

# A Study of Socio-Economic Background of Members of Lions Clubs

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April 2019

## ABSTRACT

Lions Clubs International Foundation is a voluntary organization. Lions are the volunteer members of Lions Clubs grouped under the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Where they enjoy fellowship, develop their leadership capacities and dedicate part of their free time to help those in need all over the world. The motto of this voluntary organization is 'We Serve'. The lions Clubs are always on the toes to meet out the challenges to serve the humanities. They Serve not only down trodden sect of our society but also all sections of the society. The present study was undertaken with the objective to analyze the socio-economic background the Lions Members.

**KEY WORDS:** Lionism, Voluntary, Organization, Voluntary Organization, NGO, Socio Economic Background

## Introduction:

The Voluntary Organizations play a very important role to implement the policies and programmes of the Government for the social welfare of the society so that the desired objectives can be fulfilled. The vital role that the Voluntary organizations play in the implementation of programs has been fully recognized in the Seventh Five Year Plane document. What the Government cannot do for the implementation of the social welfare programmes can be done better with the help of Voluntary Organizations.

## Voluntary:

The dictionary meaning of the work 'Voluntary' is " Acting by Choice", "Subject to will" or "One who does something by his free will"

## Organization:

Human beings cannot live in isolation. They are unable to fulfill their needs and desires alone, because any one individual lacks the strength, ability, time and potential. He has to get the cooperation of other persons for achieving his goals. In simple words, organization is viewed as a group of persons formed to seek certain goals. Organization is not a new and modern invention or phenomenon. Ever since the dawn of civilization, people have always formed Organizations to combine their efforts for the accomplishments of their common goals.

**According to Oxford Dictionary of Sociology.** "Organization is defined as the form of human association for attaining common objectives. Organization is the establishing of effective authority relationships among selected work, persons and work places on order for the group to work together efficiently."

**Voluntary Organization:**

**Oxford dictionary of Sociology** defined voluntary Organization as any public formally constituted and non-commercial organization of which membership is optional within a particular society.

Voluntary Organizations are those which consist of non officials who raise voluntary resources both human and material in the service of common people.

**Non Government Organization (NGO):**

Voluntary Organizations are also known as NGOs in sense that they are non-government. These Organizations consist of non officials to raise Voluntary resources both human and material in the service of common people. A non-government organization is not-for-profit organization that is independent from state and national government organs. They are usually funded by donation and but some avoid funded altogether and are run by volunteers.

**Lionism:**

Melvin Jones was the founder of Lionism. Lionism is dedication to the highest ideals of humanitarian service; a fellowship of men and women who have committed themselves to aiding those in need through what ever means at their disposal. Lionism is a faith that people of different nationalities and creeds, separated by borders, oceans can join together in helping to bring about a battle word

**Review of Related Literature:**

**Oommen (1975)** in his study of voluntary Organization in cross cultural perspective has pointed out that the nature of political system is crucial variable which influence the nature, type and goal orientations of voluntary Organization in a society. It is the elasticity of permissiveness and the structure of a given society which will determine nature and type of its voluntary associations. He further stated that an urban industrial democratic society will have mainly two types of voluntary Organizations, those catering to the emotional need of the members (expressive type) and those which mediate between the state and citizens (Instrumental type). The political structure of a society affects the nature and scope of voluntary Organizations i.e. in an authoritarian set up, these Organization are likely to be state sponsored and act as more extensions of the central-state authority furthering its power interests.

**Kothari (1995)** reviewed that voluntary Organizations are voluntary in the sense that they are non-government, but the workers are not necessarily honorary as the word voluntary would suggest, but the workers has a combination of the spirit of self initiative and social commitment. In the initial stages when the Organizations were just started, the workers were honorary and that is the genesis of the word voluntary organization. Now voluntary Organizations often employ paid or partially paid staff. Voluntary groups are generally paid a subsistence wage as opposed to the marked wage in the private or the government sector. There is however, an element of service which is providing free in most of the organizations in the accepted sense of voluntary.

