

A STUDY OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS  
OF CHILD IN CARE FAMILIES

by

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### ABSTRACT

This study examined the social and economic conditions of child in care families in Regions 1 and 15 of the Ministry of Human Resources, Vancouver, British Columbia. The relationships between the social and economic conditions of the families and the legal status of the children in care were analyzed. In addition, the relationships between the changes of the social and economic conditions of the families and the changes of the legal status of the children in care were also examined.

A total of sixty child in care cases were used, with twenty cases from each of the legal status groups - from temporary custody to discharge, temporary custody order extended, and from temporary custody order to permanent custody order.

The findings illustrated that the vast majority of the child in care families were from low social and economic class. Among the families of the three legal status groups, families with extreme low social and economic position were more vulnerable to permanent removal of their children. In contrast, families to which the children were returned had better social and economic conditions than the temporary custody extended and permanent ward families.

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A.C.

## PREFACE

This study, which examined the social and economic conditions of families of children in care, was conceptualized in the winter of 1980-81, while I was a social worker with the Family and Children's Services of the District of Kenora, Dryden, Ontario.

In my brief encounter with child protection clients, I noticed that the vast majority of families of apprehended children were from low social and economic class. Although there were clients who had managerial and business backgrounds, the social worker's intervention was minimal, and in most cases, problems facing many of these families were satisfactorily resolved. In contrast, a high percentage of children from low social and economic class were admitted into care, and many of them finally became permanent wards.

In 1980, it was reported that ninety percent of the children in care in the District of Kenora were Native Indians. Among many of these Native children, a great number of them were apprehended on the reserve. In comparison to the 'affluent society' of North America, Natives on the reserve were living in destitute. Many of them were unemployed, relied on government assistance, had low educational level and inadequate occupational skills, and they resided in substandard houses. It was apparent to me that Native Indians and families of low social and economic class were overrepresented in the child in care population, especially among permanent ward cases.

After seeing a number of familial breakdowns, and consequently, parent-child separation, a number of questions began to surface. The first and foremost was the unequal social and economic conditions of families of whom the children were apprehended. I began to suspect that families of low social and economic status, as compared to those families who had higher status, were at a disadvantaged position. Due to their disadvantage, their children were not only more vulnerable to be removed from them, but their children were also subject to be kept in care on a permanent basis. This study was intended to address these questions, hoping that some of them would be answered.

## CHAPTER I

### INEQUALITY IN CHILD WELFARE

Man has lived with inequality for thousands of years, and in contemporary Canada, social, economic and political inequities abound. In 1982, the new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms of all Canadians (section 1). In the tradition of Locke and Mill, the liberal ideology which is demonstrated in the Charter, and which forms the backbone of the Canadian political system and of parliamentary democracy, has succeeded only in guaranteeing the right to compete for unequal rewards, but without equal conditions and rewards for the citizens of the land. In the 1980s, Canadian society has become highly sophisticated, not only in terms of technological advancement, and increasing institutionalization and bureaucratization of social services in the public sectors, but also in the intensified stratification of the Canadian political, social, and economic systems.<sup>1</sup>

In his classic study, The Vertical Mosaic (1965), John Porter pointed out that the Canadian political and economic elite was dominated by Canadians with Anglo-Saxon and Protestant backgrounds. Clemant (1975) further showed that, as compared to the 1950's, the wealth, power, and influence of the corporate elite had been greatly intensified in the 1970's. With the increasing concentration of power among a small elitist group, the gap between the rich and poor is widening. As with many western industrial nations, increasing inequality has become a

general phenomenon penetrating the entire social structure of Canadian society. As one recent federal government study commented :

"Over the entire 1951-1973 period there is a slight tendency towards increasing inequality. This is generally true regardless of the inequality measure or unit of analysis examined .... This is certainly surprising in the light of greater expansion of social security programs over the period, most of which are supposed to be redistributive in nature..." <sup>2</sup>

The inequality of power in the political system has prompted many low-income and minority groups to form organizations to seek better recognition and representation in the political processes. As observed by the National Council of Welfare, "these organizations have in common a commitment to a social change which will bring about greater fairness and justice for all citizens of this country" (National Council of Welfare, Poor People's Group, p.2).

In the midst of this uphill struggle for more humane and equitable conditions for the disadvantaged, a number of groups, such as women, the poor, ethnic minorities, and children, have been victimized by the unequal treatments imposed upon them. A recent Quebec study shows that even though poor families make up only 13% of all Quebec household units, two in every three of the 31,000 children in care throughout the Province came from

families with incomes below the poverty line (National Council of Welfare, 1979:2).

The overrepresentation of children from lower economic classes in the child welfare system has led to a series of discussions in the U.S. and Canada on the issue of systematic victimization.<sup>3</sup> Generally speaking, the participants were divided into two camps. One group (Kempe et al 1962, Galdston 1965, Steele & Pollack 1968) supported the idea that problems such as child abuse and neglect were universal and were not unique to children with lower socio-economic backgrounds. The other group (Gil, Horowitz & Wolock 1980, Garbarino, Pelton 1981) insisted that the socio-economic status of the families was strongly associated with these problems.

Since Kempe et al published The Battered Child Syndrome in 1962, the causes of child abuse and neglect have become major topics of study for many social scientists and professionals who are working in the field of child welfare, or in related areas. Due to the effects of these studies, and the collective force of the child advocacy movement, numerous provincial child welfare acts were revised or rewritten in Canada in the 1970s. In the Province of British Columbia, the forty years old Protection of Children's Act was replaced by the Family and Child Services Act in 1980. The new Act provides a more up to date and effective law protecting those children who are deemed to be in danger.

Paralleling this legislative change has been a reformation in the delivery of child protection services. In 1975, the

seventy year old Children's Aid Society system was abolished in Vancouver, British Columbia. The delivery of child welfare services was initially replaced by the Vancouver Resources Board, and was later taken over by the Ministry of Human Resources of British Columbia. All of these recent changes, if they were indeed progressive social measures, were supposed to shed new light on the child welfare system in British Columbia, and to provide better legal and supportive networks for the disadvantaged.

In British Columbia, every year there were thousands of children admitted to care by a variety of social services agencies, such as the Children's Aid Societies, the Vancouver Resources Board, and the Ministry of Human Resources. In 1978, there were 10,415 children aged eighteen and under in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare (National Council of Welfare 1979:1). A 1978-79 study (Amacher & Mair 1979) showed that Native Canadians comprised a disproportionate percentage of children in care, particularly in the Vancouver Downtown and Vancouver East areas. In addition, families of these apprehended children tended to be poor, unemployed, on Social Assistance, and living in substandard accommodation. The most disturbing and alarming fact was that 82.25% of the children in care, as shown in the study, were remained in care, or were back in care after returning home for a short duration.

As for the problems present in the families at the time of the children's admission into care, such as environmental stress

and deprivation, inadequate housing, financial need, and unemployment, they comprised only three to seven percent of the primary reasons for the children's placement (D. Fanshel and J. Grundy 1975). However, factors relating to the parents' capacity and willingness to implement adequately their parental role accounted for 70-80 percent of the reasons used by researchers to explain the child's removal from the home (A. Kadushin 1978:116).

In a study on factors associating with length of children in care, Jenkins (1967) found that factors associated with circumstances of living, such as being housed in rooms and being supported by public assistance, tended to be related to a shorter time in care. Furthermore, Jenkins observed that demographic variables, age at placement, religion, and ethnic group together could serve as indicators of duration of care. Among all of the factors considered, reason for placement was believed to be particularly relevant to the length of time that the children were in care.

David Fanshel, in a longitudinal study of foster children and their families (D. Fanshel 1976), discovered that the frequency of parental visiting, the amount of casework contact, the composite index reflecting an overall evaluation of the child's mother, and ethnicity and age of the child at placement, were strong predictors of the departure of children from care.

In another study, after examining 551 children in foster care cases, H. Maas (1969) found that for those children who

were in long-term care, as compared to other children in care, were in the most disadvantaged positions. Most of these children came from families at the lowest economic level, and most of their parents maintained no contact with the child welfare agencies. In addition, most of these children who were in long-term care functioned intellectually at a below-average level and some had irremediable physical disabilities.

In the sixties and seventies there was growing concern about the well-being of children in North America. The mass media discovered and publicized numerous incidents of serious child abuse, and brought to the public's attention the vulnerability of young children. But in the 1980s, after two decades of continuous effort in rescuing children from maltreatment, many young children were still experiencing undue hardship. Many of these experiences had resulted from unequal social and economic conditions, as demonstrated in numerous studies (Amacher & Mair 1979, Pelton 1981, Gil 1976, Maas 1969).

Social work intervention in child protection cases will not be effective if the conditions in which the problems emerged are not clearly identified and understood. This study will develop a descriptive profile of the social and economic factors in those families from which children were apprehended. It will also explore the relationships between these factors and the legal status of the children in care.

## CHAPTER II

### THE INNOCENT VICTIMS : A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

In Canada, every year there are thousands of children apprehended from their natural homes. In 1979 alone, there were 80,000 children - one in every hundred - living 'in care' across the country (National Council of Welfare 1979:1). In the Province of British Columbia, as of December 31st, 1980, 8,584 children were in the care of the Superintendent of Family and Child Services (Ministry of Human Resources 1980:33).

The reasons leading to the separation of the children from their families are various. The common ones are "the parents' mental and emotional illness; physical illness; abandonment, neglect, or abuse of the children; severe marital conflict; alcoholism; drug addiction; and crime" (A. Kadushin 1978:116). The phenomenon of separating children from their natural environments generally reflects familial disorganization and breakdown. The causes of the families' failure to provide adequate care to their children are subject to various interpretations. In the last two decades numerous models have been created and developed to provide theoretical explanations and treatments of this unhappy social phenomenon of forceful removal of children. Generally, these four models are the Psychopathological model, the Ecological model, the Cultural model, and the Socio-economic model. Each of these models has its own theoretical orientation. They vary, not just in interpretation of the problems, but also in solutions to the

identified problems.

#### PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL MODEL

The psychopathological model uses an uni-causal approach which treats the inability of the families to provide proper care to the children as a psychological pathology, or a sickness (Galdston 1965, Kempe, et al 1962, Steele & Pollack 1968). The pathology or sickness is seen as deviant behavior which indicate an underlying disease or abnormal psychological process. According to Steele & Pollack (1968) , the psychological problem was made up of intrapsychic conflicts and of various forms of psychopathology on the part of the perpetrators. These defects in the parents' personality were accepted as the causes of mistreatment inflicted upon the children. J. Brown (1981) claimed that personality disorders were largely responsible for the child abuse , and he saw emotional stress playing a crucial and decisive role in the pathology of child abuse (Brown 1981:36).

The psychopathological model sees the origin of the problems of child abuse rooted in the personality and mental disorders of the perpetrators. Therefore, the solutions to these problems are clinical counselling and psychiatric treatment.

#### THE ECOLOGICAL MODEL

Contrary to the psychopathological model, the ecological model adopts a multi-causal approach. The ecologist sees the forces leading to familial breakdown as being partly embedded in the social, economic, and political realities of the family's

ecology (Ziegler 1979).

Ecology, according to Germain and Gitterman, seeks to understand the reciprocal relations between organism and environment (Germain & Gitterman 1980:4). The focus is on the ability of individuals to maintain themselves by using the environment, and to shape their needs without destroying it. Adaptation is an essential element of life, if the species is to increase the environment's diversity, and to enhance its life-supporting properties.

The environment consists of layers and textures. The layers are the social and physical environment, while the textures are time and space. Familial breakdown is looked upon as the maladaptation of the environment. The reasons leading to the family's dysfunction are believed to be the result of the upsets of the usual adaptive balance of the family system. The problems of family breakdown, and of the forceful removal of children, are conceptualized as the outcome of the transaction between children and the layers which include the family and the supportive systems. "

Since the problems leading to child apprehension are entrenched in the environmental systems, to resolve these problems, the ecologist puts the onus on the malfunctioning individuals to adapt and to adjust to the environment, or to develop supportive mechanisms to enhance their problem solving abilities. Also, the ecologist provides counselling to maladaptive individuals, in order that proper life skills may

develop.

### CULTURAL MODEL

The cultural model suggests that cultural attitudes determine the hostile and aggressive behavior of many abusive parents (Bahan 1973), and thus lead to the apprehension of the children. In North American societies, cultural attitudes condone the use of physical force in child rearing. This use of physical disciplinary action and violent behavior are characteristic of certain violence prone groups. As Gil (1970) has observed, the use of physical force for punishing children is accepted as a legitimate means in North America. The ready use of excessive force with a disciplinary objective results in the physical harm of children, and consequently the children are removed from their abusive parents.

Another cultural factor contributing to the source of child apprehension is the value conflict between the dominant and subordinate cultural groups. In the Canadian context, the values of Native society are vastly and substantially different from the values of Anglo-Saxon Protestants. In the last hundred years, Native parents, as well as their children, have been caught between the new and old, the native and the non-native traditions, customs, and values. Many of them end by rejecting both, and they are paralyzed by the insoluble dilemma in their search for cultural identity <sup>5</sup>. Those who want to return to the traditions of their ancestors are constantly harassed by

discriminatory laws and regulations. Many of them live under the shadow of cultural alienation, and they are preoccupied with a desire to create an essence of their existence. The cultural conflict created in the last hundred years has produced not only the breakdown of the traditional family structures and systems of the Native people, but also the breakdown of many families, which resulted in the apprehension of thousands of Native children.

Regarding the numbers of children in care in 1978, 37% of the children in care in British Columbia were Native Indians, 40% in Alberta, 50% in Saskatchewan, and 60% in Manitoba (National Council of Welfare 1979:7). Nationally, Native children comprise more than 20% of the total number of children in substitute care, while people of Native background, as Hepworth observed, accounted for only 6% of the Canadian population (Hudson & Mckenzie 1981:63).

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC MODEL

Practitioners adopting the Socio-economic model see the problems of inadequate child care and those faced by the child in care families, having to do with a variety of life factors. These may include poverty, crowded housing, low social class, unemployment, and poor education. These subordinate life situations are linked to the development of the feeling of powerlessness and despair, and to the phenomena of alcoholism, family violence and child neglect and abuse.

Horowitz and Wolock (1981) claimed that poverty was a

crucial factor in child maltreatment. Gil (1970) found that nearly half of the abusive families (48.4%) had earnings below the poverty line, and that about 60% of them had received public assistance during or before the study year. He also found that a high proportion of the fathers were unemployed and that the income of their families was low. For Garbarino (1976), the unemployed father in the home was believed to be associated with a higher incidence of child abuse. In his study, Ziegler (1979) pointed out that a negative correlation existed between a family's socio-economic status and the incidence of child abuse (p.186). An earlier study by Gil (May 1969) discovered that families with larger numbers of children were more likely to engage in child abuse. Low income and substandard housing were found to increase pressures and problems for parents who were already experiencing difficulties in providing consistent care for their children (Canadian Council of Welfare, 1979:4).

With both evidence and reason, Pelton (1981) concluded that contrary to the myth of classlessness, the phenomenon of child abuse, in terms of prevalence and of severity of consequence, is strongly and closely related to poverty.

### CRITIQUE

The psychopathological, ecological, cultural and socio-economic models provide various explanations for the problems leading to the removal of children from their natural homes. The psychopathological model focuses mainly on the personality disorders of the perpetrators, and treats the disorders as being

largely responsible for inadequate child care. Even though it is generally accepted that emotional stress and mental problems play a crucial and important role in family breakdown, and in parental failure to provide for children, the solution of this medical approach, which is to provide psychological or psychiatric treatment and counselling, tends to ignore the effects of the larger political, social and economic systems. With an unicausal model, psychopathologists could only provide psychological answers to complex social phenomena. They were not able to develop comprehensive understanding of, and thus, the solutions to, those problems which had resulted from inequality and discrimination.

