

Chapter 3

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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This chapter deals with the review of literature.

Social system is an integrated whole of many social institutions such as family, caste, religion, marriage and school etc. Family and caste are the prominent feature of the village social system and they are interrelated and interdependent in their nature and structure.

Through modernization, industrialization, education and city contact the village social system has undergone change and family and caste are not an exception to this rule.

Number of studies have been conducted by sociologists to study the changing nature and functions of the family and caste relations.

Let us examine the different studies conducted on family and caste.

Nye, Ivan, F (1982) in the edited volume, "Family relationships-rewards and costs" focuses on the issues like ambivalence in the family marital equality. Marital stability and exchange; role competence and marital satisfaction exchange and control in married life and family mini theories.

The prime factors that have gained attention in this work are;

a) Security for psychological, social and physical needs and autonomy with regard to pursue individual values and goals.

b) Achieving minimum profit in group membership through i) Co-operation in the matters like establishing legitimate sexual relationship, establishing own common residence and having children ii) homogeneity in values within the family group iii) efficiency and effectiveness of role playing and iv) level of normative structure and group cohesion.

Madan, T.N (1959) conducted research work on family and kinship system of the rural Kashmiri pandits. It considers sociocultural identity of the pandits along with ownership of property marriage and nature of family system.

Srinivas M.N.(1978) edited book entitled "India's villages" encompasses the subjects like social organization and cultural change due to industrialization scientific and technological development and urbanization and impact of social change on the traditional structure of villages.

Gomes Olivinho, J.F. (1987) conducted a case study of "Village Goa-A Study of Goan Social Structure and Change" it gives the documentation of physical environment, historical background social structure caste structure, family structure religious practices, economic affairs, cultural activities Urban influence and changing patterns.

Venkatarayappa K.N. (1973) in his study on "Rural society and social change" which is a case study of villages, observes change in joint family system due to social changes by urbanization, Nuclearisation of families because of industrial impact of which influence on the caste structure and occupational structure was also found. Families having conflicts and friction's among the members tend to split into nuclear families.

Gupta, Giriraj (1976) in the edited work on "Family and social change in modern India" which covers various aspects of family. The work describes the earlier studies which observe the transitional features of family in its structure and forms due to social changes through urbanization and education irrespective of any caste.

Hobson, Sarah's (1978) work on "Family Web- A story of India" is a documentation of villages about which information related to nature of family, family practices, family power, status of women, religious practices routine tasks

communal harmony, community norms and village politics, was gathered through participant observation and presented in a story style.

Singh K.B.K (1988) Studies about " Family and marriage system of Rajputs"
The work traces the changes that are taking place in the Joint family system because of Industrial, Urbanization, migration social legislation, social emancipation's of women and education, Joint familism is giving way to either nuclear or small joint families.

Ramu, G.N.(1977) in his case study 'Family and Caste in urban India' observes that the endogamous marriage are still maintained continuity, the smaller households are emerging, caste socialization is still dominant, kinship and neighborhood ties are strong and structural like between family and caste are changing.

Mukharjee's work on the Family In India is a distinctive work, In this work nuclearization of joint family, change in family due to Urbanization and differences in family structure social change has brought a sweeping change in the family organization.

Shah A.M. (1964) in a paper gives sociological and anthropological thrust on the Indian family, the stress is given on the care of the aged, the infirm and the minor as function of family.

Conklin, C.H. (1969): has brought an analogy between the biological and social systems. There has been a great significance in the influence on family by both biology and population cycles, the work, confirms that the joint family is disintegrating.

Singer, M (1968) considers residential mobility, occupational mobility scientific and technical education, modernization as the destructive factors of the joint family.

Kolenda, Pauline (1987) in his work observes the regional differences in the family and caste structure, Revolutionary changes in family are taking place throughout world. Industrialization, westernization and modernization have significant affect upon family in sustaining its jointness, especially upper, caste people happen to follow joint family system as compared to that of low caste people. It was found that joint families are a result of shortage of space, both for residence and for cultivation, changes in family structure related to the shift from an agrarian subsistence economy to a cash economy was also observed.

Parmar Singh (1987) attempts to analyse empirically whether or not joint family system is continuing or undergoing change joint families were prevailing in villages irrespective of caste rank, land-holding and education variables were favorable to jointness of families.

