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**1999 CONTINUOUS MULTI-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY -
MAIN RESULTS**

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Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic Indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.

Main results of the first round of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey carried out from April to December 1999

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) was launched by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in 1999. The primary objective of this survey is to provide a permanent platform for the collection of information relevant to the computation of appropriate socio-economic indicators to keep track of development on the social front. The on-going nature of the survey allows any topic of current interest to be easily integrated as a distinct module in the questionnaire. The questions to be included are finalised after discussion with concerned ministries and government departments.

### **1.2 Coverage**

Each year, a sample of around 6,000 private households is appropriately selected to represent the set of all such households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. Each month some 500 of these households are surveyed.

### **1.3 Data Collection**

The questionnaire designed to collect the required data comprises:

- (i) a basic module covering the general characteristics of the household and its members;
- (ii) one (or more) special modules dealing with topics of current interest and requiring in-depth investigation; and
- (iii) a final module grouping other topics of general interest but investigated in less details.

The data collection exercise is carried out by a team of trained interviewers outside office hours.

### **1.4 First round of the CMPHS**

The first round of the survey scheduled for the period April 1999 to March 2000 was stopped at the end of December 1999 because of the taking of the decennial Housing and Population Census in 2000. During these nine months, a total of 4,725 households were surveyed at the rate of 525 per month. Some 42 field staff were employed during each survey month.

The special topic module for this first round of the CMPHS dealt with detailed information on the economically active population and its characteristics while in the third module some information was collected on the elderly population, women and household income and expenditure.

### **1.5 Response**

Out of the 4,725 households selected for interview, 73 could not be contacted, yielding an initial response rate of 98.5%. However, these non-contacts were replaced by other households with similar characteristics.

### **1.6 Status of the survey results**

The results in this report have been cumulated over the nine months from April to December 1999. They are based on responses of the respondents, without any evaluation and adjustment. For instance, no adjustment has been made for possible under reporting of income or over reporting of unemployment.

As for all sample surveys, the data are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. Sampling errors are due to the fact that information is collected from a small proportion of all possible respondents, whereas non-sampling errors are due to factors such as inaccuracies in reporting by respondents.

## **2 Housing conditions**

Table 1 below shows the distribution of the sampled households by some of the main characteristics of their housing units. Most of the households were living in detached houses (70%) or in semi-detached houses (22%). Detached houses are buildings used wholly as single housing units. Semi-detached houses are those forming part of buildings which comprise more than one housing unit (i.e. independent floors of a storeyed house, 'maison jumelée', flats and parts of commercial/industrial buildings being used for residential purposes).

About 83% of households were living in housing units occupied entirely by one household compared to 17% in multi-household housing units.

As far as tenure is concerned, 77% of the households were owners and 13% were provided with free accommodation. The remaining 10% were staying in rented accommodation. It is to be noted that households living in housing units belonging to parents/relatives or employers, without payment, were considered as being provided with free accommodation.

Table 1 - Households by housing characteristics

| Housing characteristics                                                          | Number of households | %            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Type of building</b>                                                          |                      |              |
| Detached house                                                                   | 3,284                | 69.5         |
| Semi-detached house                                                              | 1,045                | 22.1         |
| Building designed for one housing unit but crudely subdivided into smaller units | 390                  | 8.3          |
| Improvised structure                                                             | 6                    | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                     | <b>4,725</b>         | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Type of housing unit</b>                                                      |                      |              |
| One household housing unit                                                       | 3,940                | 83.4         |
| Multi-household housing unit                                                     | 785                  | 16.6         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                     | <b>4,725</b>         | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Ownership of housing unit</b>                                                 |                      |              |
| Owner                                                                            | 3,651                | 77.3         |
| Tenant/sub-tenant                                                                | 450                  | 9.5          |
| Free <sup>1</sup>                                                                | 613                  | 13.0         |
| Other                                                                            | 11                   | 0.2          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                     | <b>4,725</b>         | <b>100.0</b> |

<sup>1</sup> includes households living in housing units belonging to parents/relatives.

### 3. Households characteristics

The households were classified by type as follows:

- one person household
- nuclear household, consisting of a single family nucleus, i.e. a couple with or without unmarried children or a lone parent with unmarried children.
- extended household, consisting of either one family nucleus and other related members or two or more related family nuclei with or without other related members, or just two or more related persons, not comprising a family nucleus.
- Composite household, comprising persons not related to the other members of the household.

Around 73% of the households were of nuclear type, while 8% comprised more than one family nucleus.

Households comprising of only one parent and unmarried children represented about 9% of the total.

Table 2 - Distribution of households by type

| Household type       | Number of households | %            |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| One person household | 291                  | 6.2          |
| Nuclear household    | 3,452                | 73.1         |
| Extended household   | 975                  | 20.6         |
| Composite household  | 7                    | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>4,725</b>         | <b>100.0</b> |

The average household size works out to 3.88 compared to 4.12 at the 1996/97 Household Budget Survey.