The ecological model provides a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the phenomenon of, and the reasons for, maladaptation within a certain environment. This model's emphasis is on the maintenance of the equilibrium of the system. It places the onus on the individuals to adapt, rather than to disrupt the system. It does not advocate for the disadvantaged nor does it help them to seek their interests and rights. This model has a tendency to blame victims for their inabilities to adapt, and does not question the sources of the imbalance of power, as the socio-economists do in their investigation of child abuse. In a situation of irresolvable ideological contradiction between two groups or classes, practitioners of the ecological model will be unsympathetic to minorities, because they have no desire to disrupt the

equilibrium, for the sake of protecting the rights of a small group. <sup>6</sup>

The cultural model focuses on the values and the traditional differences between dominant and minority groups. It tends to lead primarily to solutions which have been designed to assimilate minority groups into the mainstream. The minorities' rights to preserve and to practice their cultures have not been respected and observed. Generally, this model reinforces the domination of values of the mainstream culture over the values of the subordinate culture.

The socio-economic model identifies that there exists a strong correlation between family problems, such as abuse, neglect, and child apprehension, and low family socio-economic status. Empirical studies have shown that families with low socio-economic status are comparatively more vulnerable to family problems, however, it does not explain why the same problems exist in families of higher socio-economic classes.

#### ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORK

The problems presented by the critical analysis of the four models indicate a need to seek an alternative approach to study the phenomenon of enforced child separation. In studying the phenomenon of child apprehension, there exists one common denominator in all cases, regardless of the theoretical and ideological orientation of the investigators. That is, in all of these families, the children are appeared to be at risk. This phenomenon, in the eyes of society, is undesirable , and

consequently the children have to be removed. By convention, it is generally accepted that society is responsible to protect children who are deemed to be in need of protection.

The problems leading to the enforced parent-child separation can be a result of numerous factors. These may include the parent's psychopathology; feelings of alienation and anomie among family members, due to cultural conflict; the maladaptation of the parents in a crisis situation; the additional stress experienced by the heads of households in deprived socio-economic conditions; or it can be a combination of these factors. In short, the direct cause of the removal of children from their natural homes is multi-dimensional and situational. There is no one cause for the apprehension of children.

Child apprehension must be regarded as a complex social phenomenon. Contrary to the study of natural phenomena, social phenomena do not always occur in a linear causal dimension, which can be reduced to a simple cause-effect relationship.<sup>7</sup> As suggested by Gil (1975), the fallacious tendency of interpreting the dynamics of child abuse along single causal dimensions such as biological, psychological, social, and economic, should be avoided. Therefore, a distinction should be made between the levels at which the problems occur, and the forces underlying the occurrence.

In the case of child apprehension, the level of the manifestation of the relationship breakdown should be treated

separately from the forces which drive the perpetrators to mistreat the children. These levels of manifestation are the objective conditions or settings in which these problems emerged. The conditions that this study chooses to investigate are the social and the economic, which are believed to be inseparable from the settings in which the phenomena of child apprehension occurred.

The phenomenon of child apprehension is universal to families of all classes, but families of low social and economic status are believed to be more vulnerable to the temporary and permanent removal of their children. This study takes up the position similar to that of the socio-economic model - the apprehension of the children is correlated with the families' social and economic conditions. However, there are two major variations in the theoretical interpretation of the phenomenon and outcome of child apprehension. Firstly, although this study recognizes that the impacts of the social and economic conditions on the families are crucial, these conditions are accepted only as the levels at which the problems leading to the parent-child separation manifest. They are not the direct causes of the children's removal. Secondly, as different to the socio-economic model, the social variables are treated as important as the economic variables. In this study, the social variables, such as Family Solidarity, Association Strength, and Level of Education, are included in the construction of the Social-Economic Index.

### CHAPTER III

#### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In any given society, people must produce in order to survive. They transform their adaptive behavior into instrumental action, and create capacities to produce their own means of subsistence. In a society dominated by the market economy, such as Canada, the values of products are determined by the demands of the market place. Laborers who have no marketable skills must sell their raw physical talents for the exchange of wages, which they depend upon for their daily living. Businessmen invest capital into the economy so that profit may accrue. The success of the investment is determined by the amount of profit returned. In this capitalist economic system, the mode of production determines not only the nature of economic relationships between various classes, it also determines their social relationships, and consequently, the social status of the individuals. Social and economic conditions surrounding people tend to interpose upon their relationships, and to affect individual perceptions of, and actions in, the world.

From the basis of their economic conditions, people enter into social relationships with one another. The lives of people, according to Marx, are an "expression and confirmation of social life" (Marx 1969:138). Thus, people are economic, as well as social beings. Other than the natural or innate needs, such as food, shelter, and sex, people also have a multiplicity of

needs, including the needs for creative activity, love, or knowledge (Albert & Hahnel 1978:95). The opportunities for fulfilling these needs, both natural and social, are shaped by the economic relationships between people, and by the economic conditions surrounding the individuals. In western industrial society, people with different affiliations of class, religion, and ethnicity, tend to have various degree of opportunities in meeting their needs. For people of low social and economic status, the opportunities to fulfill their needs are comparatively lower than among people in more advantageous positions. The differences between the two groups are quantitative as well as qualitative.

In cases of child apprehension, the social and economic conditions of the families are dynamic and constantly changing. Some studies (Young 1964, Nurse 1964) showed that the major factors affecting their behaviors were social and economic stress, lack of immediate support from extended families, social isolation, high mobility and unemployment. A Vancouver study (Amacher & Mair 1979) showed that many Native families tended to be poor, unemployed, on Social Assistance, and living in substandard accommodation. The qualities of life for many of these families were worse than for average Canadian families. Thus the opportunities of these families to fulfill their needs were substantially lower.

The lower quality of life appears to have noticeable impact on the performance of the child in care families. Thus, the

assumption can be made that the changes of these conditions, in terms of the families' social and economic status, should have effects on their behavior patterns. For these families, the improvement of the conditions should enable them to fulfill many of their unsatisfied needs, and to enhance the possibility of the return of their children.

The nine indicators selected to illustrate the social and economic conditions of the families are : 1. Annual Income, 2. Source of Income, 3. Occupation of the Head of Household, 4. House Type, 5. Dwelling Area, 6. Level of Education of the Head of the Household, 7. Length of Employment or Unemployment of the Head of the Household, 8. Family's Association Strength, and 9. Family Solidarity.

Each of these variables depict a specific aspect of the conditions which are believed to have influence upon the families' ways of action. One of the nine indicators - the Level of Education - was used by Hollingshead and Redlich (1958) in their study on Social Class and Mental Illness . They developed scales of measurement for a number of indicators, and used them to compile an Index of Social Position to estimate individuals occupational situations in the status structure of their communities.

An earlier study by Warner, Meeker and Eells (1949) used Occupation, Source of Income, House Type and Dwelling Area as the four status characteristics in constructing an Index of Status Characteristics, which was intended to assign individuals

and families to social classes. Family Association (formal and informal) and Family Solidarity were two of the variables in the Geismar-Ayres Family Functioning Scale (Geismar & Ayres 1965).

As well as these seven variables are the Family's Level of Annual Income and the Length of Employment of the Head of Household. These two variables are included because they are believed to reflect the social-economic conditions of the child in care families, and to have effects on the families' way of treating their children.

The definitions of each of the nine social-economic variables generally followed the definitions from the sources of their origins. Some minor revisions were made to suit the purpose and the use for this study. The definitions of the various levels of the Length of Employment and Annual Income variables were created and designed only for this particular project (for details of the definitions of the levels of each variable, see Appendix II).

## CHAPTER IV

### RESEARCH DESIGN

#### HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Research in social work, as compared to sociology, psychology, and political science is a relatively new discipline.<sup>8</sup> But similar to these social sciences, social work research has created its own unique approaches at various stages of development. The theoretical and methodological orientations of these approaches are determined by the paradigms adopted by the practitioners.<sup>9</sup>

Early in the twentieth century, social work research was dominated by the social survey movement. The 1930s was an era represented by the problem-centered approach. In the 1960s, along with the rise of functionalism in American sociology and political science, the normative approach began to flourish in social work research. Contrary to the conservatism of the functionalists, the new left movement of the late 1960's brought new ideas into social work. As observed by Geismar and Wood (1982), studies in the late 1960s were heavily weighted toward uncovering flaws in the larger social systems and in the political and administrative processes affecting the lives of clients. It is with The New Left tradition<sup>10</sup> that this study is conducted. In addition, the aim of this study is to give a critical assessment of the social reality as well as a description and exploration,<sup>11</sup> of the outcome of enforced child apprehension.

## PURPOSE OF EMPIRICAL STUDY

The purpose of conducting an empirical study is to identify the social-economic characteristics of the child in care families, and to explore the association between the families' social-economic conditions. The relationship between the changes of the social-economic conditions and the legal status of the children in care will be examined.

## METHODOLOGY

This study utilized an exploratory-descriptive method (Tripodi, Fellin, and Meyer 1969:25-26) with an ex post facto design. A retrospective look was necessitated by the limitation of time. It did not seem to be feasible for the researcher to follow the development and outcomes of child in care cases. Some permanent custody cases took one to two years before a final court order was obtained.

As an exploratory-descriptive study, the primary objective of this study is to refine and develop concepts and hypotheses in cases of child apprehension. This study provides both quantitative and qualitative descriptions of the parent-child separation phenomena. These include quantitative analysis of the social-economic conditions of the families, and of the influences of the qualitative changes of the social-economic conditions upon the revision of the legal status of the children in care.

As stated in Chapter II, social-economic conditions are

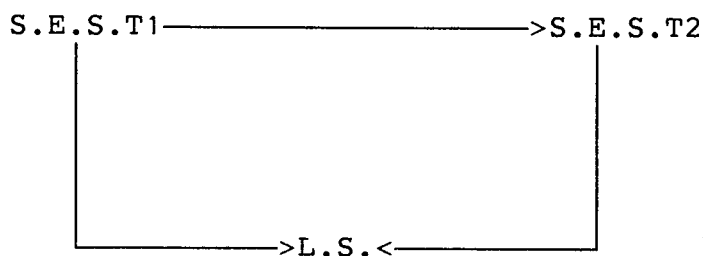
seen as the level of manifestation of the problems leading to the apprehension of children. These conditions are not the direct causes of the removal of children from their natural environments.

#### INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT VARIABLES

In this study, the selected variables are the legal status of the children (L.S.), the nine social-economic variables at the time of apprehension (S.E.S.T1), and at the time of the first change or extension of the legal status after the temporary custody order expired (S.E.S.T2). The nine social-economic variables are : the Family's Annual Income, Sources of Income, Occupation, House Type, Dwelling Area, Education, Length of Employment, Family Association Strength, and Family Solidarity. The graphic presentation in Figure 1 illustrates the interrelations among these variables.

Figure 1

#### PATH DIAGRAM OF CHILD IN CARE CASES



The S.E.S.T1 is the independent variable and the L.S. is the dependent variable. The S.E.S.T2 in relation to the S.E.S.T1 is the dependent variables, but it is the independent variables of L.S..

Other than the independent variables and the dependent variables, a number of data were collected for the purpose of providing a descriptive profile of the children in care and of their families. The profiles of the children in care included their age, sex, racial origin, religious affiliation, Indian Status, date of last admission, date of the last change or the last extension of legal status, the admitting and supervising Regions, and the reasons for admission. The profiles of the families included the heads of the households, their age, sex, marital status and racial origin, the numbers of children residing with the families at the time of admission and at the time of the child's last change or extension of legal status, and the families' length of residence in the Region before the children's admission into care.

#### SAMPLING

A combination of proportionally stratified sample method (Matyntz, et al 1976:77) and purposive sample method were adopted in this study. The proportional stratified sample method was used in determining the number of cases selected from the two Regions, and the number of legal status cases was purposefully set at twenty for each of the three legal status groups.

A total of sixty child in care cases were chosen from Regions 1 and 15 of the Ministry of Human Resources in British Columbia. The Ministry of Human Resources is divided into twenty

Regions. Five of these Regions are responsible for providing both social and Income Assistance services and programs to the people of Vancouver. Region 1 covers the area of East Vancouver which is bounded by Burrard Inlet, Boundary Road, Clark Drive, Broadway and the Burlington Northern Railway. Region 15 is the Downtown and Strathcona area and is bounded by Burrard Inlet, Hornby Street, False Creek, Great Northern Way and Clark Drive. The sample population was restricted to 60 cases, because of the limited availability of the social workers' time for the interviews.

The numbers of children in care in Region 1 was three times more than in Region 15. Therefore, the ratio of child in care cases selected was kept at the ratio of three to one in favor of Region 1. <sup>12</sup> Out of sixty cases, forty-two cases were from Region 1, and eighteen were from Region 15. In order to prevent collecting identical information on child in care cases, for sibling in care groups, the oldest child of the siblings was picked for this study. This design ensured security of broader and greater varieties of family background.

Other than dividing the cases by Regions, the selected samples were further subdivided into different legal status groups. There were three categories of legal status changes for the child in care cases. These three groups were :

1. children who were in temporary custody and who become permanent wards,
2. children who were in temporary custody and who had

their legal status extended,

3. children who were in temporary custody and who were discharged.

The sample design allowed the researcher to develop comparative analysis of the social-economic conditions of the three different legal status groups of the families.

Based on the sample criteria, the child in care cases are distributed in the following fashion :

Legal Status Groups	REGION 1	REGION 15
Gp. 1 Temporary to Permanent	14	6
Gp. 2 Temporary Extended	14	6
Gp. 3 Temporary to Discharged	14	6
TOTAL	42	18

The 60 cases were selected retroactively. The cases which were most recent and met the sampling criteria were used in this study.

#### METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The data for this study were collected by interviewing the social workers in charge of the child in care cases. The Family and Child Services Coordinators of Regions 1 and 15 of the Ministry of Human Resources selected the 60 cases, and identified the names of the social workers through cross references. The Coordinators informed the social workers that their cases had been chosen for the study, and that they would

be interviewed.

A total of 27 social workers from the two Regions were notified about this study. Copies of the questionnaires (Appendix II) and the Introductory letter (Appendix I) were forwarded to them through the Coordinators' offices at least one week prior to the interview. This was intended to give the social workers ample time to prepare themselves and to gather information for the interview. A list of names was provided by the Coordinators and the social workers were contacted by phone to arrange interviews. Of the 27 social workers contacted, all were willing to participate in the study, and their consents were sought (Appendix IV). All of the interviews were conducted in the social worker's offices.

During the interviews, the social workers were asked the same questions as those that appeared on the questionnaires. If they experienced difficulties in understanding the questions or definitions of the levels of the variables, explanations and clarifications were provided to them. None of the answers provided by the social workers were given in an ambiguous or confusing manner. All the responses provided by the social workers were recorded by the interviewer on a prepared data-recording sheet (Appendix III).

#### PRELIMINARY TESTING

A preliminary test was conducted in January, 1982 to determine the applicability of the questionnaires, and especially the definitions of the seven levels of the nine

social-economic variables. The method of data collection followed the same procedures as in the actual study. A total of six cases were used, with two from each legal status group. Five social workers from four district offices were interviewed. Other than the questionnaires, the social workers were asked to comment on the programme design and definitions. After reviewing the responses, one minor change was made in a definition. The remainder of the questionnaires and the method of the data collection were static.

#### METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

All of the responses given in the interviews were coded on the data-recording sheets, and were entered into the data file stored on magnetic disc. All data analysis, including univariates, bi-variates, and multi-variates, were done in the Statistical Package For the Social Sciences (SPSS) programs (Nie, et al 1975, and Kita 1980).

