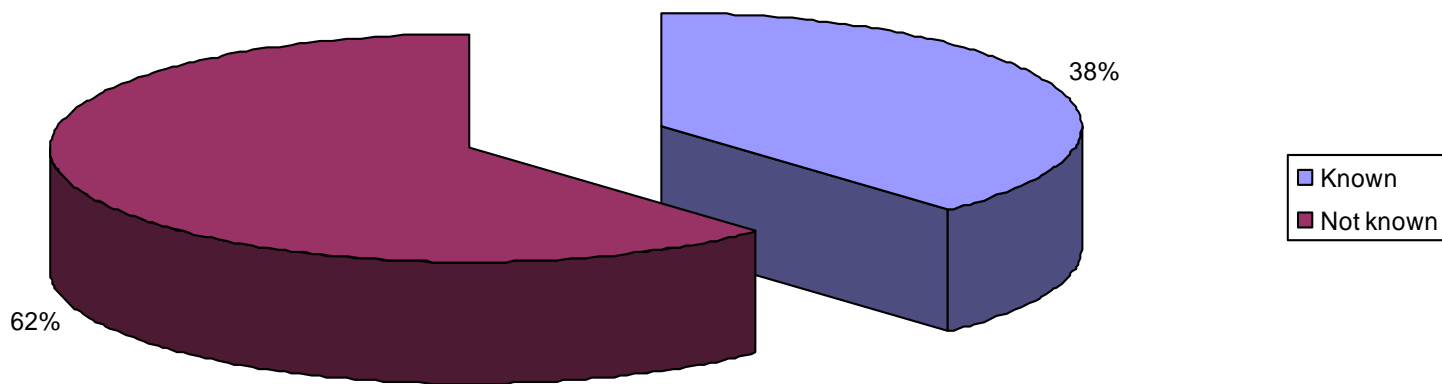


Chart 29
Reasons for commitment of crime by the respondents

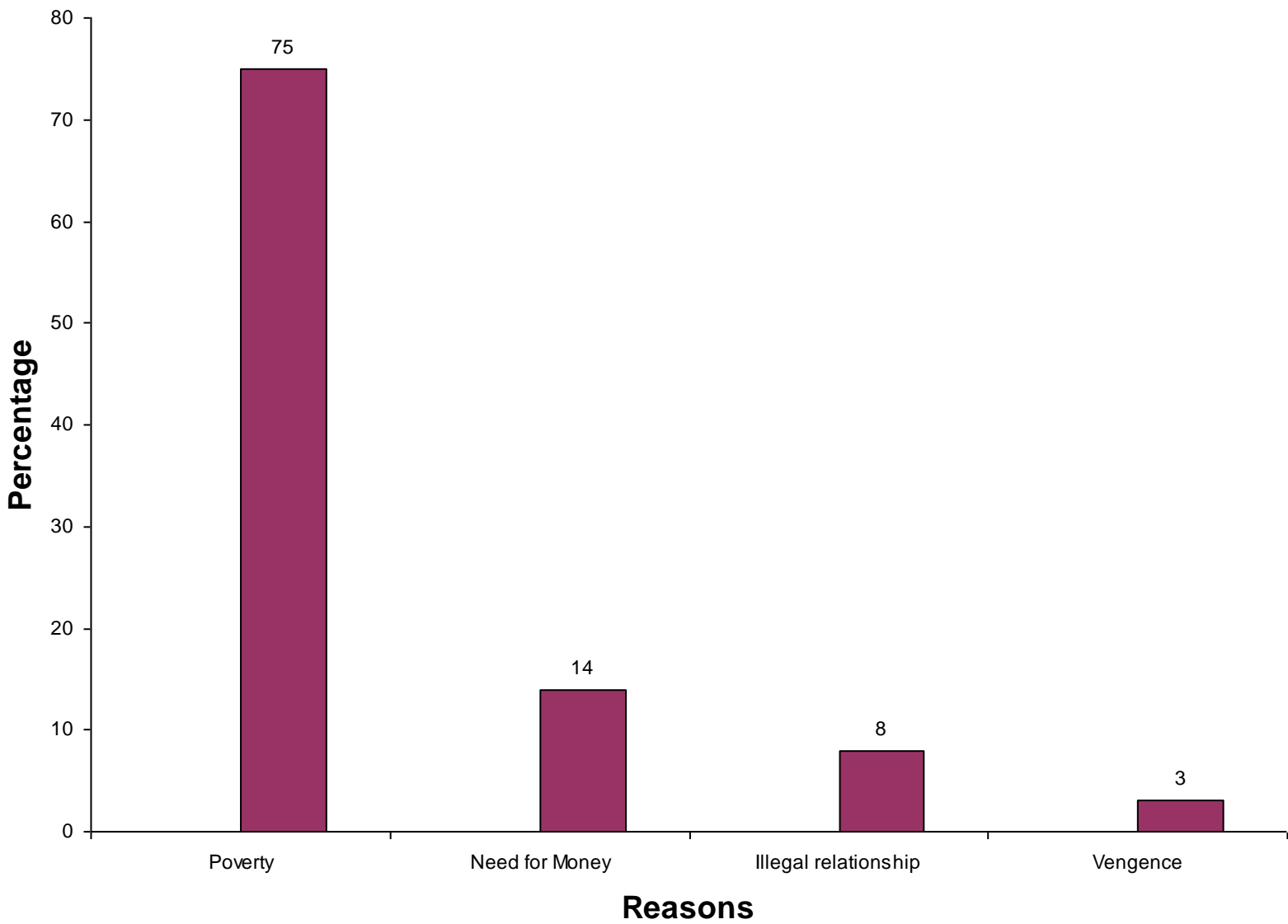