#### 4 Household expenditure

Column 2 of Table 3 shows the average household expenditure on some specific items. Among these, food expenses averaged Rs.3,160 per household per month. Water and electricity expenditures were reported by 90% and 96% of the sampled households with averages of Rs.105 and Rs.335 respectively per month.

Average expenditures computed for those households having reported spending on these items during the survey month are shown in column 5. Thus about 54% of the households reported paying debt during the survey month, with monthly repayments averaging Rs.2,154.

Table 3 - Average household monthly expenditure on specific items

| Item of expenditure  | Average monthly expenditure of all households<br>(Rs) | Reporting households |      |                                  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------|----------------------------------|
|                      |                                                       | Number               | %    | Average monthly expenditure (Rs) |
| Food                 | 3,160                                                 | 4,721                | 99.9 | 3,160                            |
| Medical care         | 460                                                   | 2,815                | 59.6 | 775                              |
| Rent                 | 155                                                   | 481                  | 10.2 | 1,534                            |
| Debt repayment       | 1,165                                                 | 2,553                | 54.0 | 2,154                            |
| Educational expenses | 585                                                   | 2,493                | 52.8 | 1,106                            |
| Water bill           | 105                                                   | 4,271                | 90.4 | 115                              |
| Electricity bill     | 335                                                   | 4,542                | 96.1 | 347                              |
| Telephone bill       | 240                                                   | 3,205                | 67.8 | 352                              |

About 55% of heads of households reported having experienced difficulties at some time during the 12 months preceding the survey month to meet current expenses on essential items (food, rent, utilities, etc.) with their normal monthly income. To meet these expenses they have had to draw from savings (40%), ask for credit (41%) and/or borrow from friends or relatives (43%).

## 5 Indebtedness

Among the 4,725 households surveyed, 2,818 or 60% reported having debts. Items on which these households were mostly indebted are: housing (39%), household appliances (34%) and furniture (30%).

*Table 4 - Indebted households by debt item*

| <b>Debt item</b>               | <b>Number of households reporting debt</b> | <b>% of indebted households reporting debt on given item</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Purchase of land               | 129                                        | 4.6                                                          |
| Purchase/construction of house | 1,093                                      | 38.8                                                         |
| Auto/motor vehicle             | 292                                        | 10.4                                                         |
| Audio-visual equipment         | 497                                        | 17.6                                                         |
| Household appliances           | 955                                        | 33.9                                                         |
| Furniture                      | 832                                        | 29.5                                                         |
| Purchases at retail shop       | 555                                        | 19.7                                                         |
| Medical expenses               | 64                                         | 2.3                                                          |
| Educational expenses           | 79                                         | 2.8                                                          |
| Other                          | 177                                        | 6.3                                                          |

Arrangements made by indebted households for repayment of debt are given in Table 5, from where it is noted that 60% of these households had recourse to hire purchase while the proportion having contracted loans from financial institutions was almost 49%.

*Table 5 - Indebted households by type of debt*

| <b>Debt type</b>                               | <b>Number</b> | <b>% of indebted households</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Loan from bank or other financial institutions | 1,367         | 48.5                            |
| Hire purchase                                  | 1,679         | 59.6                            |
| Loans from friends and relatives               | 332           | 11.8                            |
| Other                                          | 472           | 16.7                            |

## 6 Characteristics of households members

### 6.1 Gender

The sampled households comprised a total of 18,315 household members, of whom 9,088 (49.6%) were males and 9,227 (50.4%) were females.

*Table 6 - Household members by gender*

| Gender       | Number        | %            |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Male         | 9,088         | 49.6         |
| Female       | 9,227         | 50.4         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>18,315</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## 6.2 Age

Some 35% of household members were below 20 years of age while the elderly, i.e. those aged 60 years and over, represented about 9%. The mean age was 30.3 years (29.7 years for males and 30.9 years for females), while the median age worked out to 28.9 years (28.4 for males and 29.4 for females).

*Table 7 - Household members by age and sex*

| Age group (years) | Total         |              | Male         |              | Female       |              |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                   | Number        | %            | Number       | %            | Number       | %            |
| 0-4               | 1,427         | 7.8          | 693          | 7.6          | 734          | 7.9          |
| 5-9               | 1,701         | 9.3          | 872          | 9.6          | 829          | 9.0          |
| 10-14             | 1,542         | 8.4          | 758          | 8.3          | 784          | 8.5          |
| 15-19             | 1,728         | 9.4          | 888          | 9.8          | 840          | 9.1          |
| 20-24             | 1,673         | 9.1          | 863          | 9.5          | 810          | 8.8          |
| 25-29             | 1,394         | 7.7          | 687          | 7.6          | 707          | 7.7          |
| 30-34             | 1,628         | 8.9          | 823          | 9.1          | 805          | 8.7          |
| 35-39             | 1,557         | 8.5          | 767          | 8.4          | 790          | 8.6          |
| 40-44             | 1,275         | 7.0          | 651          | 7.2          | 624          | 6.8          |
| 45-49             | 1,189         | 6.5          | 625          | 6.9          | 564          | 6.1          |
| 50-54             | 892           | 4.8          | 446          | 4.9          | 446          | 4.8          |
| 55-59             | 599           | 3.3          | 277          | 3.0          | 322          | 3.5          |
| 60 & over         | 1,710         | 9.3          | 738          | 8.1          | 972          | 10.5         |
| <b>All ages</b>   | <b>18,315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,088</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,227</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## 6.3 Marital status

Some 48% of the members were single and 45% were married or living in a union. The number of widowed, divorced or separated accounted for less than 8%.