For each of the nine variables there were seven categorical descriptions of the specific conditions of the families. The seven categories were placed in an order of from low to high or from poor to good. In accordance with the order of the categories, a value scale of 1 to 7 was assigned to the social-economic variables. For example, in the variable of Level of Annual Income, a value number of 1 was assigned to lower poverty class, and a 7 to upper class. In this case, the categorical scale was converted into an interval scale.

Legal status per se was a nominal variable, but the subject

of this study was not only on the relationships between the legal status of children in care and the social and economic conditions of their families. This study also focussed on the relationships between the changes of the families' social and economic conditions and the changes of the children's legal status.

Among the three legal status groups, the second legal status group - Temporary Order Extended - was seen as no change in legal status unit, thus, a value of "0" was given. The first legal status group - Temporary to Permanent - had regressed one legal status unit, so that a value of "-1" was assigned. The discharged group, which, when compared with the temporary order extension group, had moved up one legal status unit, therefore, a value of "1" was given. In order to simplify the unit of measurement and to avoid using negative value, all of the legal status units were given an additional value of "2". The result of this addition brought the value of temporary to permanent group from "-1" to "1", the temporary extension group from "0" to "2", and the discharged group from "1" to "3". Since all of the legal status units had numerical values, the legal status variable was treated as interval variable.

There were three main parts of the data analysis. The first part was descriptive in nature, as was originally designed. This part provided background information on the children in care and their families. The second part comprised a profile of the social-economic conditions of the families at the time of the

child apprehensions, or at the time of the first legal status revision. Other than the quantitative description of the families' social-economic conditions, a comparative analysis of the three legal status groups was conducted.

In the last part, the Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to examine the association strength between the social-economic variables and the legal status variables. In addition, the scales of the nine social-economic variables were used to compile an Index of Social-Economic Positions, so that the comparative positions of the individual families could be known. Furthermore, the relationship between the families' Social-Economic Position and the legal status of the children in care were investigated and explored.

#### MISSING DATA

The unavailable data on any social-economic variables were calculated on the base of the values of the other social-economic variables from the same case. The method of calculation was as follows :

All of the total scores on social-economic status were transformed into the percentage of the maximum total. In obtaining the percentage of maximum, the total was calculated as a percentage of maximum possible total.

The adjusted total becomes :

$$\text{ADJUSTED TOTAL} = \frac{\text{TOTAL SCORE FOR ALL KNOWN VARIABLEES}}{\text{POSSIBLE MAXIMUM TOTAL FOR THE KNOWN VARIABLES}}$$

## CHAPTER V

PROFILES OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Part of the function of a descriptive-exploratory study is to develop quantitative descriptions of the phenomena under study. This chapter provides information on the various aspects of child apprehension. These include the time and place at which the phenomena of parent-child separation occurred. In addition, the characteristics of the children and the families, and the composition of the families were also provided.

REGION

Seventy percent, or 42, of the 60 children in care cases were selected from Region 1, and the remaining 30% (18) were clients of Region 15.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Children by Regions.

Region	(N)	%
1	(42)	70
15	(18)	30
=====		
Total	(60)	100
-----		

ADMITTING REGIONS

With the exception of one case, all of the children in care were admitted in the Region in which the cases were selected. 68.3% (41) of the children under temporary custody were admitted into care in Region 1, as compared to 31.7% (19) in Region 15.

### SUPERVISING REGIONS

Of the 60 child in care cases, 66.7% (40) of them were

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Children by Regions of Admission.

Region	(N)	%
1	(41)	68.3
15	(19)	31.7
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

under the supervision of Region 1, 30.0% (18) by Region 15, and

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of Children by Regions of Supervision.

Region	(N)	%
1	(40)	66.7
9	( 1)	1.7
15	(18)	30.0
16	( 1)	1.7
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

the remaining 3.4% (2) were supervised by Regions 9 and 16.

### LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The selection of the 60 temporary custody cases was based on the criteria of legal status changes. In this study, three groups of 20 cases were chosen. Thirty-three and one-third percent (20) of the children were discharged from temporary care and were returned home (group 3). Another 33.3% (20) of them had their temporary order extended (group2), and the status of the remaining 33.3% (20) were revised, and they had become permanent

wards (group 1).

TIME OF ADMISSION

Table 4. Frequency Distribution of Children  
by Legal Status.

Legal Status	(N)	%
Discharge from temporary custody	(20)	33.3
Temporary custody extended	(20)	33.3
Temporary custody to permanent	(20)	33.3
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

Eight and three-tenth percent (5) of the children were apprehended before 1980, and 11.7% (7) of them were taken into care between January and June of 1980. Another 33.3% (20) were

Table 5. Frequency Distribution of Children  
by Time of Admission.

Time	(N)	%
Before 1980	( 5)	8.3
Jan. to June 80	( 7)	11.7
July to Dec. 80	(20)	33.3
Jan. to June 81	(22)	36.7
July to Dec. 81	( 6)	10.0
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

admitted between July and December of 1980, 36.7% (22) of the children were admitted between January and June of 1981, and only 10% (6) were apprehended in the last six months of 1981.

TIME OF LEGAL STATUS REVISION

Only one and seven-tenth percent (1) of the temporary cases under study was revised between January and June of 1980. Five percent (3) of the children's temporary order were reconsidered

between July and December 1980, and 15% (9) of the them had their status revised between January and June 1981. The majority

Table 6. Frequency Distribution of Children by Time of Legal Status Revision.

Time	(N)	%
Jan. to June 80	( 1)	1.7
July to Dec. 80	( 3)	5.0
Jan. to June 81	( 9)	15.0
July to Dec. 81	(35)	58.3
Jan. to March 82	(12)	20.0
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

of them, 58.3% (35) of the children's temporary wardships were revised between July and December of 1981, and the remaining 20% (12) of the case were reexamined in the first four months of 1982. In the custody hearings, the orders were either changed or extended.

#### PROFILES OF CHILDREN IN CARE SAMPLE

In this section, the children's age, sex, racial origin, religious affiliation, Indian Status, and reasons for admission were presented.

##### 1. Age

The mean age of the children in care in this sample was 9 years. Most of them, 51.7% (31), were under ten years old, and 48.3% (29) were eleven or older. The largest single age group was fifteen years old, which comprised 26.7% (16) of all the children in care. The second largest group was one year or under, which was 15% (9) of all of the children in care. The smallest age groups were the four and five year old, with each

constituting 1.7% (1) of the selected child in care cases. When the ages of the children were lumped into three groups, 31.7% of

Table 7. Frequency Distribution of Children by Age.

Age	(N)	%	Age	(N)	%
1 & under	( 9)	15.0	11	( 2)	3.3
2	( 5)	8.3	12	( 3)	5.0
3	( 3)	5.0	13	( 3)	5.0
4	( 1)	1.7	14	( 3)	5.0
5	( 1)	1.7	15	(16)	26.7
7	( 6)	10.0	16	( 2)	3.3
8	( 4)	6.7			
9	( 2)	3.3	Total	(60)	100.0

Mean = 9.00 S.D. = 5.569

them were under six years, 28.3% were between seven and eleven, and the remaining 40% were between the age of thirteen and sixteen.

## 2. SEX

Table 8. Frequency Distribution of Children by Sex.

Sex	(N)	%
Male	(33)	55.0
Female	(27)	45.0
Total	(60)	100.0

Fifty-five percent (33) of the children in care were boys, and the other 45% (27) were girls.

## 3. RACIAL ORIGINS

Caucasian constituted the single largest racial group, which had 43.3% (26) of the child in care cases. The Native Indian was the second most numerous group, there being seventeen Native children, or 28.3% of all of the selected child in care

cases. Ten percent (6) of the children were of Asiatic extraction. Negro and Metis represented only 3.3% (2) and 1.7%

Table 9. Frequency Distribution of Children by Racial Origin.

Racial Origin	(N)	%
Caucasian	(26)	43.3
Native	(17)	28.3
Asiatic	( 6)	10.0
Metis	( 1)	1.7
Negro	( 2)	3.3
Mixed Origins	( 8)	13.3
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

(1) respectively. The remaining 13.3% (8) were of mixed racial origins.

#### 4. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

For those children who were in care, only a minority, 36.7% or 22, were known to practice religion. Among them, 11.7% (7)

Table 10. Frequency Distribution of Children by Religious Affiliation.

Religious Affiliation	(N)	%
Protestant	( 7)	11.7
Catholic	(11)	18.3
Other Affiliation	( 4)	6.7
No Religion	(26)	43.3
Not Known	(12)	20.0
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

were Protestants, 18.3% (11) were Catholics, and 6.7% (4) were Buddhist or Muslims. The largest group, 43.3% (26), had no affiliation with any religion. The religious identity of the remaining 21.7% (13) was unknown.

## 5. INDIAN STATUS

Although Native children represented 28.3% (17) of child in care cases, 64.7% (11) of them were known to have Indian Status. The other 29.4% (5) of the Indian children had no Indian Status, and the Status of one of the Indian children, or 5.9%, was not known.

Table 11. Frequency Distribution of Children  
by Indian Status.

Indian Status	(N)	%
Have Status	(11)	64.7
Have No Status	( 5)	29.4
Not Known	( 1)	5.9
=====		
Total	(17)	100.0
-----		

## 6. REASONS FOR ADMISSION

The reasons for the children's apprehension were numerous. Some of them had a number of reasons for being admitted into care. From the interviews, the number of reasons given by the social workers per case ranged from one to three. Of the 60 cases, a total of 97 reasons were given.

The one which was most frequently used was parental failure, 29.9% (29) of the children admitted into care were believed to have suffered from the failure of their parents to care for them. The second most used reason for apprehension was neglect, which represented 19.59% (19). Delinquent behavior constituted 11.34% (11), emotional abuse 7.22% (7), desertion 6.19% (6), physical abuse 5.15% (5), and failure to provide

medical care was 3.09% (3). Each of the following claims, parental mental illness, parental physical illness, and sexual

Table 12.  
Frequency Distribution of the Children by  
Reasons of Admission.

Reasons of Admission	(N)	%
1. Physical Abuse	( 5)	5.15
2. Desertion or Abandonment	( 6)	6.19
3. Emotional Disturbance	( 7)	7.22
4. Parental Illness, Mental	( 2)	2.06
5. Parental Illness, Physical	( 2)	2.06
6. Delinquent Behavior	(11)	11.34
7. Transient	( 1)	1.03
8. Unmarried Mother	( 1)	1.03
9. Parental Failure to provide Medical Care	( 3)	3.09
10. Parental Failure	(29)	29.90
11. Lack of Housing	( 1)	1.03
12. Sexual Abuse by Neighbor	( 1)	1.03
13. Emotional Abuse	( 7)	7.22
14. Neglect	(19)	19.59
15. Sexual Abuse by Parent	( 2)	2.06
=====		
Total	(97)	100.00
-----		

abuse by parent, constituted 2.06 (2) of the reasons for apprehension. The remaining four groups of 1.03% (1) were transient, unmarried mother, lack of housing, and sexual abuse by neighbor.

#### SUMMARY

The age and sex of the children in care were well represented by most of the categories. Fifty-five percent were male, and 45% were female. As for their age, about 1/3 of them were under six years old, 1/3 between seven and twelve, and 1/3 were between the age of thirteen and sixteen. Regarding racial origins, the color racial groups were overrepresented, the

majority of the children (56.7%) being non-white, and the largest non-white group being the Native Indian, which comprised 28.3% of the children in care. Children with Indian Status represented a very small segment of the child population in Canada, but this study found that 18.3% (11) of the children in care were believed to have Indian Status. Regarding the religious belief of the children in care, only about 1/3 of them were known to practice religion, and nearly half of them were known to have no affiliation with any religion.

According to the social workers in charge of the cases, parental failure was the most common reason for the children's apprehensions. Neglect and delinquent behavior were the second most common factors. Abuse had been considered by many social workers as one of the major problems in child protection cases, but in this study, physical, sexual and emotional abuse only constituted 14.43% of all the reasons given for the children's admission to care.

#### B. PROFILE OF THE FAMILIES

The family profile presented here includes the characteristics of the heads of households, the number of children at home at the time of the apprehension, and at the time of the legal status revision. Other information include the length of the families' residence in the Region in which the children were taken into care.

## 1. HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Sixty-three and three-tenth percent (28) of the Head of Households - the persons who had the main source of income - were the children's biological mothers. Twenty-eight and three-

Table 13. Frequency Distribution of Families by the Heads of Households.

Head of Household	(N)	%
Biological Father	(17)	28.3
Biological Mother	(38)	63.3
Biological Grandparents	( 1)	1.7
Relatives	( 1)	1.7
Others	( 3)	5.0
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

tenth percent (17) of them were the children's biological fathers. Both the biological grandparents and other relatives represented 1.7% (1) of the families' bread winners. Friends of the family were considered to represent 5% (1) of the child's financial support.

## 2. AGE OF THE HEADS OF THE HOUSEHOLDS

The average age of the heads of the households was thirty-four years. Among all of them, there was only 1 teenager. Thirty-three and three-tenth percent (20) of the household heads were between the age of twenty-one and thirty. The largest age group, 45% (27), was between the age of thirty-one and forty. The group between the age of forty-one and fifty-one represented 17.0% (10) of all of the household heads. The fifty-one to fifty-six year group constituted only 3% (2) of all the household heads.

### 3. SEX OF THE HOUSEHOLD HEADS

In an industrial society dominated by men, it was

Table 14. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households  
by Age.

Age	(N)	%
under 20	( 1)	1.7
21 to 30	(20)	33.3
31 to 40	(27)	45.0
41 to 50	(10)	16.6
51 to 56	( 2)	3.4
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

Mean = 34.0

interesting to see that the majority of heads of households of

Table 15. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households  
by Sex

Sex	(N)	%
Male	(20)	33.3
Female	(40)	66.7
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

the families of children in care were female. Two-third of the household heads were women. This meant that in every three families, two of them relied on the income of a female; whereas only one in every three families were relied on the income of a male.

### 4. MARITAL STATUS OF THE HOUSEHOLD HEADS

Among all of the families studied, only a small minority of the parents (16.7% or 10) were married. Twenty-six and seven-tenth percent (16) of the parents were single, 10.0% (6) were

separated, 15.0% (9) were divorced, and 1.7% (1) was a widow. About 1/3 of the household heads were known to cohabit with a

Table 16. Frequency Distribution of the Heads of Households by Marital Status.

Marital Status	(N)	%
Single Parent	(16)	26.7
Married	(10)	16.7
Separated	( 6)	10.0
Living Together	(18)	30.0
Widow or Widower	( 1)	1.7
Divorced	( 9)	15.0
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

legal or common-law spouse.

#### 5. RACIAL ORIGIN OF THE HOUSEHOLD HEADS

The distribution of the racial origins of heads of households were similar to that of the children in care. About

Table 17. Frequency Distribution of the Heads of Households by Racial Origins.

Racial Origins	(N)	%
Caucasian	(29)	48.3
Native Indian	(21)	35.0
Asiatic	( 8)	13.3
Black	( 1)	1.7
Mixed Origins	( 1)	1.7
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

half, 48.3% (29), of the household heads were Caucasian. As compared to the racial origins of the children, a higher number of the parents were believed to be Native Indians. In fact, more than 1/3 of the household heads were of Native Indian extraction. In contrast, Asiatics represented only 13.3% (8) of

the family household heads, and the Black and mixed origins were identical at 1.7% (1).

#### 6. NUMBERS OF CHILDREN WITH THE FAMILIES AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION

Less than half of the children in care were from single child families. It meant that in 46.7% of the cases, only one

Table 18. Frequency Distribution of Families by Children at the Time of Admission.