Chart 30
Method of crime by the respondents

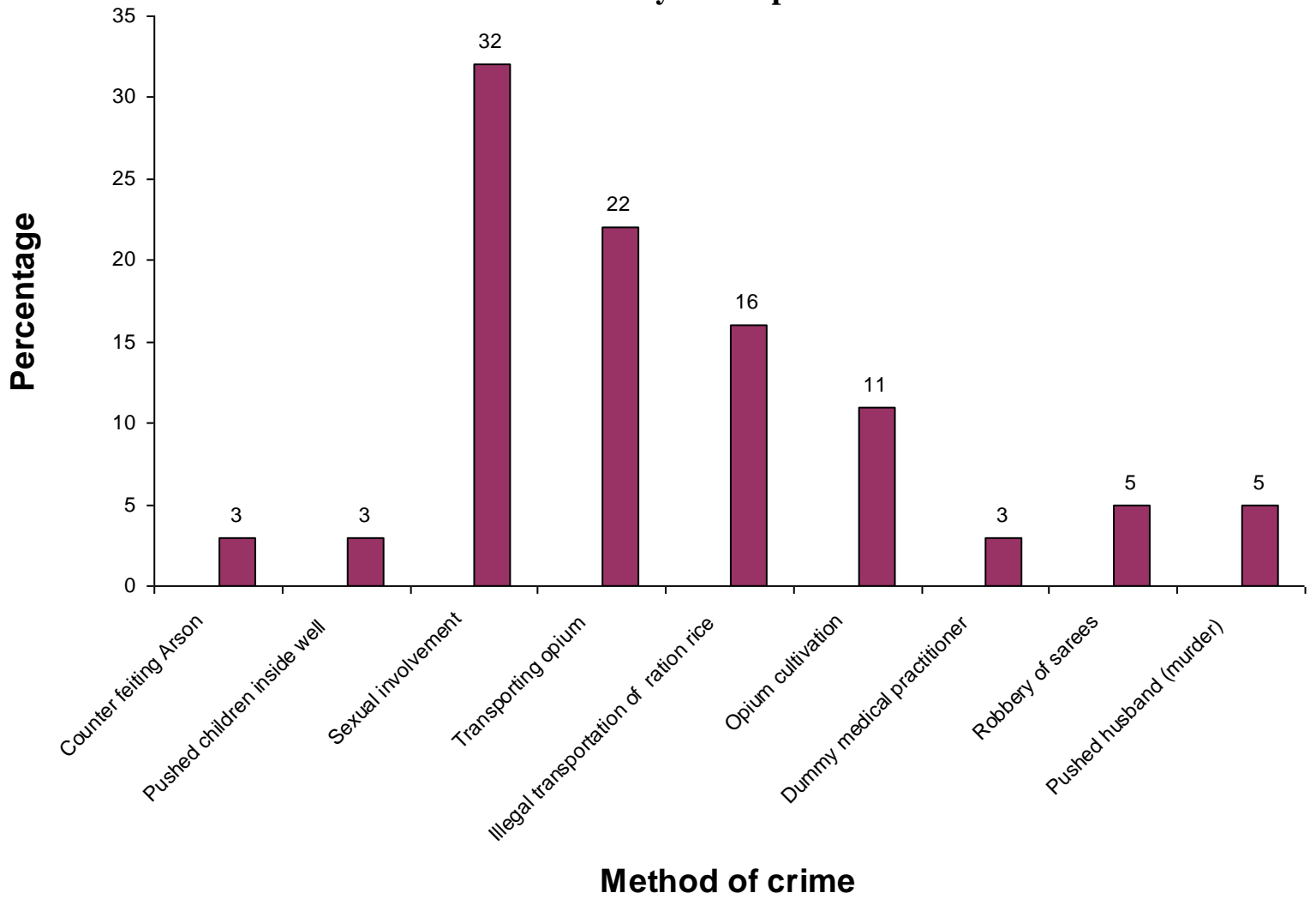


Chart 31
