ed from the analysis. Of the remaining 948 students, 65% were males and 35% females. On average, the young men were 18.8 years old, and the young women were 18.5 years old. Slightly more than half of the young women were 18 years old. Slightly more than half of the young men were 11th-standard students, while 65% were males and 35% females. Of the remaining 948 students, 65% were males and 35% females.

Similar proportions of young men and young women worked for an income (15% and 12%, respectively), and among those who reported their personal income, males had an only marginally higher income than females. The main sources of income for students were parents (pocket money) and earnings from jobs; a few students received scholarships.

The vast majority of students were Hindu (72% of males and 76% of females), and a sizable minority were Buddhist (20% and 16%, respectively); 6% had other religious affiliations, such as Islamic, Christian, Parsi and Jain. Overall, 82% of young men and 90% of young women considered themselves religious or very religious.

Data on the educational and occupational status of the students’ parents, family income and type of residence (Table 2, page 142) indicate that a majority of students came from families of low socioeconomic status. Only about 20% had fathers with more than a higher secondary education; the occupational status of fathers was correspondingly low. Mothers’ educational status was lower than fathers’, and most students (69% of males and 73% of females) reported that their mothers were housewives. About two-thirds of participants said that their annual family income was 5,000 rupees (US $120) or less, and three-fifths resided in slums or chawls.*

Virtually all of the students (95%) classified their families as religious or very religious. Female students were more likely than males to perceive their family environment as comfortable (71% vs. 59%) and as not strict (46% vs. 40%); this could reflect that in Indian families, boys not only enjoy more freedom but also expect more freedom, whereas girls are socialized to expect less freedom and therefore are more accepting of restrictions.

Roughly three-fifths of both male and female respondents had a moderate level of knowledge of issues related to sexual behavior (Table 3, page 143). Young women were better informed than young men about menstruation and pregnancy, while male students were better informed than female participants about male contraception (not shown). Overall, students were poorly informed about STDs, but their basic awareness regarding HIV and AIDS was high.

*Chawls, which are somewhat better than slums, usually are one-room tenements with shared bathing and toilet facilities.