Numbers of Children	(N)	%
One child	(28)	46.7
Two children	(14)	23.3
Three children	( 7)	11.7
Four children	( 8)	13.3
Five children	( 3)	5.0
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0
-----		

Mean = 2.067 S.D. = 1.260

child was with the family at the time of the apprehension. At the time of admission, another 23.3% (14) of the families had two children, 11.7% (7) had three, 13.3% (8) had four, and 5.0% (3) had five children with them.

#### 7. NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH THE FAMILIES AT THE TIME OF LEAGL STATUS REVISION

At the time of the temporary custody order reviews, nearly 2/3 of the sixty families - 65% (39), did not have any children at home. Fifteen percent (9) of them had only one child, 6.7% (4) had two, 10.0% (6) had three, and the remaining 3.3% (2) of the families had five children at home at the time of the order revision.

## 8. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE

The majority of the families ,53.3% (32) had lived in the

Table 19. Frequency Distribution of Families by Children at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Numbers of Children	(N)	%
None	(39)	65.0
One child	( 9)	15.0
Two children	( 4)	6.7
Three children	( 6)	10.0
Four childrn	( 2)	3.3
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0

Mean = 0.717 S.D = 1.166

Regions in which the children were apprehended for a period of

Table 20. Frequency Distribution of Families by Length of Residence.

Length of Residence	(N)	%
Under 6 months	( 6)	10.0
From 6 to 12 months	( 4)	6.7
From 1 to 2 years	(19)	31.6
From 3 to 5 years	(13)	21.7
From 6 to 10 years	( 3)	5.0
Over 10 years	(10)	16.7
Not Known	( 5)	8.3
=====		
Total	(60)	100.0

one to five years before the children were removed. Ten percent (6) of the families had resided in the areas for less than six months, 5% (3) of them from six to ten years, and another 16.7% (10) of them had been in the Region for over ten years. The length of residence of the remaining 8.3% (5) was not known.

### SUMMARY OF FAMILY PROFILE

As for the families of the children from the three legal status groups, most of the heads of household (66.7%) were female. The age, between twenty and forty years, comprised close to eighty percent of the household heads total sample. Only a small minority - 16.7%, of the household heads were married. Of all of the families studied most of them were either single parents or living in common-law relationships.

The largest ethnic minority group among the the non-white was the Native Indians, who constituted 35.0% of the child in care families. Nearly half of the families, 46.7%, had only one child at home at the time of the apprehension, and nearly half of them had resided in the Regions for merely two years, or less than two years, at the time that the children were admitted into care.

## CHAPTER VI

SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE FAMILIES OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The analyses presented in this chapter serve two objectives. The first objective is to provide descriptive profiles of the families' social-economic conditions at the time of the children's admission into care, and at the time of the legal status revision. The second objective is to compare and examine the social-economic conditions of the families from the three legal status groups. The first legal status group, as stated in an earlier chapter, was classified as the families for whose children permanent custody orders were given. The second group was the temporary custody extension families, and the third group was the families whose children were returned to them.

A. SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE FAMILIES AT APPREHENSION1. LEVEL OF INCOME

The majority of families were from the lower poverty class. Lower-middle and middle classes comprised only 13.3% (8) of the "child in care families".

As compared to the group 1 (Temporary-Permanent) and group 2 families (Temporary Extended), the families from group 3 (Discharged) had fewer families who were in a state of poverty. The number of families was 20% lower than the other two groups. In contrast, There were more lower middle and middle classes families in group 3, 20% (4) of the group 3 families belonged to

either one of these categories, but it was only 5% (1) in group 2 and 10% (2) in group 1.

Table 21. Frequency Distribution of Families by Level of Income.

Level of Income	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 L. Poverty Cl.	(41)	68.3	(15)	75.0	(15)	75.0	(11)	55.0
2 Poverty Class	( 4)	6.7	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0	( 3)	15.0
3 Lower Class	( 7)	11.7	( 3)	15.0	( 3)	15.0	( 1)	5.0
4 L. Middle Cl.	( 6)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0	( 4)	20.0
5 Middle Class	( 2)	3.3	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0
===== Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=1.733		Mean=1.650		Mean=1.500		Mean=2.050	
	S.D.=1.205		S.D.=1.226		S.D.=0.946		S.D.=1.375	

## 2. SOURCES OF INCOME

More than 2/3 of the families (70.0%) relied on public welfare agencies for their income. Only 26.7% of the families obtained their income from wages or salaries.

In comparing the Sources of Income of the three legal

Table 22. Frequency Distribution of Families by Sources of Income.

Level of Income	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
2 Public Sources	(42)	70.0	(16)	80.0	(15)	75.0	(11)	55.0
3 Private So.	( 2)	3.3	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0
4 Wages	(10)	16.7	( 2)	10.0	( 3)	15.0	( 5)	25.0
5 Salaries	( 6)	10.0	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 3)	15.0
===== Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=2.667		Mean=2.500		Mean=2.500		Mean=3.000	
	S.D.=1.084		S.D.=1.051		S.D.=0.946		S.D.=1.214	

status groups, group 1 had the highest percentage of families - 80% (14) - obtaining their income from public sources. The

percentage was 55% for the group 3 families. Wages and salaries comprised 20% of the sources of income for groups 1 and 2, while the figure was double at 40% for group 3.

### 3. OCCUPATION OF THE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

Less than 1/4 of the household heads were either skilled laborers or professionals. Unskilled laborers constituted the largest occupational group among the families, with 33.3% (20). Another 23.3% (14) of them were semi-skilled laborers. The remaining 20% (12) of the household heads had never been employed.

Table 23. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Household by Occupation.

Occupation	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Never Employed	(12)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 5)	25.0	( 5)	25.0
2 Unskilled	(20)	33.3	(10)	50.0	( 5)	25.0	( 5)	25.0
3 Semi-skilled	(14)	23.3	( 3)	15.0	( 8)	40.0	( 3)	15.0
4 Skilled	(13)	21.7	( 4)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 7)	35.0
6 Professional	( 1)	1.7	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0	( 0)	0.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
-----								
	Mean=2.533		Mean=2.650		Mean=2.350		Mean=2.600	
	S.D.=1.142		S.D.=1.226		S.D.=0.988		S.D.=1.231	

Group 3 had the largest skilled laborer population. In contrast, families in groups 2 and 3 headed the never employed and unskilled categories. The largest semi-skilled population fell in group 2, which comprised 40% (8) of all the families in this legal status group.

#### 4. TYPE OF HOUSING

Forty percent (24) of all of the houses in which the families lived at the time of the children's apprehension were considered to be in fair condition. Another 1/4 were believed to be either average or good. Poor housing amounted to only 16.7% (10), and very poor houses were 15% (9).

Table 24. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Household by Type of Housing.

Type of Housing	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Very Poor	( 9)	15.0	( 4)	20.0	( 4)	20.0	( 1)	5.0
2 Poor	(10)	16.7	( 5)	25.0	( 1)	5.0	( 4)	20.0
3 Fair	(24)	40.0	( 7)	35.0	(11)	55.0	( 6)	30.0
4 Average	(11)	18.3	( 3)	15.0	( 3)	15.0	( 8)	40.0
5 Good	( 4)	6.7	( 0)	0.0	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0
Not Known	( 2)	3.3	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=2.845		Mean=2.632		Mean=2.684		Mean=3.200	
	S.D.=1.342		S.D.=1.744		S.D.=1.146		S.D.=1.005	

Average and good houses constituted 45% (9) of all the houses of the group 3 families, while the same type of houses composed only 15% (3) of all of the houses in both groups 1 and 2. Families in group 1 also had the highest number of poor and very poor houses - 45% (9), as compared to 25% (5) in group 2, and 30% (6) in group 3. The majority of the houses in group 2, 55% (11) were considered to be in fair condition.

#### 5. DWELLING AREAS

Half of the residential areas of the child in care families were of average standard. Among these families, only 1.7% (1) of them was believed to live in an above average area. The

remaining 35% (21) were residing either in low or very low areas.

Table 25. Frequency Distribution of Families by Dwelling Area.

Dwelling Area	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Very Low	(10)	16.7	( 5)	25.0	( 3)	15.0	( 2)	10.0
2 Low	(11)	18.3	( 2)	10.0	( 4)	20.0	( 5)	25.0
3 Below Average	( 7)	11.7	( 4)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0
4 Average	(30)	50.0	( 9)	45.0	(10)	50.0	(11)	55.0
5 Above Average	( 1)	1.7	( 0)	0.0	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0
Not Known	( 1)	1.7	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=3.017		Mean=2.850		Mean=3.000		Mean=3.200	
	S.D.=1.262		S.D.=1.268		S.D.=1.348		S.D.=1.196	

With regard to the dwelling area, 25% (5) of the group 1 families were in the very low category, in comparison, 15% of the group 2 families and 10% of the group 3 families lived in area which were considered to be very low. None of the families from groups 1 and 2 resided in an above average area, but 5% (1) of the group 3 families was fortunate enough to live in such an area.

## 6. LEVEL OF EDUCATION

The educational level of the household heads was generally low. Seventy-three and three-tenth percent (44) of them did not graduate from high school, 3.3% (2) did not have any formal education. Among the non-graduates, 56.8% (25) had seven to eleven years of schooling. Of all the household heads, only 5% (3) had some college experience.

When compared to the household heads of groups 1 and 2, the

level of education of the household heads in group 3 were slightly higher. In group 3, 30% (6) were high school graduates,

Table 26. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households by Level of Education.

Dwelling Area	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 No Formal Ed.	( 2)	3.3	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
2 Under 7 yrs.	(17)	28.3	( 6)	30.0	( 5)	25.0	( 6)	30.0
3 7 to 11 yrs.	(25)	41.7	( 8)	40.0	(11)	55.0	( 6)	30.0
4 High Sch. Grad.	(10)	16.7	( 2)	10.0	( 2)	10.0	( 6)	30.0
5 College	( 3)	5.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0	( 2)	10.0
Not Known	( 3)	5.0	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=2.912		Mean=2.778		Mean=2.737		Mean=3.200	
	S.D.=1.340		S.D.=1.838		S.D.=0.940		S.D.=1.005	

and 10% (2) had received some college education. Regarding post-secondary education, the percentages were lower in both groups 1 and 2.

#### 7. LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT OR UNEMPLOYMENT

Most of the household heads, 55.0% (33) had been unemployed for more than one year. In contrast, less than 1/5 of them had been employed for more than two years.

For those who had been unemployed for more than one year, group 1 had the highest percentage at 65% (13), which was 20% higher than group 3 and 10% higher than group 2. In comparison, a higher number of the group 3 families had been employed for more than two years, for the group 3 families, it was 25% (5), as versus 20% (4) for group 2, and 10% (2) for group 1.

## 8. ASSOCIATION STRENGTH

Fifty-eight and three-tenth percent of the Association

Table 27. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households by Length of Employment or Unemployment.

Length of Emp. or Unemp.	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Unemp > 1 yr.	(33)	55.0	(13)	65.0	(11)	55.0	(9)	45.0
2 Unemp 6-11 mo.	(5)	8.3	(2)	10.0	(3)	15.0	(0)	0.0
3 Unemp < 6 mo.	(4)	6.7	(0)	0.0	(1)	5.0	(3)	15.0
4 Emp < 6 mo.	(3)	5.0	(0)	0.0	(1)	5.0	(2)	10.0
5 Emp 6-11 mo.	(2)	3.3	(1)	5.0	(0)	0.0	(1)	5.0
6 Emp 1-2 yrs.	(1)	1.7	(1)	5.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0
7 Emp > 2 yrs.	(11)	18.3	(2)	10.0	(4)	20.0	(5)	25.0
Not Known	(1)	1.7	(1)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0
===== Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=2.712		Mean=2.210		Mean=2.600		Mean=3.300	
	S.D.=2.455		S.D.=2.503		S.D.=2.393		S.D.=2.515	

Strength of the families were at the marginal level or worse than marginal. The other 41.7% were considered to be either

Table 28. Frequency Distribution of Families by Association Strength

Association Strength	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Poor	(5)	8.3	(3)	15.0	(1)	5.0	(1)	5.0
2 Inadequate	(7)	11.7	(2)	10.0	(2)	10.0	(3)	15.0
3 Below Marginal	(10)	16.7	(5)	25.0	(2)	10.0	(3)	15.0
4 Marginal	(13)	21.7	(4)	20.0	(6)	30.0	(3)	15.0
5 Above Marginal	(17)	28.3	(5)	25.0	(7)	35.0	(5)	25.0
6 Adequate	(7)	11.7	(1)	5.0	(1)	5.0	(5)	25.0
7 Good	(1)	1.7	(0)	0.0	(1)	5.0	(0)	0.0
===== Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=3.917		Mean=3.450		Mean=4.150		Mean=4.150	
	S.D.=1.522		S.D.=1.504		S.D.=1.424		S.D.=1.599	

above marginal, adequate, or good.

As for the group 1 families, half of their association

strengths were considered to be worse than marginal, while the same categories constituted only 25% (5) in group 2 and 35% (7) in group 3. Group 3 had the highest numbers of families who had adequate strength (25%), while merely 5% (1) of the group 1 and 10% (2) of the group 2 families had similar strength.

### 9. FAMILY SOLIDARITY

The solidarity of the majority of the families were worse than marginal at the time of the children's admission into care. Only 10% (6) of them were believed to have above marginal solidarity, while another 15% (9) were at the adequate level. As

Table 29. Frequency Distribution of Families by Solidarity.

Family Solidarity	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Poor	(11)	18.3	( 7)	35.0	( 3)	15.0	( 1)	5.0
2 Inadequate	(11)	18.3	( 5)	25.0	( 3)	15.0	( 3)	15.0
3 Below Marginal	( 9)	15.0	( 3)	15.0	( 2)	10.0	( 4)	20.0
4 Marginal	(13)	21.7	( 3)	15.0	( 7)	35.0	( 3)	15.0
5 Above Marginal	( 6)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 3)	15.0	( 2)	10.0
6 Adequate	( 9)	15.0	( 1)	5.0	( 2)	10.0	( 6)	30.0
7 Good	( 1)	1.7	( 0)	0.0	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
-----								
	Mean=3.382		Mean=2.450		Mean=3.500		Mean=4.200	
	S.D.=1.748		S.D.=1.504		S.D.=1.573		S.D.=1.765	

for good family cohesion, it was at 1.7% (1).

In comparison, the solidarity of the group 1 families was worse than both groups 2 and 3. Seventy-five percent (15) of the group 1 families had less than marginal cohesion. In fact, 35% of them had poor solidarity. As for the families who were at the marginal level, group 2 had the largest number. It was 35% (7) in group 2, and 15% (3) in both groups 1 and 3. The solidarity

of the group 3 families was comparatively better. More than 1/3 of them had adequate or good solidarity, while with another 10% of them had more than marginal cohesiveness.

#### SUMMARY OF THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AT APPREHENSION

The social-economic conditions of the child in care families were generally rated poor. Over 2/3 of the families lived in a state of poverty or of extreme poverty. Most of the families counted on the government for financial assistance. Only a small minority of them, a mere 25%, could find skilled labor jobs. The vast majority of them did not have any occupational training.

Ragarding the level of education of the heads of households, 73.3% of them did not graduate from high school, and 1/3 of them had less than seven years of formal education. The relationships between most of the family members were disruptive. They were hostile to each other, and the majority of them could not carry out daily household duties.

The conditions of houses of the child in care families were less than desirable. Nearly 75% of them were believed to live in below average accommodation. With such poor showing in most of their social-economic conditions, the only conditions which were at more acceptable levels were the Dwelling Areas and Association Strength. Exactly half of the families were living in an above average area at the time of the children's apprehension, and 63.7% of them were considered to be able to associate with supportive systems at the marginal, or better

than marginal, levels.