*Table 8 - Household members by marital status*

| Marital Status     | Total         |              | Male         |              | Female       |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                    | Number        | %            | Number       | %            | Number       | %            |
| Married            | 8,165         | 44.6         | 4,082        | 44.9         | 4,083        | 44.2         |
| Widowed            | 1,093         | 6.0          | 131          | 1.4          | 962          | 10.4         |
| Divorced/Separated | 334           | 1.8          | 98           | 1.1          | 236          | 2.6          |
| Single             | 8,723         | 47.6         | 4,777        | 52.6         | 3,946        | 42.8         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>18,315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,088</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,227</b> | <b>100.0</b> |



## 6.4 Education

As for school attendance, 64% of the household members have been to school in the past, 25% were attending school at the time of survey while 11% have never been to school. The latter figure includes children below 5 years not yet at school (5%). Among those who have already left normal academic schools, 1% were following vocational or technical education full-time.

*Table 9 - Household members by school attendance and sex*

| School attendance | Total         |              | Male         |              | Female       |              |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                   | Number        | %            | Number       | %            | Number       | %            |
| Now               | 4,568         | 24.9         | 2,257        | 24.8         | 2,311        | 25.0         |
| Past              | 11,656        | 63.7         | 6,052        | 66.6         | 5,604        | 60.7         |
| Never             | 2,091         | 11.4         | 779          | 8.6          | 1,312        | 14.2         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>18,315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,088</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,227</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Analysis by educational attainment reveals that 44% have studied up to primary level, 39% up to secondary level and 2% have followed tertiary education.

*Table 10 - Household members by educational attainment and gender*

| Educational attainment | Total         |              | Male         |              | Female       |              |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                        | Number        | %            | Number       | %            | Number       | %            |
| Nil                    | 2,091         | 11.4         | 779          | 8.6          | 1,312        | 14.2         |
| Pre-primary            | 702           | 3.8          | 327          | 3.6          | 375          | 4.1          |
| Primary                | 7,967         | 43.5         | 3,940        | 43.3         | 4,027        | 43.7         |
| Secondary              | 7,194         | 39.3         | 3,807        | 41.9         | 3,387        | 36.7         |
| Tertiary               | 357           | 2.0          | 234          | 2.6          | 123          | 1.3          |
| Undefined              | 4             | -            | 1            | -            | 3            | -            |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>18,315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,088</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,227</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## 6.5 Health

The most common disease reported by household members was diabetes (3.9%), followed by respiratory problems (2.2%) and heart disease (1.7%).

*Table 11 - Incidence of specific diseases or disabilities among household members*

| Type of disease/disability | Number | %   |
|----------------------------|--------|-----|
| Blindness                  | 61     | 0.3 |
| Amputation                 | 28     | 0.2 |
| Stroke                     | 130    | 0.7 |
| Heart disease              | 311    | 1.7 |
| Diabetes                   | 714    | 3.9 |
| Respiratory problems       | 398    | 2.2 |

## 7. Labour force characteristics

About 80% of the sampled household members were aged 12 years and over. They were requested to supply information on their activities during a specified week. Information could not be obtained for 6 respondents who were not present in their households during the survey week. Table 12 shows that 76% of males and 37% of females aged 12 years and over were economically active, i.e. they were either already employed or were looking for jobs at the time of the survey. It may be recalled that the percentages of economically active males and females estimated from the Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) carried out in 1995 were 74 and 35 respectively.

*Table 12 - Population aged 12 years and over by activity status and gender*

| Activity status      | Total         | Male         | Female       |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Employed             | 7,454         | 5,107        | 2,347        |
| Unemployed           | 701           | 346          | 355          |
| Not currently active | 6,339         | 1,724        | 4,615        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>14,494</b> | <b>7,177</b> | <b>7,317</b> |

### 7.1 Employed population

The number of persons at work was 7,454; comprising 5,107 (or 69%) males and 2,347 (or 31%) females. Employment gender ratio has remained at almost the same level noted at the 1995 LFSS, i.e. 2.2 males to 1 female.

#### 7.1.1 Industry

Table 13 below shows the distribution of the employed population by sector. Almost half of them were engaged in the tertiary sector, which includes trade, hotels and restaurants, transport and all service industries. The secondary sector, comprising manufacturing, electricity & gas and construction industries, accounted for another 38% while the remaining 13% form part of the primary sector which covers all agricultural, mining and quarrying activities.