In the above studies most of them are large scale field studies, observe that family system is at the transition phase from jointness to nuclear. Social change by the virtue of Urbanization, industrialization, modernization and scientific and technological development, has contributed to a great extent for the structural and functional changes of the family. The village studies observed that villages near to Urban places have more possibility of Urban contact, which prompt to influence more the villagers thinking and modernization level rather than the villages which are interior having less probability of Urban contacts and so low level modernization can be observed.

Hence it was thought to take up an interior village for the present study to observe the changes in the nature and structure of family.

There are studies which have concentrated on caste

Ketkar S.V. (1909) describes about the history of caste in India based on the ancient authoritative scriptures, the work is presented after referring the

ancient works of Manu Dharma writers and Kautilya's Arthashastra. It has delineated about Varna system the origin of caste system.

Atal, Yogesh (1979) in his book entitled "Changing Frontier of caste" analyses the pattern of caste structure, marital relations caste relations caste hierarchy, power structure dominated by upper caste, caste linked occupations and changing caste structure in its frontiers, The work observes close association among spatial mobility, educational mobility and occupational mobility-migration modernization, Urban contacts and educational importance have contributed to a great extent in bringing changes in the caste structure. The impact on traditional occupational structure has led to land alienation in particular and estrangement from the traditional occupations in general.

Ainapur, L.S. (1986) in his work 'Dynamics of caste relations in rural India' traces the origin of caste and its concepts like Sanskritization, tradition fringe, region, and frontier to study caste in the rural social order. The structural determinants like religious order economic organization, the caste dimension in the power structure, the social order and the changing aspects of education have been considered to study group relations the work also hints at the structural change and organizational change as a result of social change. At the time of fairs festivals, birth marriages and death ceremonies all caste except Harijans involve in the ceremonies. As far as economic organization is concerned interdependence among different castes was observed and tradition bond occupations are withering, upper caste are still grabbing the educational opportunities and power structure. However caste relations are on the very edge of change to be replaced by modernity and westernization.

Vinay, Bahl (1992) examines misconceptions of India's caste based social stratification. India today, however is not bound by a caste system but rather is a capitalist society based on market and contractual relations. However the

nomenclature of the caste system has not yet been replaced which serves to cloud . India's contemporary social stratification.

Gandhi Raj (1982) explains the practice of untouchability in the Indian caste system through racial and ritualistic origin also derived from economic relations and the conflict of interests of the upper and lower castes, Changes in the caste system and the practice of untouchability could only come with the dissolution of the precapitalist economy. The growth of capitalism in India is changing caste into classes, However, since untouchability was ideologically sanctified its abolition depends not only on the proletarianization of untouchables but also on the westernization and secularization of the Indian masses until the impact of westernization. Secularization, urbanization and industrialization is fully felt untouchability is likely to persist unofficially in India regardless of legal abolition.

Mishra R.B. (1989) In his work on 'Caste and Caste conflict in rural society' observes that every age has been the age of struggle, conflict and crisis and modern world is characterized by conflict and threat of upper castes to the lower castes and scarce of social values like power, prestige influence and resources have been found as responsible factors for inter-caste conflict constitutional measures tended towards equality for all have given a new visitor and a new turn to inter caste conflict.

'The Hindu Jajmani System' of W.H. Wiser (1936) is a great contribution to village studies, since then, many studies paid attention to the Jajmani type of economic inter-relationship between the various castes (Gould 1960, Orans, 1968, Karper 1959).

'Caste and the economic Frontier' of Bailey (1957) deliberates transformation of caste system by economic change, there has been a structural change in the caste structure due to land reformation policies.

'Caste in Contemporary India' the work of Pauline Kolend (1948) considers caste as a social structure comprising of Jati as a basic unit. It sustains the solidarity of caste through following the norms and commonly held norms.

Sinha Sachchidanand (1982) in his work 'Caste system-myths Reality Challenge' traces the causes of the social strife like caste riots and the tribal agitation's. It also gives theoretical explanation of caste origin.

The above studies contribute a few important factors on the caste system, the varna system, the source of caste origin, which is observing changes. In its structure due to education, modernization, industrialization. Subsequently the caste conflicts and caste relations are gaining new movement, Mostly the studies focus on the caste issues in general, based on the field studies drawing sample from many villages rather than focusing on village level studies, Hence to observe whether or not the general caste transitional features and observations are prevalent in the specific village system, this study has been taken up.