In comparing the conditions of the families from the three legal status groups, the permanent ward families had the worst performance, with the exception of their occupation, which was slightly higher than in the families in which the children were returned. The conditions of the temporary custody extension families were not much better off than the families of group 1. Three of their nine social-economic conditions were at levels lower than the permanent ward families. Among these three family groups, the families in which the children were discharged had the best records in term of social-economic conditions.

#### B. SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF LEGAL STAUTS

##### REVISION

##### 1. LEVEL OF INCOME AT STATUS REVISION

The Level of Income of the families at the time of legal status revision was similar to the level at the time of the

Table 30. Frequency Distribution of Families by Level of Income at the Time of Status Revision.

Level of Income	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Lower Poverty	(34)	56.7	(13)	65.0	(11)	55.0	(10)	50.0
2 Poverty Class	( 6)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	25.0	( 4)	20.0
3 Lower Class	(11)	18.3	( 4)	20.0	( 6)	30.0	( 1)	5.0
4 L. Middle Cl.	( 7)	11.7	( 1)	5.0	( 2)	10.0	( 4)	20.0
5 Middle Class	( 2)	3.3	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
	Mean=1.950		Mean=1.800		Mean=1.950		Mean=2.100	
	S.D.=1.241		S.D.=1.240		S.D.=1.146		S.D.=1.373	

children's apprehension. Over 2/3 of the families lived at or

below the poverty line. The only positive sign was the improvement of the overall level. The mean of the Level of Income at the time of apprehension was 1.733, but the mean was up to 1.950 at the time of status revision. There was a net increase of .217 in the mean.

In comparison, the Level of Income of the permanent ward families was lower than the levels of the other two groups. The permanent ward families had the highest percentage of families, 65% (13), of lower poverty class. In contrast, group 3 had the largest number of lower middle class families - 20% (4), as compared to 5% (1) in group 1 and 10% (2) in group 2.

## 2. SOURCES OF INCOME AT STATUS REVISION

Like the Level of Income, the Sources of Income condition at the time of status revision was slightly better than the condition at the time of the children's apprehension. The mean of all of the families was up to 2.817 from 2.667, but as before, public source remained by far the predominant source of

Table 31. Frequency Distribution of Families by Sources of Income at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Sources of Income	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
2 Public Source	(37)	61.7	(15)	75.0	(11)	55.0	(11)	55.0
3 Private Source	( 2)	3.3	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0
4 Wages	(16)	26.7	( 3)	15.0	( 7)	35.0	( 6)	30.0
5 Salaries	( 5)	8.3	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 2)	10.0
===== Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
		Mean=2.817		Mean=2.600		Mean=2.900		Mean=2.950
		S.D.=1.097		S.D.=1.095		S.D.=1.071		S.D.=1.146

income for the families - 61.7% (37). The other 26.7% (16)

relied on wages, and the remaining 8.3% (5) on salaries.

Group 1 had the largest number of families, 75% (15), on public assistance, as compared to 55% (11) in groups 2 and 3. Wages and salaries comprised 40% (8) of the source of income of the groups 2 and 3 families, in contrast to only 25% (5) of the families from group 1.

### 3. OCCUPATION OF THE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AT STATUS REVISION

Regarding their occupation, there was not much variation while the children were in care, the difference of the mean was .05. At the time of status revision, 60% (12) of the household heads were either unskilled or semi-skilled laborers.

Table 32. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households by Occupation at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Occupation	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Never Employed	(10)	16.7	( 2)	10.0	( 4)	20.0	( 4)	20.0
2 Unskilled	(21)	35.0	(10)	50.0	( 5)	25.0	( 6)	30.0
3 Semi-skilled	(15)	25.0	( 3)	15.0	( 9)	45.0	( 3)	15.0
4 Skilled	(13)	21.7	( 4)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 7)	35.0
5 Professional	( 1)	1.7	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0	( 0)	0.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
-----								
	Mean=2.583		Mean=2.650		Mean=2.450		Mean=2.650	
	S.D.=1.109		S.D.=1.226		S.D.=0.945		S.D.=1.182	

The occupation of the household heads in group 1 did not change. Half of them were still unskilled laborers. The largest semi-skilled laborer group stayed with the temporary custody extension families, and group 3 again had the largest number of skilled laborers.

#### 4. TYPE OF HOUSING AT STATUS REVISION

The general condition of the houses in which the families resided had shown certain improvement at the time of the status revision. Since the time that the children were admitted into care, a higher percentage of the families, 15% (9), moved into

Table 33. Frequency Distribution of Families by Type of Housing at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Type of Housing	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Very Poor	( 6)	10.0	( 4)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 0)	0.0
2 Poor	(12)	20.0	( 5)	25.0	( 5)	25.0	( 2)	10.0
3 Fair	(18)	30.0	( 6)	30.0	( 6)	30.0	( 6)	30.0
4 Average	(18)	30.0	( 1)	5.0	( 6)	30.0	(11)	55.0
5 Good	( 6)	10.0	( 4)	20.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Mean=3.100		Mean=2.800		Mean=2.950		Mean=3.550	
	S.D.=1.145		S.D.=1.399		S.D.=1.099		S.D.=0.759	

average or good houses. However, the majority of the families, 60% (36), were still living in houses which were below the average standard.

Seventy-five percent (15) of the group 1 families were living in below average houses when the status of the children were brought up for review. As for the group 3 families, 40% of them were in the same type of houses. Most of the group 3 families, 60% (12), were residing in houses of average or good standard, as compared to 25% (5) and 35% (7) for the groups 1 and 2 families, respectively. There was no family in group 3 living in a very poor house.

## 5. DWELLING AREA AT STATUS REVISION

Similar to other Social-Economic conditions, there was upward movement in the families' areas of residence at the time of legal status revision. The mean was moved up to 3.217 from 3.017. The most noticeable change was in the increase of the above average category. At the time of the children's

Table 34. Frequency Distribution of Families by Dwelling Area at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Dwelling Area	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Very Low	( 9)	15.0	( 6)	30.0	( 1)	5.0	( 2)	10.0
2 Low	(10)	16.7	( 1)	5.0	( 7)	35.0	( 2)	10.0
3 Below Average	( 6)	10.0	( 2)	10.0	( 2)	10.0	( 2)	10.0
4 Average	(29)	48.3	( 8)	40.0	( 9)	45.0	(12)	60.0
5 Above Average	( 6)	10.0	( 3)	15.0	( 1)	5.0	( 2)	10.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=3.217		Mean=3.050		Mean=3.100		Mean=3.500	
	S.D.=1.277		S.D.=1.538		S.D.=1.119		S.D.=1.147	

apprehension, the above average area constituted only 1.7% (1) of the total child in care family population, but the figure was up to 10% (6) at the time of legal status revision. The average area remained the most popular type of dwelling area at 48.3% (29).

The permanent ward families again had the highest percentage in the lowest category. 30% (6) of them were residing in very low dwelling areas, as compared to 5% (1) in group 2, and 10% (2) in group 3. In contrast, group 3 had the largest number of families living in average areas - 60% (12) - as compared to 40% (8) in group 1, and 45% in group 2.

## 6. LEVEL OF EDUCATION AT STATUS REVISION

The level of the household heads' education improved slightly during the period that the children were in care. Four of the household heads, an increase of 6.7%, had gained one to two years of college education. However, the vast majority of them, 70% (42), did not complete high school.

Table 35. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households by Level of Education at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Level of Education	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 No Formal Ed.	( 2)	3.3	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
2 Under 7 yrs.	(16)	26.7	( 5)	25.0	( 5)	25.0	( 6)	30.0
3 7 to 11 yrs.	(24)	40.0	( 8)	40.0	(11)	55.0	( 5)	25.0
4 High Sch. Grad.	( 8)	13.3	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 5)	25.0
5 College	( 7)	11.7	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 4)	20.0
Not Known	( 3)	5.0	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=3.035		Mean=2.944		Mean=2.790		Mean=3.350	
	S.D.=1.412		S.D.=1.849		S.D.=1.040		S.D.=1.137	

The level of education of the families to which the children were discharged was comparatively better than the families of groups 1 and 2. 45% (9) of the group 3 household heads had completed high school or had college experience. For the group 1 household heads, the percentage was 20% (4), and it was 10% (2) for group 2.

Most of the household heads in group 2, 55% (11), received seven to eleven years of formal education. The same category comprised 40% (8) of the group 1 families, and 25% (5) of the household heads in group 3. All of the household heads in group 3 had some formal education. On the contrary, 5% (1) of the

household heads in groups 1 and 2 did not have any formal education whatsoever.

#### 7. LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT OR UNEMPLOYMENT AT STATUS REVISION

During the time that the children were in care, an additional 10% (6) of the household heads joined the labor force, but the unemployment rate of the families remained

Table 36. Frequency Distribution of Heads of Households by Length of Employment or Unemployment at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Length of Emp. or Unemp.	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Unemp > 1 yr.	(31)	51.7	(14)	70.0	(9)	45.0	(8)	40.0
2 Unemp 6-11 mo.	(1)	1.7	(0)	0.0	(1)	5.0	(0)	0.0
3 Unemp < 6 mo.	(4)	6.7	(0)	0.0	(1)	5.0	(3)	15.0
4 Emp < 6 mo.	(7)	11.7	(1)	5.0	(3)	15.0	(3)	15.0
5 Emp 6-11 mo.	(4)	6.7	(2)	10.0	(1)	5.0	(1)	5.0
6 Emp 1-2 yrs.	(3)	5.0	(1)	5.0	(0)	0.0	(2)	10.0
7 Emp > 2 yrs.	(10)	16.7	(2)	10.0	(5)	25.0	(3)	15.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=3.017		Mean=2.400		Mean=3.300		Mean=3.350	
	S.D.=2.383		S.D.=2.280		S.D.=2.536		S.D.=2.323	

extremely high. Sixty percent (36) of them were unemployed. Among the unemployed, 86.11% (31) of them had not worked for more than one year.

The unemployment rate was the highest among the household heads of group 1. Seventy percent of them (14) had been unemployed for more than one year. The unemployed constituted 55% (11) of both the group 2 and group 3 families. Group 2 had the best employment record, 25% of them had been working for over two years, as compared to 10% and 15% in groups 1 and 3 respectively.

## 8. ASSOCIATION STRENGTH AT LEGAL STATUS REVISION

The Association Strength of the families had improved from the mean of 3.917 to 4.383. The biggest change occurred in the adequate category, in which the percentage was expanded from 11.7% (7) to 21.7% (13). The number of families at the adequate

Table 37. Frequency Distribution of Families by Association Strength at the time of Legal Status Revision.

Association Strength	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Poor	( 3)	5.0	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
2 Inadequate	( 4)	6.7	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0
3 Below	( 7)	11.7	( 4)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 1)	5.0
4 Marginal	(18)	30.0	( 6)	30.0	( 7)	35.0	( 5)	25.0
5 Above Marginal	(12)	20.0	( 2)	10.0	( 3)	15.0	( 6)	30.0
6 Adequate	(13)	21.7	( 4)	20.0	( 3)	15.0	( 7)	35.0
7 Good	( 3)	5.0	( 0)	0.0	( 3)	15.0	( 0)	0.0
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=4.383		Mean=3.800		Mean=4.550		Mean=4.800	
	S.D.=1.497		S.D.=1.576		S.D.=1.638		S.D.=1.105	

level was nearly double. Although the general strength of the families had improved, most of the families associations, 53.4% (32), were marginal, or worse than marginal.

In comparison, the associations of the permanent custody families were considerably worse than the families of groups 2 and 3. Only 30% (6) of the group 1 families had better than marginal strength in associating with supportive systems, but 45% (9) of the group 2 families, and 65% (13) of the group 3 families, could perform at the same level.

## 9. FAMILY SOLIDARITY AT LEGAL STATUS REVISION

At the time of apprehension, 26.7% (16) of the families had solidarity above the marginal level, but at the time of status revision, it was 43.3% (26). The biggest increase was in the adequate level, in which 23.3% of the families were known to

Table 38. Frequency Distribution of Families by Solidarity at the Time of Legal Status Revision.

Family Solidarity	All (N)	%	Group 1 (N)	%	Group 2 (N)	%	Group 3 (N)	%
1 Poor	( 8)	13.3	( 7)	35.0	( 1)	5.0	( 0)	0.0
2 Inadequate	( 8)	13.3	( 3)	15.0	( 4)	20.0	( 1)	5.0
3 Below Marginal	( 8)	13.3	( 3)	15.0	( 1)	5.0	( 4)	20.0
4 Marginal	(10)	16.7	( 1)	5.0	( 6)	30.0	( 3)	15.0
5 Above Marginal	(10)	16.7	( 3)	15.0	( 5)	25.0	( 2)	10.0
6 Adequate	(14)	23.3	( 3)	15.0	( 2)	10.0	( 9)	45.0
7 Good	( 2)	3.3	( 0)	0.0	( 1)	5.0	( 1)	5.0
=====								
Total	(60)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0	(20)	100.0
=====								
	Mean=3.933		Mean=2.950		Mean=4.000		Mean=4.850	
	S.D.=1.821		S.D.=1.932		S.D.=1.589		S.D.=1.461	

perform adequately, while only 15% (9) of them could do so at the time of apprehension.

Most of the group 1 families were found to have serious problems in fulfilling their proper familial roles. Sixty-five percent (13) of them were worse than marginal. In fact, 35% (7) of them had poor solidarity. None of the cohesiveness of the group 3 families were considered to be poor, and only 5% (1) of the group 2 families were poor in term of their solidarity. The solidarity was better among the group 3 families, nearly half of whom were adequate. Regarding solidarity at the adequate level, only 15% (3) of the group 1 families, and 10% (2) of the group 2

families were at this level. In general, the solidarity of the group 1 families was considerably worse than that of the other two groups.

SUMMARY OF THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF LEGAL STATUS REVISION

During the time that the children were in the care of the government, the general conditions of the families had shown improvement. Most of the conditions changed only slightly. They varied between the mean of .050 and .550. The indicator which showed the most variation was Family Solidarity. This may result from the fact that 65% of the families didnot have any children at home during the time that the children were in care. The one with the least change was the occupational status of the household heads.

Table 39. Mean Differences Between the Social-Economic Conditions at the Time of Apprehension and of Legal Status Revision

Social-Economic Conditions	All	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Level of Income	.217	.150	.450	.050
Source of Income	.150	.100	.400	.050
Occupation	.050	.000	.100	.050
Type of Housing	.255	.168	.400	.350
Dwelling Area	.200	.200	.250	.300
Level of Education	.113	.166	.190	.150
Length of Emp.or Unemp.	.305	.190	.700	.050
Associaion Strength	.466	.350	.400	.650
Family Solidarity	.550	.500	.500	.650
=====				
Total	2.306	1.724	3.390	2.200
-----				

In comparison, changes in Social-Economic conditions of the group 1 families were substantially lower than changes in groups

2 and 3. Group 1 was the group of families with the least upward mobility in seven of the nine conditions. Although the improvement in the Sources of Income and the Level of Income were better than either one of the other two legal status groups, the performance of the group 3 families on these two conditions were at lower levels than were the other two groups.

In contrast, the conditions of the group 3 families were at higher levels than both groups 1 and 2 families. During the time the children were in care, the families in group 3 showed that they were most improved in three conditions : Dwelling Area, Association Strength, and Family Solidarity.

