

Dynamics of Family Structure:
A Case Study of Bengalee Hindu Families in Calcutta

Usri Sengupta
Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
1986

Thesis Advisory Committee:

Prof. Binod Kumar (thesis supervisor), Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Prof. Kamini Adhikari, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Prof. Krishna Swaminathan, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

Abstract

A case study based on a sample of Bengalee Hindu families, residing in the city of Calcutta, was undertaken in the beginning of the year 1975, with a view to studying their structural dynamics. A random sampling scheme was adopted to ensure the representativeness of the sample, while the families dwelling in the bustees and refugee colonies were excluded from the domain of enquiry. Enquiries were made of the sample units about the changes in their structural nature with reference to a period of 35 years (1940 – 1975) preceding the time of survey. Enquiries regarding the change in the process of maintaining the relationships within the families however referred to a particular point of time, viz. 1975. Two hypotheses have been formulated about the change at these two levels, one relating to the “network of relationships” and the other, to the “process of their maintenance”, and examined on the basis of empirical evidences in the context of the sample families.