*Table 13 - Employed population by sector and gender*

| Sector       | Total (%)    | Male (%)     | Female (%)   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Primary      | 13.1         | 13.7         | 12.0         |
| Secondary    | 38.3         | 37.5         | 39.4         |
| Tertiary     | 48.6         | 48.8         | 48.6         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

#### 7.1.2 Occupation

The CMPHS results show that people engaged in the higher occupational groups, i.e. 'Administrators, managers, professionals, technicians and clerks', formed 21% of the total employed; 18% among males compared to 28% among females (Table 14). Service workers

made up for a further 14% with almost equal proportions for males and females. Hence, nearly two thirds of employed persons were engaged in manual jobs, 68% among male workers and 57% among females.

*Table 14 - Employed population by occupation group and gender*

| <b>Occupation group</b>                                | <b>Total (%)</b> | <b>Male (%)</b> | <b>Female (%)</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Legislators, senior officials and managers             | 3.1              | 3.7             | 1.7               |
| Professionals, associate professionals and technicians | 10.4             | 9.4             | 12.4              |
| Clerks                                                 | 7.7              | 5.1             | 13.5              |
| Service and sales workers                              | 14.4             | 14.3            | 14.6              |
| Skilled agricultural workers                           | 4.8              | 6.1             | 2.3               |
| Craft workers, plant and machine operators             | 36.9             | 40.8            | 28.4              |
| Elementary occupations                                 | 22.7             | 20.6            | 27.1              |
| <b>Total</b>                                           | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

### 7.1.3 Employment status

The majority (78%) of workers were employees, this proportion being higher among females than among males, i.e. 84% and 75% respectively (Table 15). As regards self-employment (i.e. employers and own account workers), a much higher proportion was noted among males (23%) than among females (11%).

*Table 15 - Employed population by employment status and gender*

| <b>Employment status</b> | <b>Total (%)</b> | <b>Male (%)</b> | <b>Female (%)</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Employer                 | 2.1              | 2.7             | 0.8               |
| Own account worker       | 17.0             | 20.2            | 10.2              |
| Employee                 | 78.2             | 75.2            | 84.3              |
| Apprentice               | 0.4              | 0.6             | 0.1               |
| Unpaid family worker     | 2.3              | 1.3             | 4.6               |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

### 7.1.4 Income

Table 16 shows the distribution by monthly income range for employed persons who have derived an income during the month preceding the survey. The median income works out to Rs 4,350, i.e. 50% of the employed were drawing an income of Rs.4,350 or less per month. The corresponding median monthly incomes for males and females were Rs.5,000 and Rs.2,980 respectively.

*Table 16 - Employed population by income range and gender*

| Monthly income from employment (Rs) | Total (%)    | Male (%)     | Female (%)   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Up to 2000                          | 14.6         | 7.7          | 30.0         |
| 2001 - 4000                         | 31.4         | 26.8         | 41.6         |
| 4001 - 6000                         | 25.2         | 31.3         | 11.3         |
| 6001 - 8000                         | 12.0         | 14.5         | 6.4          |
| 8001 - 10000                        | 6.4          | 7.3          | 4.5          |
| 10001 - 15000                       | 6.7          | 7.7          | 4.6          |
| 15001 - 20000                       | 1.9          | 2.2          | 1.0          |
| 20001 - 25000                       | 0.8          | 1.1          | 0.3          |
| 25001 - 30000                       | 0.4          | 0.6          | 0.1          |
| 30001 and above                     | 0.6          | 0.8          | 0.2          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

### 7.1.5 Hours of work

The distribution of the employed population by number of hours actually worked during a week (including overtime) is given in Table 17. On the average, 3.4% of employed persons were absent from work for one or more days during a survey reference week for various reasons.

Overall, the average weekly number of hours actually worked was 40 hours. Among males, the average was 42 hours while among females an average of 37 hours was noted. Nearly 17% reported having worked for more than 50 hours during the reference week (19% of males and 13% of females).

*Table 17 - Employed population by gender and number of hours actually worked during reference week*

| Hours worked per week | Total (%)    | Male (%)     | Female (%)   |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0                     | 3.4          | 3.1          | 4.1          |
| 1 - 30                | 20.0         | 16.2         | 28.3         |
| 31 - 40               | 29.7         | 31.2         | 26.3         |
| 41 - 50               | 30.0         | 30.9         | 28.1         |
| 51+                   | 16.9         | 18.6         | 13.2         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

On the other hand, nearly 20% of the employed respondents reported having worked less than the normal/usual hours they are expected to work during a week, for the various reasons given in Table 18.