As for the group 2 families, they were the most mobile and had the best overall improvement record. They led in six of the nine conditions in terms of upward mobility. Their aggregate mean difference from the time of the children's apprehension to the time of legal status revision was 3.390, which was about twice the mean total of group 1, and was 54% higher than their counterparts in group 3. The overall social-economic standing of the group 2 families lay between groups 1 and 3, both at the time of the children's apprehension, and at the time of the temporary order hearings.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INFLUENCES

This study depicted specific aspects of the social and economic living conditions of the families from the three legal status groups. These conditions were seen as the levels at which many of the direct causes leading to the apprehension of the children manifested, and as in life itself, the conditions were in a state of flux. The changes in the social and economic conditions, as shown in previous analyses, were evident among some of the families. These changes, although minimal, were more apparent when the families were examined either in a collective group, or when they were classified by three separate legal status groups.

There were three general noticeable findings in the initial analyses. Firstly, the results showed that the social and economic conditions of the child in care families were low. Compared with the other two groups, the conditions of the families with children in permanent custody were the worst. At the same time, the families to which the children were returned had the best overall performance in nearly all of the nine categories.

Secondly, during the time the children were in care, the social and economic conditions of families of the three legal status groups had improved. The improvement occurred not only in the families whose children were returned, but also in those where the children became permanent wards. Thirdly, when the

upward mobility of the three groups was compared, the most improvement was demonstrated in the families where temporary orders had been extended; the least improvement was among the families whose children became permanent wards.

In an attempt to examine the correlation between the social-economic indicators and also between the social-economic indicators and the legal status of the children, further analyses were required and a number of statistical measurements were taken. The interest in these analyses lies in the search for explanations and predictions of legal status changes, by using the social-economic indicators, and the Social-Economic Indexes.

In search for the correlation coefficients between social-economic indicators and legal status, this study employed the Pearson Correlation Coefficient,  $r$ . In addition, a number of statistical analyses, such as item analysis (Doby, 1954:132-134), and path diagram (Babbie, 1975:132-134, Loether and McTavish, 1974:321-328, and Nie, et al, 1975:383-387) were conducted.

The statistical analyses were organized into five parts. First, the strength of correlation among the nine social-economic indicators was dissected. Second, item analyses were performed on the nine indicators to assign loadings to each. Third, by using the loadings and scores of the nine social-economic variables, the Social-Economic Indexes of the child in care families were constructed. The Indexes would provide

empirical data on the Social-Economic Positions of the families both at the time of the children's apprehension, and at the time of the legal status revision.

Fourth, the correlation coefficient between the social-economic indicators and the legal status, and between the Social-Economic Indexes and the legal status, were examined. Finally, path diagram was utilized to depict the direct and indirect effects of the social-economic variables upon the legal status.

#### I. CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDICATORS :

##### A. CORRELATION AMONG THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT APPREHENSION

Among the nine social-economic indicators at the time of apprehension, only half of the correlations, eighteen out of thirty-six, were found to be statistically significant at the level of either .05 or .01. Five of the nine indicators, namely, the Level of Income, Sources of Income, Occupation, Type of Housing, and Dwelling Area, were significantly correlated with each other. The strongest correlation was found between the Level of Income and Sources of Income.

Education was significantly correlated only with Type of Housing and Dwelling Area. The Length of Employment had three correlations which were statistically significant; these were between the Length of Employment, the Level of Income, Sources of Income, and Occupation. The correlation between the remaining two indicators - Association Strength and Family Solidarity - if

compared with their correlations with most of the indicators, were strongly correlated. These two indicators were also found

Table 40. Correlation Matrix of the Nine Social-Economic Indicators at Apprehension.

	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(1)L. of Inc..	.84**	.56**	.36**	.40**	NS	.70**	NS	NS
(2)So. of In.	X	.43**	.28*	.29*	NS	.82**	NS	NS
(3)Occup.		X	.38**	.34**	NS	.49**	NS	NS
(4)Housing			X	.62**	.34**	NS	NS	NS
(5)D. Area				X	.31**	NS	.37**	.40**
(6)Education					X	NS	NS	NS
(7)Employment						X	NS	NS
(8)Association							X	.59**
(9)Solidarity								X

-----  
\* Significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Significant at the .01 level.

NS = Not Significant.

N = 60

to be correlated with Dwelling Area at the .01 level.

Among all of the indicators, Dwelling Area was the most consistent variable, which was significantly correlated with all of the indicators, with the exception of the Length of Employment.

#### B. CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT STATUS REVISION

The number of significant inter-variable correlation coefficients either at the .01 level or at the .05 level had increased to twenty-six at the time of legal status revision. The variables which benefitted most from the changes were Association Strength and Family Solidarity. They were found not only to be correlated with a correlation coefficient of .72, but also correlated with Type of Housing, Dwelling Area, and Level

of Education, either at the .05 or at the .01 level. Their correlation coefficients ranged from .21 to .49. None of these variables correlated with either Solidarity or Association at apprehension. In addition, the correlations between Association and Occupation, and between Solidarity and Sources of Income, were acceptable at the level of .05.

Table 41. Correlation Matrix of Social-Economic Indicators at Status Revision.

	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(1)L.of Inc.	.83**	.55**	.36**	.38**	NS	.80**	NS	NS
(2)So.of In.	X	.51**	.37**	.37**	NS	.85**	NS	.21*
(3)Occup.		X	.45**	.27*	NS	.53**	.25*	NS
(4)Housing			X	.66**	.22*	.37**	.49**	.42**
(5)D. Area				X	.32**	.32**	.32**	.38**
(6)Education					X	NS	.25*	.24**
(7)Employment						X	NS	NS
(8)Association							X	.72**
(9)Solidarity								X

-----  
 \* Significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Significant at the .01 level.

NS = Not Significant

N = 60

The association strength between most of the variables was similar to the strength at the time of apprehension. There were no drastic changes. The most noticeable change occurred between Association and Solidarity. There was a net increase of .13, which was the highest increase of strength among the indicators. Sources of Income and Length of Employment had a correlation coefficient of .85, replacing the position of Level of Income, which , with Sources of Income, were the variables with the strongest correlation at .84 at the time the children were taken into care.

The most consistent variables, in terms of correlating with

other variables, were Dwelling Area and Type of Housing. Both of these variables were correlated with all of the variables at the .01 level, with the exception of Dwelling Area and Occupation, and of Type of Housing and Level of Education, which were correlated at the .05 level.

C. CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT APPREHENSION AND AT STATUS REVISION

As shown in Tables 40 and 41, a pattern developed among the correlations of the nine social-economic indicators, and this pattern reappeared in Table 42. With the exception of the correlation between Sources of Income and Dwelling Area, the correlation coefficients among five of the indicators - Level of Income, Sources of Income, Occupation, Type of Housing, and Dwelling Area - both at the time of apprehension and at legal status review, were proved to be acceptable at the significant level of either .05 or .01.

With all of the correlations between all of the indicators at apprehension and at status revision, Association Strength and Solidarity again had very low coefficients with most of the social-economic variables. Association, at status revision was significantly correlated only with Association at apprehension, and with Solidarity at apprehension and at status revision. The correlation between Solidarity at status revision and Dwelling Area was comparatively weak, but with the coefficient of .25 it was acceptable at the .05 level.

One salient feature among the interrelationships of the

indicators was the existence of strong correlations between the same indicators at two different points in time. Of the nine

Table 42. Correlation Matrix of the Social-Economic Indicators at Apprehension and at Status Revision.

<u>Social-Economic Indicators</u>									
at Status Revision	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(1)L. Inc.	.84**	.68**	.55**	.37**	.33**	.27**	.66**	NS	NS
(2)So.Inc.	.64**	.72**	.42**	.26*	NS	.22*	.70**	NS	NS
(3)Occup.	.51**	.47**	.97**	.40**	.26*	.23*	.45**	.27*	NS
(4)Housing	.40**	.37**	.54**	.72**	.45**	NS	.30*	.43**	.36**
(5)D. Area	.39**	.34**	.32**	.40**	.69**	NS	NS	.39**	.45**
(6)Edu.	.33**	.27*	.44**	NS	.30*	.75**	.28*	NS	.28*
(7)Employ.	.62**	.73**	.49**	.29*	.22*	NS	.81**	NS	NS
(8)Assoc.	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	.63**	.40**
(9)Solid.	NS	NS	NS	NS	.25*	NS	NS	.40**	.60**

\* Significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Significant at the .01 level.

NS = Not Significant

N = 60

pairs of social-economic indicators, the lowest correlation coefficient was .60, which was between the two Solidarity variables. The highest coefficient was found between Occupation at apprehension and Occupation at status revision, which peaked at .97. This showed that the social-economic indicators at the time of the children's admission, were strongly correlated with their counterparts at the time of the children's legal status revision. The social-economic variables at two different points in time had very strong association.

## II. ITEM ANALYSIS

Item analysis, as one of scaling techniques, was used here to find the comparative predictive weights of the independent variables. The association strength of the independent and dependent variables was taken into account in the calculation. Item analysis would assign the weights for each of the nine social-economic indicators. A weighting system was required because some of the indicators might have different degree of association with the dependent variable, namely, the legal status of the children in care. If the actual relationships between the dependent and independent variables were not taken into consideration, the non-weighted scale would not reflect the real correlations between the dependent variable and the accumulated scores of the independent variables. The method of item analysis was chosen because it was comparatively simple and direct.

The weights of the items, in this case the weights of the social-economic indicators, were obtained by subtracting the amount of association with legal status, the square of  $r$ , from 1, and taking the reciprocal of the result. Symbolically, the equation for finding the weight is as follows :

$$W = \frac{1}{1 - r^2}$$

By using this equation, the results from the calculation of the nine variables at apprehension and at legal status revision were

shown in Table 43. The results showed that the weights of all of the indicators were similar, ranging from 1.00 to 1.23. Due to the little variation of the loadings, the value of 1 was thus assigned to all of the weights of the indicators, both at the time of apprehension, and at status revision.

Table 43. Weights of the Social-Economic Variables

	at Apprehension ( W )	at Status Revision ( W )
(1)Level of Income	1.02	1.01
(2)Source of Income	1.04	1.01
(3)Occupation	1.00	1.00
(4)Type of Housing	1.01	1.08
(5)Dwelling Area	1.01	1.02
(6)Level of Education	1.00	1.00
(7)Length of Empl.	1.02	1.03
(8)Association	1.04	1.08
(9)Solidarity	1.21	1.23
=====		

### III. INDEX CONSTRUCTION

A composite index for the social-economic variables was created for the purpose of developing a multiple items index which would show the overall Social-Economic Positions of the child in care families. The Indexes were constructed by adding together the scales of all of the nine social-economic indicators. In this study, simple addition was sufficient because the weights of all of the indicators were identical at one. When the scales were accumulated, the aggregate score thus became the scores of the Social-Economic Indexes. The scores, compared to each other, would thus reflect the Social-Economic Positions of the families within the child in care population.

If the scores were comparatively high, they indicated that the positions of the families were generally favorable among all of

Table 44. Frequency Distribution of Social-Economic Positions by Legal Status at Apprehension

Legal Status	Social-Economic Position					
	Low 13 to 21 (N) %		Medium 22 to 28 (N) %		High 29 to 42 (N) %	
Gp.1 Perm. Custody	( 9)	47.4	( 6)	28.6	( 5)	25.0
Gp.2 Temp. Extension	( 7)	36.8	( 8)	38.1	( 5)	25.0
Gp.3 Discharged	( 3)	15.8	( 7)	33.3	(10)	50.0
Total	(19)	100.0	(21)	100.0	(20)	100.0

Table 45. Frequency Distribution of Social-Economic Positions by Legal Status at Legal Status Revision

Legal Status	Social-Economic Position					
	Low 13 to 21 (N) %		Medium 22 to 28 (N) %		High 29 to 42 (N) %	
Gp.1 Perm. Custody	( 9)	50.0	( 5)	23.8	( 6)	28.6
Gp.2 Temp. Extension	( 7)	38.9	( 6)	28.6	( 7)	33.3
Gp.3 Discharged	( 2)	11.1	(10)	47.6	( 8)	38.1
Total	(18)	100.0	(21)	100.0	(21)	100.0

the families of children in care.

The results showed that the Social-Economic Scores of all of the families were between 13 and 42 at the time of the children's apprehensions, and ranged from 13 to 46 at the time of legal status revision. The mean score for all of the families was 25.683 at apprehension, and 28.083 at status revision. During the period that the children were in care, the average

increase was 2.40 for all of the families.

The Social-Economic Scores of the families were lumped into three categorical levels - low , medium, and high - with each level composed of about 1/3 of all of the families. This was intended to draw comparative analyses of the Social-Economic Positions of the families from the three legal status groups. As shown in Tables 45 and 46, half of the permanent custody families had low Social-Economic Position. In contrast, only 15.8% (3) of the families to which the children were returned had the same position at apprehension and 11.1% (2) at status revision.

With respect to those families with high Social-Economic Position at the time of the children's admission, half of the families from the discharged group belonged to this category. At the time of status revision, their number was comparatively lower at 38.1% (8). The overall positions of the discharged children's families, in terms of the social-economic performance, were superior to both the permanent ward families and temporary custody extension families. The permanent custody families, both at apprehension and at status revision, were overrepresented in the low category.

#### IV. CORRELATION BETWEEN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND LEGAL STATUS

##### A. CORRELATION BETWEEN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND LEGAL STATUS

With the exception of two indicators - Type of Housing and Solidarity - the correlation coefficients between legal status

and all of the other indicators, both at apprehension and at status revision, could not be accepted at the significant level of .05. When the correlation between these two indicators and legal status was examined, Solidarity at the time of apprehension had a correlation coefficient of .41, and the  $r$  was .22 for Type of Housing.

Table 46. Correlation Matrix of Social-Economic Indicators by Legal Status.

Legal Status	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
At Apprehen.	.14	.19	-.02	.22*	.12	.20	.19	.19	.41**
At Status Revision	.10	.13	.0	.27*	.15	.11	.16	.28*	.43**

\* Significant at the .01 level.

\*\* Significant at the .05 level. N = 60

(1)Level of Income (2)Sources of Income (3)Occupation  
 (4)Type of Housing (5)Dwelling Area (6)Education  
 (7)Length of Employment or Unemployment  
 (8)Association Strength (9)Family Solidarity

The associations between legal status and four of the indicators were strengthened during the time the children were in care. The most noticeable change was between Association and legal status. The  $r$  was up to .28 at status revision, from .19 at apprehension. There was a net increase of .09.

The correlation coefficients shown in Table 46, indicated that the association between legal status and seven of the nine indicators at apprehension, and six of the nine indicators at status revision, were weak. The only two indicators which were significantly correlated with legal status at the time of

apprehension, were Solidarity and Type of Housing. The association between these variables were strengthened at the time of status revision. In addition, another indicator - Association - was found to be significantly correlated with legal status at the time of status revision.

B. CORRELATION BETWEEN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INDEXES AND LEGAL STATUS

As shown in previous analyses, the correlations between most of the indicators and the legal status were not strong. The correlation was somewhat different between the aggregate score of the indicators and the legal status. In comparison, the associations between legal status and Indexes were stronger than the associations between the legal status and most of the indicators. The correlation coefficients between the Indexes and legal status were .303 and .296 at apprehension and at status revision respectively. Sixteen of the eighteen correlation coefficients of legal status and social-economic indicators were less than .30.

When the Social-Economic Scores were aggregated into three categories - low, medium, and high - the correlation coefficients between the new categorical scores and legal status were lower. The new coefficients were .279 at apprehension, and .238 at status revision.

In contrast with most of the individual indicators, the composite Social-Economic Indexes, both at the time of apprehension and at status revision, were found to be significantly correlated with legal status. In comparison, the

accumulated score seemed to be a better indicator, in terms of explaining the correlation between the social-economic conditions and the children's legal status.