**Sooryamoorthy and Gangrade (2001)** has provided a synoptic account of the emergence of NGO's in India, their expansion and growth. The author acknowledged the impact of Gandhi ji and his ideas and prescriptions relating to the rural development to the NGO movement in India based on their studies in Kerala, the authors make a strong case for NGO-Government partnership, Interaction and collaboration in areas such as education and health.

### Statement of the problem:

A Study of Socio Economic Background of Members of Lions Clubs

### Objectives of the study:

1. To throw light on the Lion Clubs International Foundation as a Voluntary Organization
2. To explore the socio economic background of members of Lions Clubs.

### Methodology:

The present study is exploratory in nature. The very purpose of exploratory research is to seek out new insights, ask questions and assess phenomenon in different perspectives. Exploratory studies permit the researcher to seek new insights.

### Universe of the Study:

There are number of voluntary organizations engaged in the social welfare of the society. Lion Clubs International Foundation has been ranked best voluntary organization. It was considered to restrict this present study to the Lions Clubs. Lions Clubs International Foundation is an international voluntary organization having its branches all over the world.

### Selection of Sample:

In India the Lions Clubs were established in Feb. 1956. The growth of Lionism in India was rapid. Keeping in view the limitation of time and resource, the study is delimited in terms of content and sample. The study is limited to the Lions Clubs in the Malwa region of Punjab.

### Data Collection:

The primary data has been collected through questionnaire. A systematized questionnaire was prepared. The questionnaire was farmed as such to extract the maximum information from the respondents.

**Variables:** Rural, Urban, Age, Education Qualification, Occupation, Income, Religion, Caste

## SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS OF LIONS CLUBS

### RURAL/URBAN

Voluntary association are typically an urban phenomenon. They are found predominantly in the cities

**Table: 1**  
**Distribution of clubs according to the Area**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Rural	2	4.4
Urban	43	95.6
Total	45	100

From the collected data it has been found that there were 4.4% clubs in rural areas and 95.6% clubs were found in Urban areas. The two rural clubs are Lions Clubs Badhni Kalan and Daudhar.

Findings strengthen Simmel's socio-psychological point of view that urbanization leads to individualization of personality but at the same time there is multiplication of social groups in which the individuals participate. During the process of urbanization individual is reduced. Therefore in order to exert himself he joins others with similar interest to achieve his ends.

### Age Composition

Age is one of the most important factor which determines the out look or orientation of the individual. The following table focuses on the age group of respondents i.e. the members of the Lion Clubs.

**Table: 2**

#### **Distribution of respondents according to their age**

Age in Years	Frequency	Percentage
30-40	11	24.4
41-50	14	31.1
51-60	14	31.1
Above 60	6	13.4
Total	45	100

An analysis of the table shows that 24.4% of president were in age group 30-40 years. Only 13.4% of the respondents were above 60 years group. Most of the respondents were in the age group of 41-50 and 51-60 i.e. (62.2%). Results show that only elderly gentleman join these clubs.

### Educational Qualification

**Table: 3**

#### **Distribution of respondents according to their Educational qualification**

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage
No response	1	2.2
Matriculation	8	17.8
Under Graduate	4	8.9
Graduate	16	35.6
Diploma Holder	2	4.4
Post Graduate	3	6.7
Professional Degree	11	24.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

Educational qualification of the respondent is shown in the Table. It is clear from the table that maximum percentage of the Lion Members (35.6%) were graduate. 24.4% Lion Members had professional qualification Doctor/Engineer/Teachers. 6.7% were postgraduate, 4.4% were diploma holders, 8.9% were under graduate and 17.8% were metric.

The analysis of this table shows that Lions Clubs have well qualified member (70%). They execute their programmes in a well organized and planned ways and they could communicate easily with the district and international authorities. They are able to check the financial and other record in an effective way.