*Table 18 - Employed population having worked less than normal weekly hours by reason for working less and gender*

| <b>Reason for working less than weekly normal hours</b>                              | <b>Total (%)</b> | <b>Male (%)</b> | <b>Female (%)</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Illness or injury                                                                    | 22.2             | 21.6            | 24.0              |
| Holiday, study and other leaves                                                      | 29.6             | 24.2            | 42.5              |
| Temporary disorganisation of work due to bad weather/breakdown or insufficient work. | 28.4             | 34.0            | 14.7              |
| Full-time work week less than that fixed by legislation (e.g. piece rate workers)    | 12.6             | 12.6            | 12.9              |
| Other reasons                                                                        | 7.2              | 7.6             | 5.9               |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                         | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

Employed persons interested in additional work numbered 815, representing 11% of the total number of employed persons surveyed. Among them, 310 were working less than their normal hours of work per week while the remaining 505 were already working full normal hours or even more.

## **7.2 Unemployed population**

Out of the 14,494 persons aged 12 years or more, 701 were classified as unemployed (346 males and 355 females). The unemployment rate which represents the proportion of unemployed persons forming part of the labour force or economically active population worked out to 8.6% (6.3% for males and 13.1% for females) compared to 5.2% (4.1% for males and 7.4% for females) at the 1995 LFSS. It is to be noted, however, that these rates have been calculated from responses of the interviewees and have not been evaluated nor adjusted for possible over-reporting of unemployment.

First job seekers numbered 365 (168 males and 197 females), representing 52% of the total number of unemployed persons.

Table 19 shows the distribution of unemployed persons by age and gender. It is to be noted that the profile of unemployed males was younger than that for females: 67% of unemployed males were below 25 years compared to 48% for females, whereas 24% of unemployed males were between 25 to 44 years compared to 47% for females.

Among unemployed persons aged 12 to 24 years, 70% were new entrants into the labour market and 30% had worked in the past while in the higher age groups, 28% were looking for their first jobs and 72% had work experience.

*Table 19 - Unemployed population by age group and gender*

| Age group (years) | Total (%)    | Male (%)     | Female (%)   |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 12 - 19           | 29.0         | 37.8         | 20.3         |
| 20 - 24           | 28.7         | 29.5         | 27.9         |
| 25 - 34           | 23.5         | 16.5         | 30.4         |
| 35 - 44           | 12.4         | 7.8          | 16.9         |
| 45 - 54           | 4.3          | 4.9          | 3.7          |
| 55 and above      | 2.1          | 3.5          | 0.8          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

More than half of the unemployed females were either married or had been married before while the majority (83%) of unemployed males were single (Table 20).

*Table 20 - Unemployed population by marital status and gender*

| Marital status             | Total (%)    | Male (%)     | Female (%)   |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Married                    | 31.1         | 15.6         | 46.2         |
| Widowed/Divorced/Separated | 4.7          | 1.2          | 8.2          |
| Single                     | 64.2         | 83.2         | 45.6         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Nearly 58% of the unemployed persons have studied beyond primary level with a higher proportion among females (66%) than among males (50%) as shown in Table 21.

*Table 21 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and gender*

| Educational attainment | Total (%)    | Male (%)     | Female (%)   |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| No education           | 1.9          | 1.4          | 2.2          |
| Primary                | 40.0         | 48.3         | 32.1         |
| Secondary              | 57.5         | 49.7         | 65.1         |
| Tertiary               | 0.6          | 0.6          | 0.6          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Respondents looking for jobs had to report on their job search methods and the results are shown in Table 22. It is to be noted that some of them have had recourse to more than one means of looking for work. Only 24% of the unemployed were registered with the Employment Service of the Ministry of Training, Skills Development and Productivity.

*Table 22 - Unemployed population by job search method and gender*

| <b>Job search method</b>              | <b>Total (%)</b> | <b>Male (%)</b> | <b>Female (%)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Registration with Employment Exchange | 24.0             | 22.5            | 25.4              |
| Applied to prospective employers      | 41.9             | 41.3            | 42.5              |
| Checked at factories, work sites      | 45.6             | 52.3            | 39.2              |
| Placed or answered advertisements     | 18.6             | 13.6            | 23.7              |
| Sought assistance or advice           | 32.2             | 33.5            | 31.3              |
| Taken steps to start own business     | 4.3              | 4.9             | 3.7               |
| Other                                 | 2.1              | 3.2             | 1.1               |

Around 52% of the total number of unemployed persons have been looking for work for a year or more (Table 23). The proportion of males and females with duration of job search lasting one year or more was 51% and 53% respectively. Two thirds of unemployed persons who have been looking for work for a year or more were in search of their first jobs.

*Table 23 - Unemployed population by duration of job search and gender*

| <b>Duration of job search (months)</b> | <b>Total (%)</b> | <b>Male (%)</b> | <b>Female (%)</b> |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 - 11                                 | 48.0             | 48.8            | 47.0              |
| 12 - 23                                | 21.1             | 22.3            | 20.0              |
| 24 - 35                                | 14.6             | 14.7            | 14.4              |
| 36 - 47                                | 7.7              | 6.7             | 8.7               |
| 48 - 59                                | 2.8              | 3.5             | 2.3               |
| 60+                                    | 5.8              | 4.0             | 7.6               |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

Unemployed persons having worked before numbered 336 or 48% of the total number of unemployed respondents. These persons left their last jobs for reasons specified in Table 24 below.