Similar to the correlations among all of the social-economic indicators at the two different points in time, the correlations between the Social-Economic Index at apprehension, and the Index at status revision, were noticeably strong. The coefficient between the two Indexes was .792.

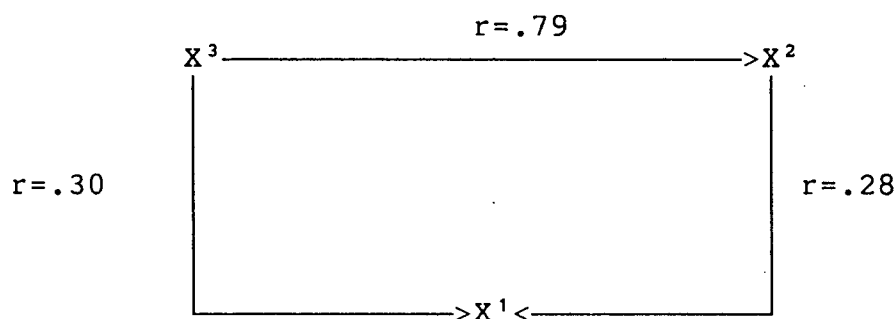
#### V. PATH DIAGRAM

This study, as mentioned in Chapter II, adopted the theoretical position that the social-economic conditions of the child in care families were the levels at which the problems leading to the children's apprehensions emerged, but these conditions were not the direct causes of the removal of the children. The strength and direction of the association between the conditions and the legal status were examined in previous analyses. Although the associations between these variables were known, the influences, both direct and indirect, that the social-economic conditions had had on the children's legal status, had not yet been investigated. In light of this knowledge gap, the method of path diagram was utilized to examine the influences of the composite Social-Economic Indexes on the legal status.

The objective of using path diagram on the social-economic and legal status variables was to compare the direct and indirect relationships between these variables, and to build

theoretical explanations of the phenomena of enforced parent-child separation. The graphic diagram, as shown in Figure II,

Figure II. Path Diagram on the Social-Economic Indexes and Legal Status.



$X^1$  = Legal Status of Children In Care  
 $X^2$  = Social-Economic Index at Status Revision.  
 $X^3$  = Social-Economic Index at Apprehension.  
 $P^{23} = .79$   $P^{12} = .15$   $P^{13} = .18$

presented a theoretical model of the relationships between the Indexes and the legal status. The model indicated that the legal status variable,  $X^1$ , being the dependent variable, was influenced by the two social-economic variables. The Social-Economic Index at apprehension,  $X^3$ , was thought to determine the Index at legal status revision. The strength of the impact on the dependent variables was represented by path coefficients which were symbolized by the letter  $P$ . In statistical calculation, the path coefficient,  $P$ , was found to be identical to the  $b$  coefficient. <sup>13</sup>

The correlation coefficient for  $X^2X^3$  was .79,  $X^1X^2$  .28, and for  $X^1X^3$  was .30. These coefficients, however, did not show the overall effects of  $X^3$  on  $X^1$ ,  $X^3$  on  $X^2$ , and  $X^2$  on  $X^1$ . The detail of the effects was illustrated in Table 47. The effect

coefficient, C, was calculated in the following fashion : <sup>14</sup>

$$C^{23} = P^{23} + .79$$

$$C^{13} = (P^{23})(P^{12}) + P^{13} = (.79)(.15) + .18 = .30$$

$$C^{12} = P^{12} = .15$$

When the relationships between the variables were broken down in bivariate relations, the direct and indirect influences of the independent variables were apparent. The results showed that the change of legal status was mostly influenced by the Social-Economic Index at apprehension,  $X^3$ . The effect was twice as much as the Index at status revision,  $X^2$ , which was at .15. Regarding the noncausal factor between legal status,  $X^1$ , and the Social-Economic Index at status revision,  $X^2$ , it was .13, which means that nearly half of the original covariation between the Social-Economic Index at status revision and legal status was accounted by prior variables.

The path diagram results illustrated that whereas Social-Economic Indexes had a genuine effect upon legal status at the time of apprehension, the second Index measure had little effect independent of the first. This finding indicated the direct and indirect relationships between the social-economic and the legal status variables. The results suggested that the Index at apprehension had stronger influences on legal status than had the Index at status revision.

Although the results of the path diagram study illustrated that the total influence of the Social-Economic Position at apprehension on legal status was greater than the Social-

Economic Position at status revision, no causal inferences of the Social-Economic Position on the legal status could be drawn.

Table 47. Bivariate Covariation of Social-Economic Indexes and Legal Status.

Decomposition of Bivariate Covariation			
Bivariate relation of concern	$X^2, X^3$	$X^1, X^3$	$X^1, X^2$
(A) Original Covariation = $r$	.79	.30	.28
(B) $b_1$ : direct influence	.79	.18	.15
$b_2$ : indirect influence	0	.12	0
Total Influence = $(b_1)+(b_2)=C$	.79	.30	.15
(C) Noncausal = $(A) - (B)$ = $r - C$	0	0	.13
(D) square of $r$	.62	.09	.08

In fact, no inference to, or test of, a causal model could be implied or permitted, because the values of legal status variable, which was the dependent variable, was fixed when they were selected. The results of this path diagram study could not be taken as anything more than descriptive, since the sample method, by fixing the values of the dependent variable, is contrary to the assumptions of model testings in path analysis and regression analysis.

CHAPTER VIII  
INEQUALITY REVISITED

The power to control the social, economic, and political orders of society is entrenched within its own structure, be it feudal or communal. The power to control is reflected by the ideology of the day, and is based on economic class, social status, and political affiliation. <sup>15</sup>

Man's modes of living are determined by the social and economic means of his day. This means encompasses the means of organization, of production, of procreation, of association, and social and economic distribution and redistribution. In any given historical era, the more open the system was, the better the chance that individuals would have to fulfill their needs.

In Canada, as in other liberal democratic states, the power to control is deeply embedded in the market economy, which regulates the social, economic, and, political activities of its people. <sup>16</sup> For the families of apprehended children, their social and economic conditions were the very products of the Canadian political economy. Due to the lack of political and economic activities and influences, these families became preys of the system.

The salient feature of this study is the poor social-economic conditions of the child in care families. Most of these families from Vancouver Downtown and Vancouver East were poor, unemployed, financially dependent on government aid, had less

than adequate association strength and family solidarity, and lived in houses which were below the average standard.

It was encouraging to see that the conditions of these families, in the process of social work intervention, had improved while the children were in care, but unfortunately, the changes of the families' social-economic conditions did not necessarily lead to the change of the children's legal status. This study illustrated that with all of the families from the three legal status groups, the improvement in terms of the families' social-economic conditions were most noticeable among the temporary custody extension families. Although these families were comparatively upwardly mobile, their social-economic standings at the time of legal status change were lower than the discharged children's families.

Most of the social-economic indicators used in this study were not significantly correlated with the legal status. When they were tabulated with legal status it was observed that the permanent ward's families were overrepresented in the low categories, and in contrast, the discharged families were overrepresented in the higher categories.

The Social-Economic Indexes could only explain a limited percentage of the variation of legal status. The results from the path diagram study showed that over ninety percent of the variations of the legal status could not be explained by the Indexes ( $r^2 = .09$  and  $.08$ ). Since no causal inference between the social and economic variables and the legal status variables

could be drawn in this study, the real effects of the individual social and economic variables, or the composite Social-Economic Indexes, on the legal status variable, could only be revealed by further study which will use a different sample method.

This study, after adopting the theoretical assumption of social and economic influences, consistently focussed on the relations between the families' social-economic conditions and the children's legal status. The findings from this study generally echoed the discoveries of the socio-economic model. Most of the child in care families were found to be in the low social and economic strata of society. In addition, this study had identified the existence of internal stratification among the child in care families. Among many of these low social-economic families, those at the extreme low scales were more vulnerable to permanent removal of their children.

#### SOCIAL-ECONOMIC FACTORS RECONSIDERED

Of all of the social-economic indicators at apprehension, only two indicators were found to be significantly correlated with legal status, and the number of indicators was up to only three at the time of legal status revision. Although the composite index - the Social-Economic Index - as compared to most of the indicators, had stronger correlation with legal status, it could not account for over ninety percent of the variation of legal status. Due to the absence of strong indicators on the change of legal status, it appeared that the choice of these nine social-economic indicators should be

evaluated, and other possible indicators should be considered.

In reconsidering the possibility of using other indicators,

Table 48. Frequency Distribution of Children's  
Racial Origins by Legal Status.

Legal Status	Caucasian		Native		Others	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Perm. Ward	( 8)	30.8	( 7)	41.2	( 5)	38.5
Temp. Ext.	( 9)	34.6	( 6)	35.3	( 5)	38.5
Discharged	( 9)	34.6	( 4)	23.5	( 3)	23.0
Total	(26)	100.0	(17)	100.0	(13)	100.0

Table 49. Frequency Distribution of Household Head's  
Racial Origins by Legal Status.

Legal Status	Caucasian		Native		Others	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Perm. Ward	( 9)	31.0	( 9)	42.9	( 2)	20.0
Temp. Ext.	(11)	37.9	( 6)	28.6	( 3)	30.0
Discharged	( 9)	31.0	( 6)	28.6	( 5)	50.0
Total	(29)	100.0	(21)	100.0	(10)	100.0

two factors immediately emerged. These were ethnicity and religiosity. The tabulation that appeared in Tables 48 and 49 illustrated that the Native Canadians were overrepresented in the permanent ward category. 41.2% of those Native children who were in care had become permanent wards. As for religiosity, the pattern shown in Table 50 indicated that children with no religion were underrepresented in the discharged category, and were overrepresented in the custody extension group. In comparison, children with practicing religion, be they Catholics

or Protestants, were underrepresented in the extension category. In order to explore more related variables, a further study

Table 50. Frequency Distribution of Children's Religiosity by Legal Status

Legal Status	Christian		Non-Rel.		Others	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Perm. Ward	( 6)	33.3	( 8)	30.8	( 6)	37.5
Temp. Ext.	( 4)	28.2	(12)	46.2	( 4)	25.0
Discharged	( 8)	44.5	( 6)	23.1	( 6)	37.5
=====						
Total	(18)	100.0	(26)	100.0	(16)	100.0
-----						

would be required to identify additional social-economic variables.

#### INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL WORK

Inequality of conditions, as shown in this study, were proved to be related in part to the removal of children from their homes, and to the changes of the legal status after admission to care. Of the nine social-economic conditions choosen for this study, the strongest individual indicators were Solidarity and Association. Therefore, in the process of intervention, it would seem appropriate for social workers to develop strategies aimed at improving these two conditions, if the goal is to return the children to their natural homes.

A large percentage of the factors leading to the children's apprehension and the changes of legal status were not revealed in this study. Social-economic interpretation provides only a partial understanding of the phenomena of enforced parent-child separation. Further study is required in order that

comprehensive plans for social work intervention in child protection cases could be constructed.

### Footnotes :

1. See the Canadian Class Structure, by Dennis Forcese, McGraw Hill, 1975, and Social Stratification : Canada, edited by J. E. Curtis and W. G. Scott, Ontario:Prentice-Hall, 1979.
2. P.74 R. Love and M. C. Wolfson, Income Inequality : Statistical Methodology and Canadian Illustration, published by Ministry of Industry Trade and Commerce (Ottawa : Statistics Canada March, 1976). Excerpted from Leo A. Johnson 1979:141.
3. For a detailed record on the publication of child abuse in the 1960s and 1970s, see D. Wells, Child Abuse : An Annotated Bibliography, Scarecrow Press, 1980.
4. The dynamics of family interaction was illustrated in "Conceptual Frameworks For understanding Families", by L. S. Dodson, in John R. MacDonald, Training Program, Ontario : Ministry of Community and Social Services, Aug. 1980, pp.109-117.
5. See The Indian Identity Crisis, by H. Zentner (ed.), Calgary : Strayer Publishing Ltd., 1979.
6. The issue of ideological conflict was addressed to Dr. Germain in a workshop at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, on May 25, 1981. Dr. Germain recognized that the ideological contradiction among social and political groups was a dilemma for social workers, but she did not offer any solution to this problem.
7. The issue on conforming social study to a naturalistic methodology was raised by D. Thomas, in Naturalism and Social Science : A Post-Empiricist Philosophy of Social Sciences, Cambridge Press, 1979. Different perspectives were presented by Charles Taylor in "Interpretation and The Sciences of Man", in Review of Metaphysics, Vol. 25, 1971-1972, pp.3-51, and by Theodor W. Adorno, "Sociology and Empirical Research", in Critical Sociology, ed. by Paul Connerton, Penguin, 1978.
8. For insightful analysis on the history of social work research, see Sidney E. Zimbalist, Historic Themes and Landmarks in Social Welfare Research, New York : Harper and Row, 1977.
9. The meaning of paradigm refers to the disciplinary matrix followed by the practitioners. The various meanings of paradigm were discussed in "The Paradigm Concept and Sociology : A Critical Review", by D. L. Eckbery and L. Hill, Jr., in American Sociological Review, 1979, Vol. 44, (Dec.), pp.925-937.
10. New Leftism is a philosophical idealism of human essence. It is a dialectical theory of essence and appearance, and when

transformed into social theory, it has the idea of human practical-critical activity, or praxis. New leftism, as a belief, strives to liberate the initiations of solidarity and the political interests of the people. For a detail discussion on the philosophical and practical aspects of New Leftism, see The Origins of Modern Leftism, by Richard Gombin, Pelican Book, 1975.

11. The aim of critical assessment of social reality is the basic philosophical assumptions of the dialectical/critical school. Critical assessment involves not only stating propositions and given explanations, but also offering critical judgments, which transcend experience in that they not only refer to what exists, but also to what does not, but should, exist (see Mayntz, et al 1976:24). For a thorough study on the origin and development of critical theory, see Martin Jay, The Dialectical Imagination : A study of the Frankfurt School and the Institute of Social Research, Boston : Little, Brown, 1973.

12. As of March 31, 1980, the numbers of children under the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare were 233 and 69 in Regions 1 and 15 respectively. See Ministry of Human Resources, Annual Report, 1980, p.76.

13. The method of path analysis was illustrated in Descriptive Statistics For Sociologists, by Loether and McTavish, Boston : Allyn & Bacon, 1974, pp.320-328.

14. For details on the calculation of effect coefficient, see Nie, et al, 1975, pp.384-392.

15. Max Weber, in his study on power, identified class, status, and party as the three major sources of power. See Max Weber : Essays in Sociology, translated and edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, Oxford University Press, 1976.

16. L. Johnson (1979a), in his analysis of the capitalist labor market of Canada, clearly illustrated the effects of the collapse of the precapitalist economic order had on the Canadian population. The increase of unemployment was being part of it. For a theoretical analysis on the relations between society and production, see "Toward a Reconstruction of Historical Materialism," by Jurgen Habermas, in Communication and the Evolution of Society, Boston : Beacon, 1979, pp.130-177.

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APPENDIX ILETTER TO CHILD WELFARE SOCIAL WORKERS

(To child welfare social worker identified by Team Coordinators in Region 1 and 15; Ministry of Human Resources, city of Vancouver.)

Re: Study on the Social-Economic Patterns of  
Child in Care Familie

Dear friend:

The purpose of this study is to identify the social-economic conditions of the child in care family, and to find out the correlation between the family's social-economic conditions and the child's legal status at the time of the child's last and second last change of legal status. The nine socio-economic indicators used in this study are :

1. Annual Income
2. Sources of Income
3. Occupation
4. House Type
5. Dwelling Area
6. Level of Education
7. Length of Employment or Unemployment
8. Association Strength
9. Family Solidarity.