Classification of respondents based on the place of arrest

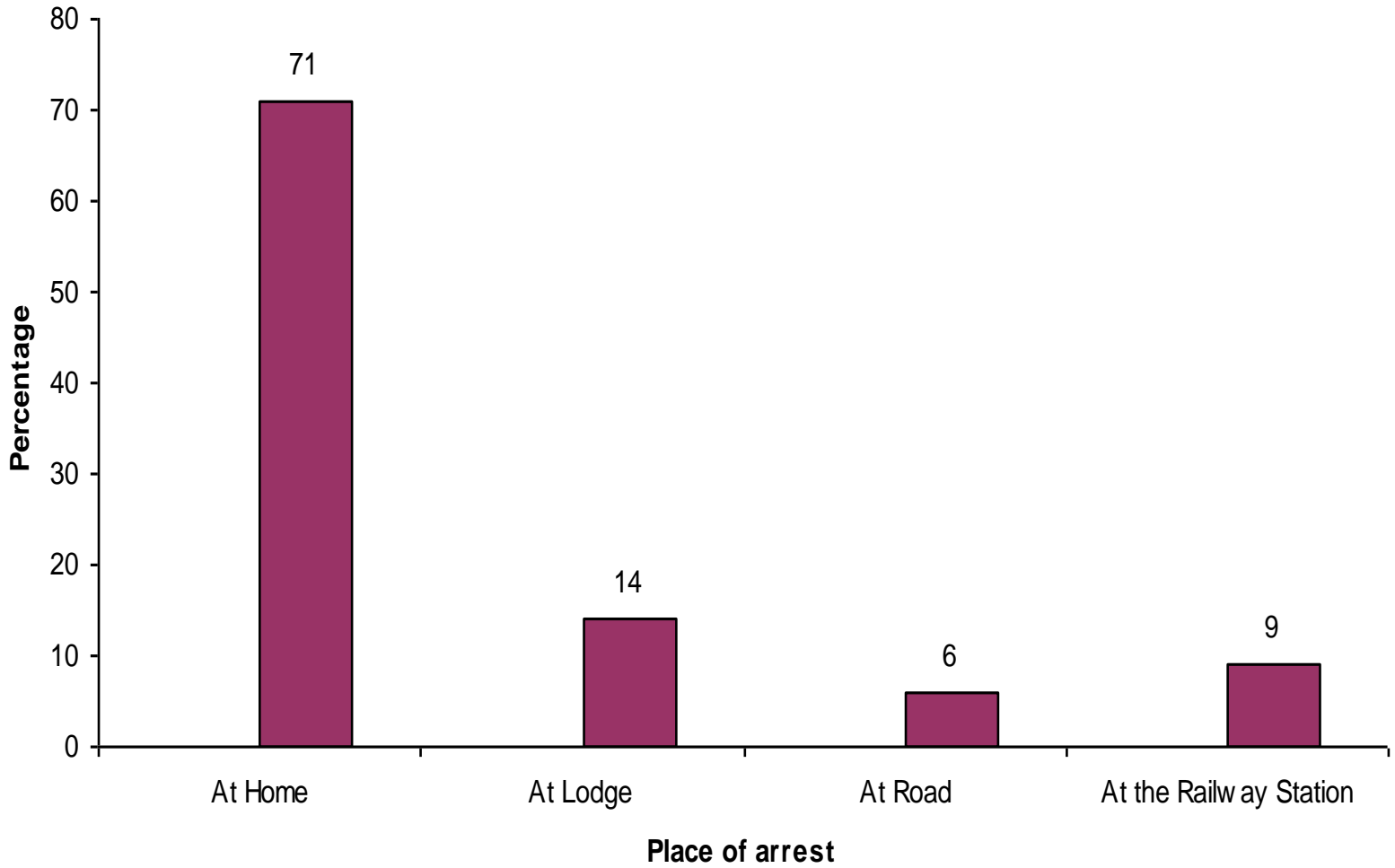


Chart 32
Classification of respondents