Among those who left because they were not satisfied with their jobs, 55% were males and 45% were females.

*Table 24 - Unemployed population having worked in the past by gender and reason for leaving last job*

| <b>Reason for leaving last job</b>                 | <b>Total (%)</b> | <b>Male (%)</b> | <b>Female (%)</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Reduction in workforce or closure of Establishment | 25.0             | 23.0            | 27.3              |
| Completion of contract/temporary job               | 20.0             | 32.0            | 6.3               |
| Sickness/accident or retirement                    | 8.6              | 12.4            | 4.4               |
| Household responsibilities                         | 16.1             | -               | 34.2              |
| Insatisfaction with job                            | 22.6             | 23.6            | 21.5              |
| Other                                              | 7.7              | 9.0             | 6.3               |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

## 8 The Elderly

The number of persons aged 60 years or more numbered 1,710 (738 males and 972 females), representing about 9% of the total number of persons covered by the survey.

*Table 25 - Elderly population by age group and gender*

| Age group (years) | Total        |              | Male       |              | Female     |              |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
|                   | Number       | %            | Number     | %            | Number     | %            |
| 60-69             | 985          | 57.6         | 444        | 60.2         | 541        | 55.7         |
| 70-79             | 540          | 31.6         | 230        | 31.2         | 310        | 31.9         |
| 80-89             | 163          | 9.5          | 57         | 7.7          | 106        | 10.9         |
| 90+               | 22           | 1.3          | 7          | 0.9          | 15         | 1.5          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1,710</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>738</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>972</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Among the elderly persons, 987 or 58% were reported as heads of households, 17% were spouses of the heads and 21% were parents of the head of household or of his/her spouse.

### 8.1 Physical disability and dependence

The number of elderly persons who reported not being able to carry out certain specified normal basic activities, and were receiving assistance from another person for such activities, is given in Table 26 below.

*Table 26 - Elderly persons receiving assistance to carry out normal activities*

| Activity                | Number of persons receiving assistance | % of elderly |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Personal hygiene        | 152                                    | 8.9          |
| Dressing and undressing | 139                                    | 8.1          |
| Eating                  | 72                                     | 4.2          |
| Moving about the house  | 90                                     | 5.3          |
| Moving about outdoors   | 208                                    | 12.2         |
| Climbing steps          | 298                                    | 17.4         |
| Travelling by bus       | 425                                    | 24.9         |
| Buying food             | 394                                    | 23.0         |
| Cooking                 | 387                                    | 22.6         |
| Cleaning the house      | 405                                    | 23.7         |
| Managing money          | 296                                    | 17.3         |

Assistance was received mainly from members of the same household or relatives, and 39% of elderly persons reported such type of assistance. Another 6% were getting assistance from friends/neighbours or had to pay for assistance.

Elderly persons also reported on specified disabilities. The disability mostly reported on was "sight" (19%) which in the majority of cases has resulted from an illness/accident or old age. Table 27 below gives more details on all the specified disabilities.



*Table 27 - Elderly persons suffering from specified disabilities*

| Type of disability | Partial disability |      | Total disability |     | Partial or total disability |      |
|--------------------|--------------------|------|------------------|-----|-----------------------------|------|
|                    | Number             | %    | Number           | %   | Number                      | %    |
| Sight              | 317                | 18.5 | 14               | 0.8 | 331                         | 19.3 |
| Hearing            | 161                | 9.4  | 4                | 0.2 | 165                         | 9.6  |
| Speech             | 50                 | 3.0  | 5                | 0.2 | 55                          | 3.2  |
| Use of legs        | 155                | 9.0  | 20               | 1.2 | 175                         | 10.2 |
| Use of arms        | 83                 | 4.9  | 11               | 0.6 | 94                          | 5.5  |
| Mental             | 45                 | 2.6  | 5                | 0.3 | 50                          | 2.9  |

## 8.2 Leisure activities of elderly

The most popular leisure activities among elderly persons were 'daytime sleeping/resting' and 'watching TV and video films' reported by about 87% of the elderly. An average of 13 hours per week was spent in daytime sleeping/resting and 12 hours in watching TV and video films. Quite a large proportion (68%) of the elderly also reported visiting friends and relatives.