Definitions of the 9 indicators are attached with the questionnaire. I will contact you to arrange an interview. In the interview, the interviewer will ask you all the questions as those in the questionnaire. You should receive a copy of the questionnaire one week before the interview, so that you will have ample time to prepare.

Your name and the name of the case will remain confidential.

This study has been approved by the Deputy Minister of Human Resources (Mr. Noble), and by administrators in your Regional office. Your participation is not a mandatory one, and you have the right to refuse to be interviewed without jeopardy to your status in the agency.

If you have any question, please don't hesitate to consult your Team Coordinator, or you may contact me directly at the UBC School of Social Work.

Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation.

Yours truly,

Albert Chan  
Master of Social Work student  
U.B.C.

APPENDIX II  
QUESTIONNAIRE

CASE IDENTITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONNAIRE A

Child profile at the time of admission to care

1. Age: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sex:

1. Female                      2. Male

3. Racial Origin:

1. Caucasian	2. Native	3. Asiatic
4. Metis	5. Negro	6. Others
7. Not Known		

4. Religion:

1. Protestant	2. Catholic	3. Jewish
4. Others	5. No Religion	6. Not Known

5. Indian Status:

1. Yes                      2. No                      3. Not Known

6. Date of the latest admission to care:

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

7. Admitting Region: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Supervising Region: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Reason for Admission:<sup>2</sup>

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. physical abuse           | 17. Parental failure to    |
| 2. desertion or abandonment | provide medical care       |
| 3. emotional disturbance    | 18. parent(s) imprisoned   |
| 4. one parent deceased      | 19. inability of family to |

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5. sole parent deceased       | provide needed education       |
| 6. parental sexual deviation  | 20. parental failure           |
| 7. parental illness, mental   | 21. requested by another prov. |
| 8. parental illness, physical | 22. lack of housing/accommoda. |
| 9. awaiting adoption parents  | for family group               |
| 10. removed from adoption     | 23. not applicable             |
| parents                       |                                |
| 11. awaiting permanent plan   | 24. not known                  |
| 12. physical handicap         | 25. sexual abuse by neighbour  |
| 13. mental retardation        | 26. emotional abuse            |
| 14. delinquent behavior       | 27. neglect                    |
| 15. transient                 | 28. sexual abuse by parent     |
| 16. unmarried mother          |                                |

10. Legal status of the child after the last change or extension of order: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Date of the last change or extension of legal status:  
 year \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_

## Questionnaire B

### Family profile at the Time of the Child's Admission to care

1. Head of Household: <sup>2</sup>

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. biological father         | 2. biological mother |
| 3. biological grandparent(s) | 4. step-parent       |
| 5. relative                  | 6. friend of family  |
| 7. others: specify _____     |                      |
| 8. not known                 |                      |

2. Age of the Head of Household: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sex of the Head of Household:

- |           |      |
|-----------|------|
| 1. female | male |
|-----------|------|

4. Marital Status:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. single parent    | 2. married         |
| 3. separated        | 4. living together |
| 5. widow or widower | 6. divorced        |
| 7. others: _____    |                    |
| 8. not known        |                    |

5. Ethnic origin of the head of household:

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Caucasian | 2. Native       |
| 3. Asiatic   | 4. Metis        |
| 5. Negro     | 6. Others _____ |
| 7. Not Known |                 |

6. Number of children residing with the family at the times of the child's admission to care: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Number of children residing with the family at the time of the child's last change or extension of legal status: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Family's length of residence in the Region before the child's admission to care: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONNAIRE C

### The Socio-economic Conditions of the Family at the Time the Child was granted Temporary Wardship.

1. Family's Annual Income :<sup>3</sup>

1. lower poverty class
2. poverty class
3. lower class
4. lower middle class
5. middle class
6. upper middle class
7. upper class
8. not known

2. Sources of Income of the Family :<sup>4</sup>

1. nonrespectable source
2. public source
3. private source
4. wages
5. salary
6. profits and fees
7. inherited and earned wealth
8. not known

3. Occupation of the Head of the Household :<sup>5</sup>

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. never been employed | 2. unskilled    |
| 3. semi-skilled        | 4. skilled      |
| 5. tradesperson        | 6. professional |
| 7. entrepreneur        | 8. not known    |

4. House type :<sup>6</sup>

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. very poor house | 2. high      |
| 3. below average   | 4. average   |
| 5. above average   | 6. high      |
| 7. very high       | 8. not known |

5. Dwelling Area :<sup>7</sup>

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. very low      | 2. low       |
| 3. below average | 4. average   |
| 5. above average | 6. high      |
| 7. very high     | 8. not known |

QUESTIONNAIRE C (cont'd)

6. Education of the Head of the Household :
1. no formal education
  2. under 7 years of schooling
  3. between 7 and 11 years of schooling
  4. high school graduate
  5. 1 to 2 years college or job training program
  6. university graduate
  7. professional degree
  8. not known
7. Length of continuous employment or unemployment of the head of the household :
1. unemployed more than 1 year
  2. unemployed between 6 to 11 months
  3. unemployed less than 6 months
  4. employed less than 6 months
  5. employed between 6 to 11 months
  6. employed between 1 to 2 years
  7. employed more than 2 years
  8. not known
8. Family's Association Strength with social agencies, churches, community groups, organizations, and extended family :<sup>8</sup>
1. poor
  2. inadequate
  3. below marginal
  4. marginal
  5. above marginal
  6. adequate
  7. good
  8. not known
9. Family Solidarity :<sup>9</sup>
1. poor
  2. inadequate
  3. below marginal
  4. marginal
  5. above marginal
  6. adequate
  7. good
  8. not known

QUESTIONNAIRE DThe Socio-economic conditions of the family at the time of Legal Status Revision.1. Family's Annual Income :<sup>3</sup>

1. lower poverty class
2. poverty class
3. lower class
4. lower middle class
5. middle class
6. upper middle class
7. upper class
8. not known

2. Sources of Income of the Family :<sup>4</sup>

1. nonrespectable source
2. public source
3. private source
4. wages
5. salary
6. profits and fees
7. inherited and earned wealth
8. not known

3. Occupation of the Head of the Household :<sup>5</sup>

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. never been employed | 2. unskilled    |
| 3. semi-skilled        | 4. skilled      |
| 5. tradesperson        | 6. professional |
| 7. entrepreneur        | 8. not known    |

4. House type :<sup>6</sup>

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. very poor house | 2. high      |
| 3. below average   | 4. average   |
| 5. above average   | 6. high      |
| 7. very high       | 8. not known |

5. Dwelling Area :<sup>7</sup>

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. very low      | 2. low       |
| 3. below average | 4. average   |
| 5. above average | 6. high      |
| 7. very high     | 8. not known |

QUESTIONNAIRE D (cont'd)

## 6. Education of the Head of the Household :

1. no formal education
2. under 7 years of schooling
3. between 7 and 11 years of schooling
4. high school graduate
5. 1 to 2 years college or job training program
6. university graduate
7. professional degree
8. not known

## 7. Length of continuous employment or unemployment of the head of the household :

1. unemployed more than 1 year
2. unemployed between 6 to 11 months
3. unemployed less than 6 months
4. employed less than 6 months
5. employed between 6 to 11 months
6. employed between 1 to 2 years
7. employed more than 2 years
8. not known

8. Family's association strength with social agencies, churches, community groups and organizations, and extended family :<sup>8</sup>

1. poor
2. inadequate
3. below marginal
4. marginal
5. above marginal
6. adequate
7. good
8. not known

9. Family Solidarity :<sup>9</sup>

1. poor
2. inadequate
3. below marginal
4. marginal
5. above marginal
6. adequate
7. good
8. not known

Notes :

1. Classifications and definitions of reasons for admission used in this study are copied from the Ministry of Human Resources' Child Activity Form (HR 1629 Child Care Activity Form 81/05).
2. The person with the major family income should be designated as the family's head of household.
3. The family's annual income levels are defined as follows :
  1. lower poverty class : family's annual income is 20% lower than the line of poverty setted by the Senate Committee on Poverty (see Appendix A for the set of poverty line).
  2. poverty class : family's annual income is 80-100% of the poverty line setted by the Senate Committee on poverty.
  3. lower class : family's annual income is above the Senates's line of poverty but is below 20,000.
  4. lower-middle class : the family's annual income is from 20,000 to 34,999.
  5. middle class : family's annual income is from 35,000 to 49,999.
  6. middle class : family's annual income is from 50,000 to 70,000.
  7. upper class : the family's annual income is above 70,000.
4. The various levels of sources of income are defined as follow :
  1. nonrespectable source : money obtained from illegal occupation, i.e. stealing, gambling, prostitution, and etc..
  2. public source : money received from a government agency or from some semipublic charity organization. This includes Pension, U.I.C., and other Income Assistance.
  3. private source : money received from friends, relatives, churches, community association, and etc..

4. wages : amount is determined by hourly or daily rates.
  5. salary : regular income paid for services on a monthly or yearly basis. This category also includes the commission type of salary paid to salespersons.
  6. profits and fees : money paid to professional persons for services and advice. This also includes the money made by owners of business for sale of goods, and royalties paid to writers, musicians, and the like.
  7. inherited and earned wealth : money made by previous generation. This includes money derived from saving and interests or business enterprises inherited from an earlier generation. Or money from saving, investment or interests from capital which has amassed sufficient money so that the person does not need to work.
5. The various levels of occupation are defined as follows :
1. never been employed : a person who has never worked for wages, commission, and the like.
  2. unskilled : manual labor which does not require training. This includes heavy labor, migrant work, odd-job man, janitors, newsboys, migrant farm workers and the like.
  3. semi-skilled : manual labor that requires some experience, skills or training, i.e. factory workers, gas station attendants, night watchmen, waiter and waitress, etc..
  4. skilled : manual labor or office work that requires training and skills. This includes bank clerks, plumbers, electricians, repairmen, operators, barbers, bartenders, chef, secretaries, nurse-aids, contractors, etc..
  5. tradesperson : jobs which specialized knowledge and experience but do not require degree or certification, i.e. manager, salesperson, executives, administrators, etc..
  6. professional : jobs which require professional degree and certification. This includes charter accountants, engineers, architects, judges, doctors, nurses, etc..
  7. entrepreneur : persons who are the owners or the top executives of large corporation. This includes president, vice-presidents, executive directors and the

like.

6. The various levels of house-type are defined as follows \* :

1. very poor house : houses which have deteriorated so far that they cannot be repaired. They are considered unhealthy and unsafe to live in.
2. poor houses : houses which are badly run down, but have not deteriorated sufficiently that they cannot be repaired. Houses lack basic maintenance.
3. fair houses : houses which are crowded but are kept in reasonable living condition.
4. average houses : houses which have sufficient rooms and space for the family and are furnished with basic necessity.
5. good houses : houses which are slightly larger than utility demands, and are comfortably furnished.
6. very good houses : houses which have abundant rooms and space and are furnished with expensive furnitures. The houses are surrounded with nice size lawn and yard.
7. excellent houses : houses which are very large single family dwelling in good repair and surrounded by large lawn and yard. The houses are well designed and landscaped, and well cared for. The houses have an element of ostentation with respect to size, architectural style, and general conditions of yard and lawn.

\* The description of the houses' conditions is also applicable to apartments.

7. The various levels of dwelling area are defined as follows :

1. very low : slum districts, the areas with the poorest reputation, not only because of unpleasant and unhealthy geographical positions, but also because of the social stigma attached to those who live there.
2. low : these areas are run down and semislum. The houses are set close together and are in poor condition. The streets and yards are often filled with debris and waste.
3. below average : these areas are undesirable to live

because they are close to factory, railroad or other industries. Some of the houses in these areas are run down.

4. average : houses in these areas are small and unpretentious but neat in appearance.
  5. above average : this is an area of nice but not pretentious houses. The streets are kept clean and the houses and lawn surrounded the houses are well cared for. It is known as "a nice place to live".
  6. high : areas which are felt to be well above average. There are mansion and large houses with huge well cared for lawn and yards.
  7. very high : this area has a high status reputation. The streets are wide and clean, and have many trees. The best and most expensive houses are located in this area.
8. The various levels of family's association are defined as follows :
1. poor : extreme hostile attitude towards social agencies, churches, community groups and organizations, and extended family.
  2. inadequate : attitude is hostile; refuse to cooperate.
  3. below marginal : attitude is somewhat hostile; minimal contact; and unwilling to cooperate.
  4. marginal : show indifference towards any persons from the above groups; family members are apathetic and take no initiation to reach out.
  5. above marginal : show some interests to maintain contact but are willing not to try to work with contacted resources in any positive sense.
  6. adequate : show interests and initiatives, and are able to maintain regular contact. There are signs of improvement.
  7. good : positive and healthy attitude, family members show interests and take initiative to contact others, and are able to form meaningful and functional relationships with them.

9. The various levels of family solidarity are defined as follows :

1. poor : marked lack of affection and emotional ties among family members. Conflict among members are persistent or severe. Physical health of family members is in danger.
2. inadequate : marked lack of affection and emotional ties among family members. Conflict among members are persistent or severe, but members' physical health is not in danger.
3. below marginal : nearly no affection and emotional ties among family members. Family conflict always ends in direct verbal confrontation.
4. marginal : little emotional warmth evidenced among family members. Family members often in conflict, but not necessarily ended in direct confrontation. Members have no sense of sharing responsibility. Welfare of children is potentially but not yet in actual danger.
5. above marginal : little emotional warmth but few conflicts. Members eat and do things together but are unable to make long term plan for the family.
6. adequate : warmth and affection shown among family members. Willingness to share some responsibility but sometimes cannot carry out. Family members can discuss problems but are not able to reach resolution harmonically.
7. good : warmth and affection shown among family members; giving them a sense of belonging and emotional security. Conflict dealt with quickly and appropriately. Definite evidence of cohesiveness. Members find considerable satisfaction in family living.

APPENDIX SENATE COMMITTEE POVERTY LINE OF 1981

<u>Family Size</u> <u>Line</u>	<u>Poverty Line</u>	<u>20% lower than the Poverty</u>
1.	\$ 6,960	less than 5,568
2.	11,600	less than 9,280
3.	13,920	less than 11,136
4.	16,250	less than 12,992
5.	18,560	less than 14,848
6.	20,880	less than 16,704
7 or more.	23,200	less than 18,560

APPENDIX IIIDATA RECORDING SHEET

Case Identity Number : \_\_\_\_\_ (1-2)

Date of Interview : \_\_\_\_\_ (3-4)

Place of Interview : \_\_\_\_\_ (5-6)

Part A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 9-10 )
2. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 11 )
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 12 )
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 13 )
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 14 )
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (15-16)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (17-18)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (19-20)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (21-22)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (25-26)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (28-29)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 31 )
11. \_\_\_\_\_ (32-33)

Part C

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (46)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (47)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (48)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (49)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (50)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (51)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (52)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (53)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (54)

Part B

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (35)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (36-37)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 38 )
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 39 )
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 40 )
6. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 41 )
7. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 42 )
8. \_\_\_\_\_ ( 43 )

Part D

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (60)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (61)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (62)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (63)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (64)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (65)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (66)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (67)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (68)

APPENDIX IVCONSENT FORM

Re: Study on the Social-Economic Patterns  
of Child-Separated Families

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Child Welfare Social Worker of Region \_\_\_\_\_, Ministry of Human Resources, British Columbia, fully understand the nature of this study, and am fully aware of my right to refuse to be interviewed, hereby, \_\_\_\_\_ (consent/refuse), to be interviewed by Albert Chan, investigator of this project. It is my understanding that my name and the names of the case used in this study will remain confidential.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature