

Progress Report Summer 1968

M^Y NSF research project basically concerns the concept of social stratification, whether the society consists of discrete social ~~strata~~ classes or ~~of~~ a continuum of members of social classes. As so much of the research conducted in this area has been subjective in nature and considering the way sociologists have ~~assumed~~ almost assumed the existence of social classes with little or no objective, removed testing of their hypothesis, it was decided to employ an objective means of determining the natural divisions within large groups of subjects by virtue of a multivariable ~~set~~ set of data. *using var. - used in other subjective studies -* The process selected was a program termed clumping and was used on an IBM 360 computer. It is designed to find the distance between members of a group based on several ordinarily coded ~~vari~~ variables.

Data gathered by Dr. Ted Johannis of this department in 1953 in Tampa, Florida was used. The data concerned home life and living habits of 1400 tenth graders in that city. A hypothesis stating three possible outcomes, was developed:

- 1) no apparent stratification system would appear;
- 2) A system containing discrete groups would appear;
- 3) A definite ordering of individuals would appear, but there would be no appearance of discrete groups.

By the end of the summer it is hoped to have finished all computer runs on the Tampa data and to have completed the analysis on the data so that a final paper may be prepared within the following month. It is also hoped that during fall term it will be possible to ~~use~~ use data gathered by Dr. Armer in his Kano study for a cross cultural comparison of the same phenomena.