## Occupation

An attempt has also been made to compare the occupations of the respondents. The table shows the occupation of the Lion Members

**Table: 4**

### Distribution of respondents according to their Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Government Service	16	35.5
Business	21	46.7
Retired Person	2	4.4
Land Lord	3	6.7
Doctor/Engg./Adv.	3	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

Table shows that persons who are well settled in the Government service, Business and retired persons, Land Lords, Doctors/Engineers/Advocates also join these clubs. 46.7% businessman, 35.5% Government servants, 4.4% retired persons, 6.7% Land Lords, 6.7% professionals are the Lion members. Results show that persons from all sphere of life join these club but most of them (82.2% were in Government jobs and businessman, proving the fact they had spare time to devote to social services

## Income

An attempt has been made to know the income per annum of the Lion Members. The income of the respondent is indicative that these persons may devote a small part of their income to the social welfare works. Money makes the mare go. Finance is the back bone of every club both for administration and projects.

**Table: 5**

### Distribution of respondents according to their Income

Income (Per annum) (In Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
upto 4,00,000	12	26.7
4,00,000-6,00,000	22	48.6
Above 6,00,000	11	24.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

The table shows that 26.7% Lion members reported that they had income upto 4,00,000 per annum, 48.9% reported income between 4,00,000 to 6,00,000 and 24.4% respondents reported income above 6,00,000 findings indicate that (26.7%) belonged to middle income group 48.9% belonged to upper middle class and 24.4% respondents belonged to high class.

## Religion

An attempt was made to find out the relative composition of Lion members keeping in view their religion.

**Table: 6**

### Distribution of respondents according to their Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Hindu	36	80.0
Sikh	8	17.8
Jain	1	2.2

<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>
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The table shows that more respondents belonged to Hindu religion (80%) than Sikh religion (17.8%) showing that Hindus were more interested in joining these clubs. There was only 1 respondent who belonged to joining these clubs. There was only 1 respondent who belonged to Jain religion.

### Caste

Caste is one of the most important factor which influence our thinking and the social behavior of the individual. Table reveals the caste affiliation of the respondents.

**Table: 7**

**Distribution of respondents of on the basis of their Caste**

<b>Caste</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
General	40	88.9
BC	05	11.1
SC	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

The pattern of caste reflects that majority of the respondents (88.8%) belonged to general caste. This shows that majority of the members are well settled in the society 11.1% respondents belonged to backward classes. This shows increasing awareness among backward sections who were oppressed in the society for decades. However no respondent belonged to scheduled castes. Such findings indicate that these caste groups till date have not reached the level of other upper caste of the society.

### Finding and conclusion :

1. Voluntary Organizations are typically an urban phenomenon. They are found predominantly in the cities
2. Age is one of the most important factor which determines the out look or orientation of the individual. Only elderly gentlemen join Lions Clubs
3. Lions Clubs have well qualified members
4. Persons from all sphere of life join these club but most of them (82.2% were in Government jobs and businessman, proving the fact they had spare time to devote to social services.
5. Persons belonging to higher income group join these clubs.
6. More respondents belonged to Hindu religion (80%) than Sikh religion (17.8%) showing that Hindus were more interested in joining these clubs.
7. The pattern of caste reflects that majority of the respondents (88.8%) belonged to general caste. 11.1% respondents belonged to backward classes. This shows increasing awareness among backward sections. However no respondent belonged to scheduled castes. Such findings indicate that these caste groups till date have not reached the level of other upper caste of the society

### Suggestion for further study

1. The present study was delimited to Lions Clubs of Malwa region of Punjab. The same can be extended to other Geographical areas also
2. The research can be undertaken to study the modus oprendi of the Lions Club.
3. The research can be undertaken to study the role of Lions Clubs in the social welfare of the society.
4. The study can be conducted on the other voluntary organization also

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