based on their punishment status

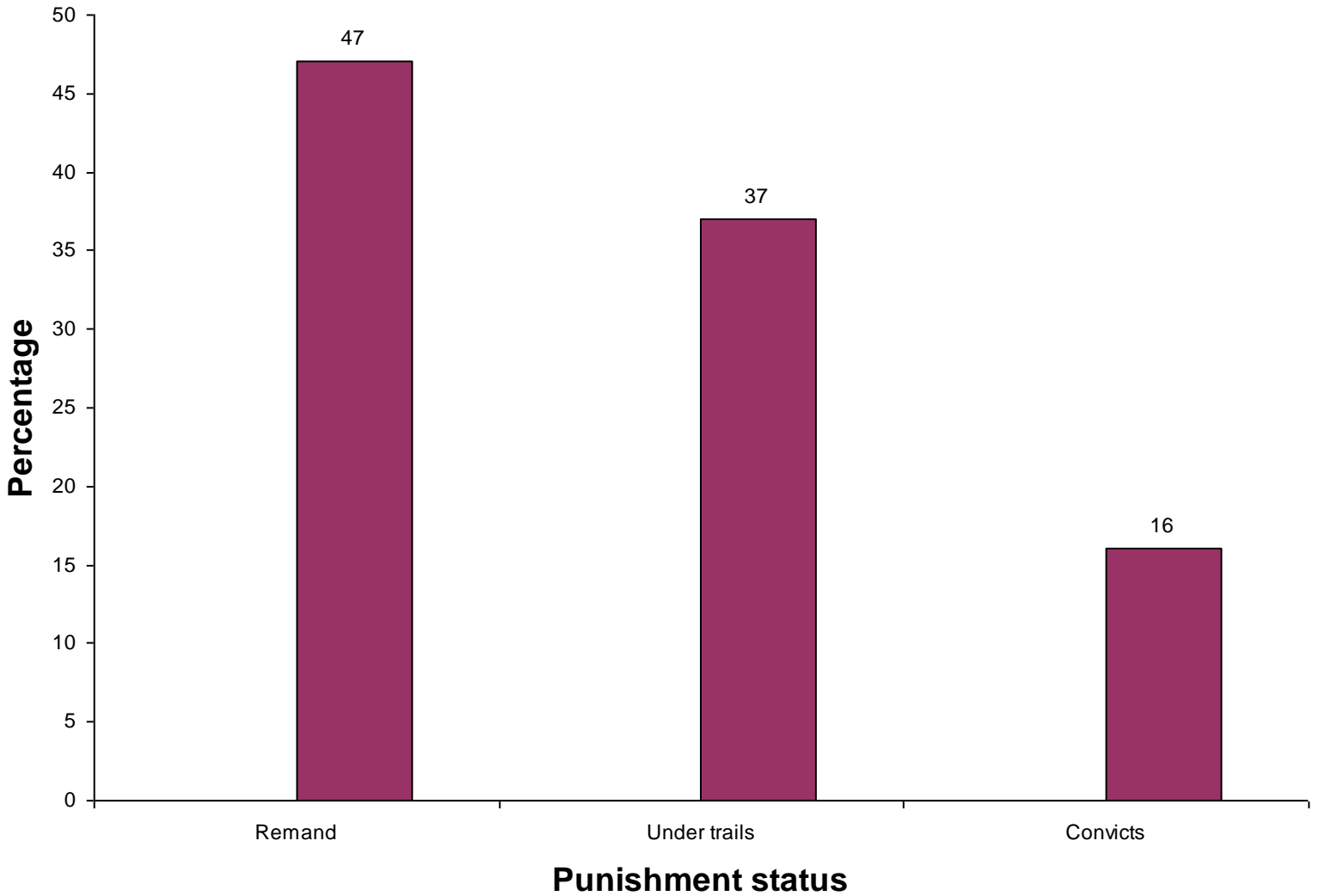


Chart 33

Classification of respondents based on