*Table 28 - Elderly persons engaged in specified leisure activities and average number of hours spent per week in these activities*

| Leisure activity                   | Elderly persons engaged in the activity |      | Average number of hours spent per week |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|
|                                    | Number                                  | %    |                                        |
| Reading                            | 531                                     | 31.1 | 6.7                                    |
| Watching TV and video films        | 1,489                                   | 87.1 | 11.5                                   |
| Kitchen gardening & animal rearing | 319                                     | 18.7 | 5.8                                    |
| House maintenance and repairs      | 120                                     | 7.0  | 3.3                                    |
| Sewing, knitting, etc.             | 154                                     | 9.0  | 3.4                                    |
| Visiting friends/relatives         | 1,154                                   | 67.5 | 5.8                                    |
| Club activity                      | 183                                     | 10.7 | 4.2                                    |
| Sleeping/resting                   | 1,485                                   | 86.8 | 12.9                                   |
| Other (cinema, picnic)             | 57                                      | 3.3  | 7.4                                    |

## 8.3 Economic resources and support of elderly

Apart from their old age pension and income from work (if they were still at work), elderly persons surveyed were asked whether they had other regular sources of income. The number of elderly who reported having one or more such other regular sources of income was 1,193 (70% of the total number of elderly respondents). Table 29 shows the distribution of these persons by such sources of income.

*Table 29 - Elderly persons by source of income (other than old age pension and income from work)*

| Source of income                                      | Number | %    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Pension from former employer                          | 542    | 31.7 |
| Income from property                                  | 79     | 4.6  |
| Social security benefits (other than old age pension) | 179    | 10.5 |
| Financial assistance from children/relatives          | 733    | 42.9 |
| Other                                                 | 33     | 1.9  |
| None                                                  | 517    | 30.2 |

Many elderly persons also received non-financial assistance from their children or relatives. Type of assistance received and the number of persons receiving such assistance is shown in Table 30.

*Table 30 - Elderly persons receiving non-financial assistance from children/relatives by type of assistance*

| Type of assistance      | Number | %    |
|-------------------------|--------|------|
| Provision of food       | 889    | 52.0 |
| Housing/payment of rent | 387    | 22.6 |
| Medical expenses        | 739    | 43.2 |
| Payment of bills        | 820    | 48.0 |
| Other                   | 102    | 6.0  |
| No assistance           | 606    | 35.4 |

As far as adequacy of basic necessities was concerned, 15% of the elderly reported insufficiency of food, 14% considered their clothing needs to be inadequate, 10% reported inadequacy of housing and 25% were not satisfied with provision of their medical requirements (Table 31).

*Table 31 - Satisfaction of basic needs of elderly persons*

| Item     | Largely sufficient |      | Just adequate |      | Not sufficient |      |
|----------|--------------------|------|---------------|------|----------------|------|
|          | Number             | %    | Number        | %    | Number         | %    |
| Food     | 520                | 30.4 | 931           | 54.5 | 259            | 15.1 |
| Clothing | 526                | 30.8 | 944           | 55.2 | 240            | 14.0 |
| Housing  | 622                | 36.4 | 913           | 53.4 | 175            | 10.2 |
| Medical  | 431                | 25.2 | 826           | 48.5 | 433            | 25.3 |

## 8.4 Medical care

Table 32 shows the type of medical care sought by elderly persons when they are ill or injured. It is to be noted that some of them had recourse to more than one source of medication for the same health problem.

*Table 32 - Type of medical care sought by elderly persons*

| Type of medical care         | Number | %    |
|------------------------------|--------|------|
| Public hospital              | 974    | 57.0 |
| Health Centre                | 613    | 35.8 |
| Private Clinic               | 100    | 5.8  |
| Private Doctor               | 755    | 44.2 |
| Pharmacist                   | 338    | 19.8 |
| Self-medication              | 154    | 9.0  |
| Physiotherapist/massage/etc. | 26     | 1.5  |
| Other                        | 5      | 0.3  |

Expenditure incurred on health and health related items works out to an average of Rs 486 per month per person for the 1,036 elderly persons who reported having made such expenses.

## 8.5 Companionship

Nearly 35% of the elderly persons reported having gone out for leisure activities on their own at least once during the month preceding the survey month. Another 33% went out with their children, while those who were accompanied by other relatives or friends represented 22%.

Some 7% of the elderly population surveyed reported that they were lonely, as they did not have someone to chat with when they felt like it. About 48%, including those living with children, felt that at times they needed company.

Table 33 shows preferences of elderly persons regarding the type of companionship desired.

*Table 33 - Elderly persons by type of company interested in*

| Type of company                                                  | Number of elderly persons | % of total number of elderly persons |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Having somebody to keep them company                             | 650                       | 38.0                                 |
| Attending day care centre                                        | 176                       | 10.3                                 |
| Living with their children (if not already living with children) | 218                       | 46.0 <sup>1</sup>                    |
| Living with somebody of same age                                 | 315                       | 18.4                                 |
| Living in a home                                                 | 68                        | 4.0                                  |
| Other                                                            | 15                        | 0.9                                  |

<sup>1</sup> As a % of elderly persons not living with their children.

## 9 Women

At the 1999 CMPHS, there were 6,407 female household members aged 12 years and above who were not studying on a full time basis. Table 34 shows the distribution of these women according to certain specific activities and the corresponding average number of hours spent during the reference week.

*Table 34 - Average number of hours spent on specified activities*

| Activity                         | Women having spent time on the following activities |      | Average number of hours spent per week |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|
|                                  | Number                                              | %    |                                        |
| Work (including travelling time) | 2,262                                               | 35.3 | 41.9                                   |
| Studies outside home             | 124                                                 | 1.9  | 6.7                                    |
| Studies at home                  | 314                                                 | 4.9  | 7.1                                    |
| Club/association                 | 1,534                                               | 24.0 | 3.7                                    |
| Sports                           | 259                                                 | 4.0  | 3.2                                    |

### 9.1 Working women

About 37% (2,345) of the total number of women aged 12 years and above and who were not studying on a full time basis, reported having a job. Among them, 83 were absent from work during the reference week.

Half of them declared that it was difficult to cope with work and family responsibilities but they managed to do so, while around 40% claimed having no difficulty. Only 10% reported having much difficulty to cope with their situation (Table 35).

*Table 35 - Reconciliation of work and family responsibilities*

|                           | Number       | %            |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Very difficult            | 245          | 10.4         |
| Difficult, but can manage | 1,169        | 49.9         |
| No problem                | 931          | 39.7         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>2,345</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

On the average, a working woman had absented herself from work for 1.5 days per month. The main reason of absence was illness, either of the woman herself or other members of the household. Some 20% of working women reported being away from work due to their own health problems.

*Table 36 - Absence from work*

| Reason for absence                        | Women absent |      |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|------|
|                                           | Number       | %    |
| Own illness                               | 474          | 20.2 |
| Illness of children                       | 143          | 6.1  |
| Illness of other members of the household | 56           | 2.3  |
| Baby care                                 | 41           | 1.7  |
| School holidays                           | 59           | 2.5  |
| Other reasons                             | 203          | 8.6  |

Among working mothers who have babies, 51% left their babies in the care of grand parents while they were at work. Arrangements made by others are shown in Table 37.

*Table 37 - Care of babies when mother was at work*

| Babies looked after by    | Women reporting |              |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                           | Number          | %            |
| Grand parents             | 136             | 50.9         |
| Relatives without payment | 37              | 13.9         |
| Paid child minder         | 33              | 12.3         |
| Nursery                   | 44              | 16.5         |
| Other                     | 17              | 6.4          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>267</b>      | <b>100.0</b> |

Among working women with school going children, 43% reported that their children were left on their own after school, while 32% left their children in the care of grand parents (Table 38).

*Table 38 - Care of school going children after school hours while mother is still at work*

| Children taken care by                       | Women reporting |              |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                              | Number          | %            |
| Grand parents                                | 285             | 32.3         |
| Relatives, friends or neighbours without pay | 34              | 3.9          |
| Relatives, friends or neighbours with pay    | 110             | 12.5         |
| Nursery                                      | 22              | 2.5          |
| No one (left on their own)                   | 379             | 43.0         |
| Other                                        | 51              | 5.8          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>881</b>      | <b>100.0</b> |

## 9.2 Women not at work

Among women aged 12 years and over and not studying on a full-time basis, 63% reported as not being at work at the time of the survey. Among them, 26% expressed their intention to work in the future.

Among those who reported as not interested to work in the future or were undecided, 9% would be interested in jobs with flexible hours and 10% in part time jobs.

## 9.3 Role of women in decision making at household level

Table 39 shows by whom decisions at the household level are taken. The table reveals that most of the major decisions are taken jointly by both spouses.

*Table 39 - Decision making at household level*

| Decision                                                      | Decision taken by   |                  |                                  |                               |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                               | Husband only<br>(%) | Wife only<br>(%) | Husband and wife together<br>(%) | Other household member<br>(%) | Not applicable<br>(%) |
| Purchase/construction of house                                | 19.9                | 1.8              | 67.0                             | 0.9                           | 10.4                  |
| Contracting loans                                             | 25.0                | 1.8              | 61.2                             | 1.1                           | 10.9                  |
| Savings and investment                                        | 23.0                | 4.4              | 66.2                             | 1.1                           | 5.3                   |
| Purchase of household appliances/furniture                    | 11.6                | 9.9              | 75.7                             | 1.4                           | 1.4                   |
| Purchase of food                                              | 23.1                | 17.2             | 58.2                             | 1.2                           | 0.3                   |
| Daily choice of food to be prepared                           | 6.1                 | 46.7             | 45.0                             | 1.8                           | 0.4                   |
| Medical care of family members                                | 15.9                | 11.5             | 71.1                             | 1.5                           | 0.0                   |
| Children's education                                          | 9.9                 | 9.0              | 54.3                             | 1.5                           | 25.3                  |
| Participation of family members in sport activities           | 17.4                | 3.1              | 38.3                             | 4.5                           | 36.7                  |
| Participation of family members in religious activities       | 7.9                 | 11.7             | 72.8                             | 2.0                           | 5.6                   |
| Participation of family members in social/cultural activities | 12.9                | 6.1              | 61.8                             | 2.2                           | 17.0                  |
| Participation of family members in political activities       | 20.9                | 1.1              | 41.8                             | 2.7                           | 33.5                  |