number of times in the prison

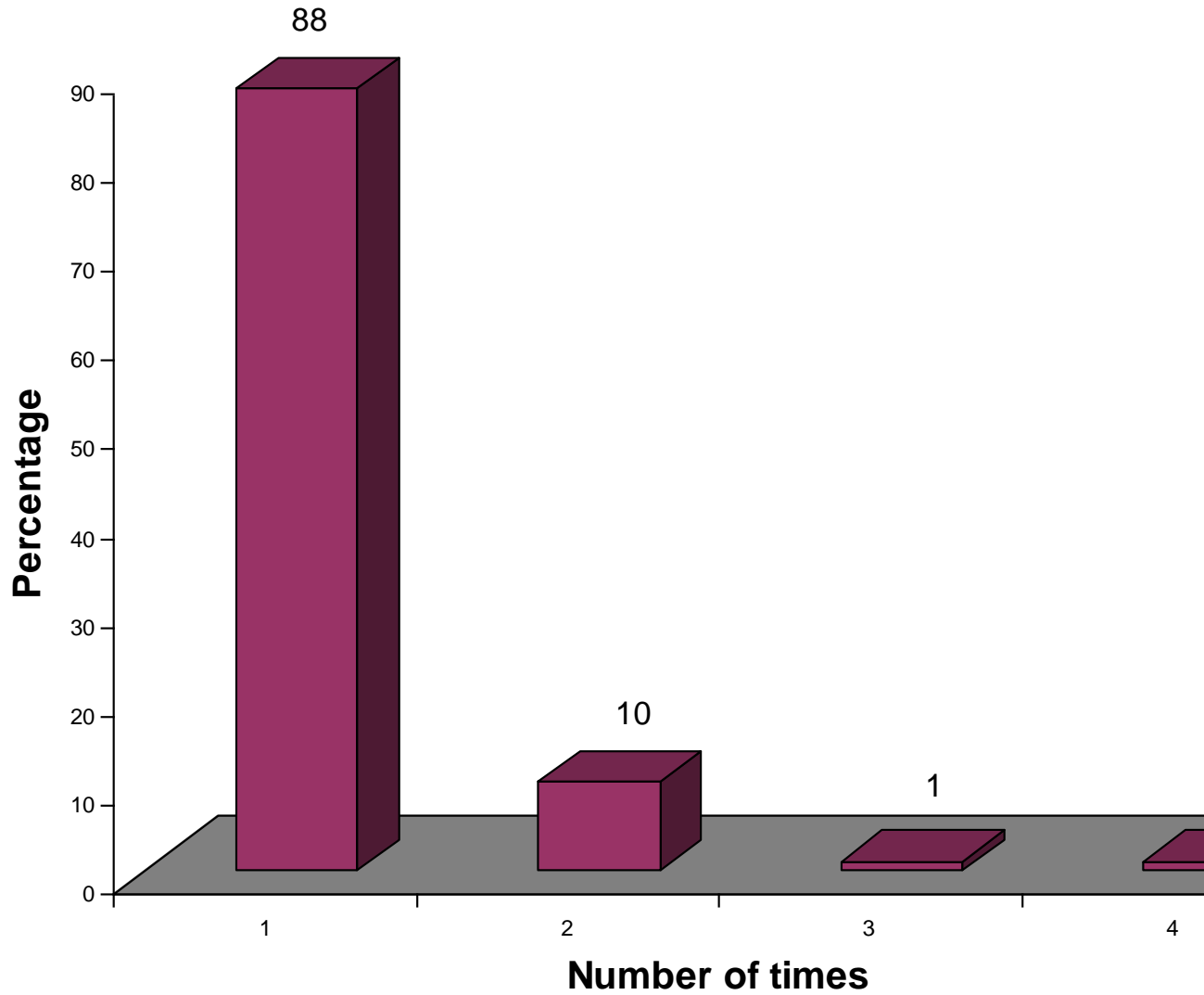
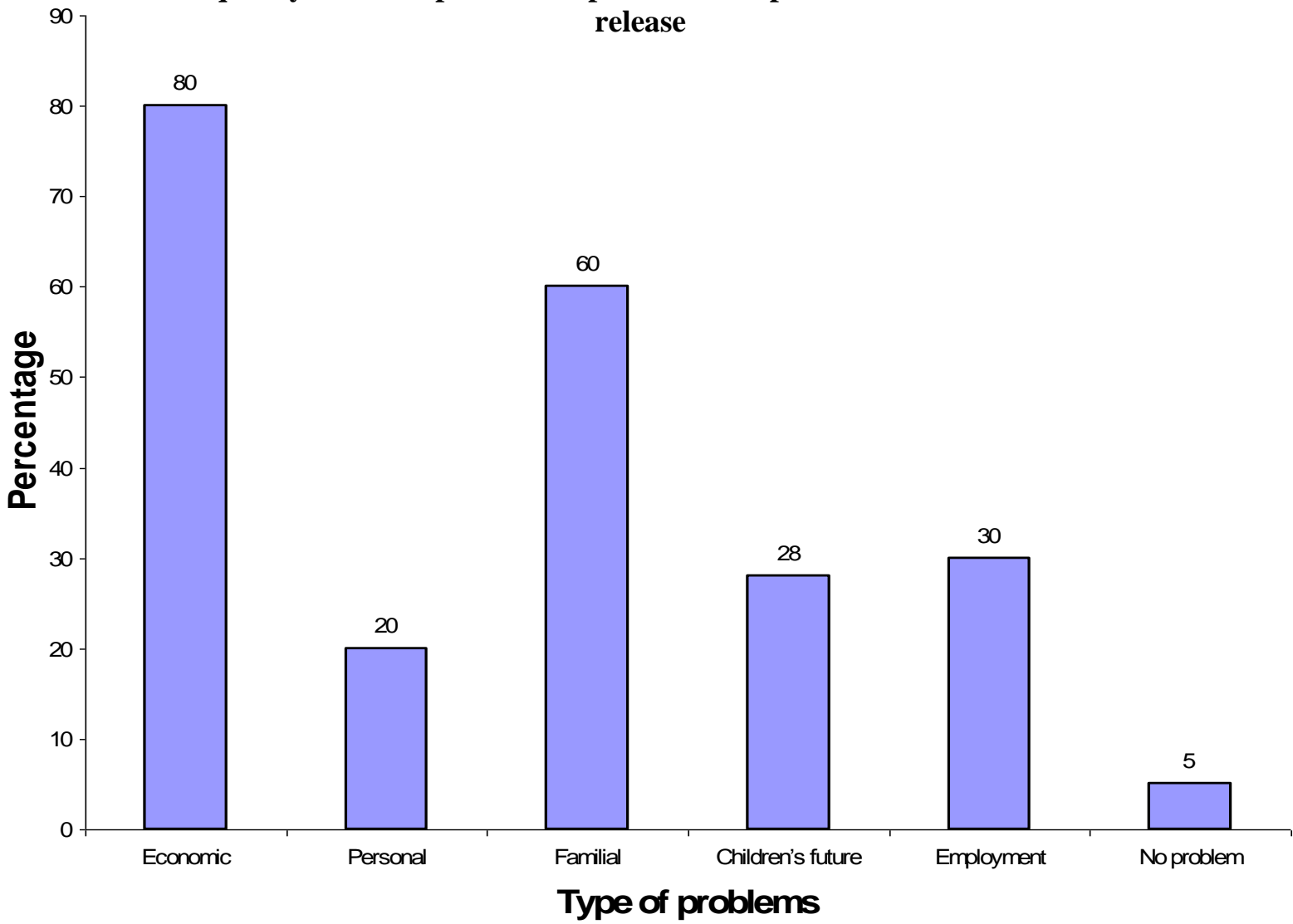


Chart 34

Frequency of the respondent's opinion on the problems to be faced after release



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