

CHAPTER 6
A FEW CASE-STUDIES

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Introduction:

While collecting the data, the researcher came across many interesting cases. These cases are randomly selected and these cases are different as well as interesting. It will be note worthy to mention these cases as this will show us the true picture of society. During the process of data collection or conducting the interview, the researcher tried to go deep into the couple's life and tried to get the accurate information which can be useful for the purpose of analysis of the present scenario of the society. It was through informal discussions that the couple narrated their emotions and feelings without any hesitation. Out of the total 50 couples (100 respondents), the researcher has randomly selected 7 cases to be studied. These cases are as follows.

Case studies:

- 1) The respondent couple was married since fifteen years. Let us take Mr. A and Mrs. A as the respondent couple. At the time of marriage, Mrs.A was 18 years old. Mrs. A was a Koshti by caste and she was married to Mang. According to Mrs. A, they married at very early age as Mrs. A s parents had come to know about their love affair and wanted to get her married soon. At that time, people were very orthodox. So it was not accepted by her parents and society members. Mrs. A had to face numerous problems after marriage like financial problem, acceptance problem, adjustment problem, etc. After marriage they were neither accepted by their parents or in-laws. After marrying they went to Mumbai at Mr. A'

s sister's residence. It was only Mr. A's sister who supported and helped them at that time Mr. A's parents did not accept them at all. It was after two months of their marriage that Mrs. A's parents accepted them and called them back to Kolhapur. After coming to Kolhapur, where Mr A started with a job, office staff after knowing about his inter-caste treated him within difference. Mrs. A also had to face such problems. Though Mrs. A's parents accepted them, still whenever attending marriage, name ceremony, birthdays Mrs. A was taunted by the members of the society and did not allow her to participate in rituals and religious rites. Mrs. A's parents accepted her and helped her in each possible way mainly financially and emotionally. Her younger sister had to face the consequence of Mrs. A's inter-caste marriage. She did not get matrimonial proposal from their own caste as people had a very narrow, traditional and orthodox mindset. Eventually, she was married in a lower caste against her wish.

But after so many problems Mrs. A is today happy. Though she had to suffer humiliation from the society but at the same time she feels proud of her inter-caste marriage as her husband is very loving and caring in nature.

- 2) Let us take this respondent couple as Mr. and Mrs. X. in this case, Mr.X was a Maratha by caste and Mrs. X a Brahmin Mrs. X's father was expired at very early age. It was Mrs. x and her mother who took the responsibilities of their home. Mrs X was a post graduate and working in a bank. Mr.X was only a graduate and was running a small business. Mrs. X's mother and her younger brother had started to find suitable match for her. When Mrs. X narrated about Mr. X and exhibited the wish to marry him Mrs. X's brother was annoyed with her decision. He had much higher

expectations for his sister and these expectations did not match at all with Mr. X' s personality Mrs. X 's brother did not want her to marry him as he was a Maratha by caste and Mrs. X did get matrimonial proposals from her own caste from well to do families. Gradually she had to elope with Mr. X without her mother's and brother's permission.

After marriage she was not accepted by her natal family. It is her husband's relatives who take care of her whenever needed even during the birth of her child; her natal family did not call her up. It is now seven years after her marriage that neither her mother nor her brother have called her up or even did not keep any telephonic conversations with her she is still not accepted by her natal family as she had underwent an inter-caste marriage.

- 3) In this case, let us take the respondent couple as Mr. and Mrs. B Mr.B was a bania by caste and Mrs. B was Mang. These two castes were totally opposite where the Mrs.B belonged to lower caste as she was of a lower caste. She was not at all accepted by her in-laws and the members of society as well. Having common residential area they fell in love with each other. Both were educated till higher secondary Mr. B was of a well to do family and his family is a well known family of Kolhapur. He did get matrimonial proposals from well known families too. But he wanted to marry Mrs. B only when Mr. B' s parents came to know about their love affair they strictly restricted and pressurized him in the name of family's prestige. They tried to explain him that a person from a lower caste will never be adjusted in their homes as there is a huge rift between these two castes.

Finally Mr. B even after knowing about his parental opposition decided to marry Mrs. B they had to marry without

informing his parents. Mrs. B 's parents were neutral in this situation. After marriage Mr. and Mrs.B were socially boycotted. They stayed apart from the society for four years, as society did not accept them at all. After four years, they were socially accepted. Even after two years of marriage when Mrs. B delivered a baby they were not accepted. They were aware of the consequences. But because they loved each other they had taken the decision to inter-marry. They are today happily married and accepted by family and society as well.

- 4) Let us take the respondent couple as Mr. and Mrs. C in this case ,Mr. C was a Maratha by caste and Mrs. C was a bania by caste. They are married since 9 years. Before marriage when both were dating each other and when their parents knew about their love affair they opposed to their relation. Neither of the parents had agreed to their relation Mrs. C's parents were well known prominent personalities of Kolhapur. They wanted their daughter to get married in their own caste but they both decided to inter-marry.

After marriage, though Mrs. C was taken at her husband's residence but she was not accepted by the family members. In husbands family at home she had mother in law, two mother-in -laws sisters one was divorced and the other was spinster and one of the sister-in -law who was also unmarried, her husband and kid and she herself. Her mother- in-law was so orthodox that she did not even allow her to cook in their kitchen for them. She was not even allowed to feed her kid. Every now and then she had to face her torture. She was so much tortured by the husband's relatives. She had to face this in spite of being a higher caste. Even today also they are not accepted whole heartedly.

5) Let us take Mr. and Mrs. Y as the respondent couple. In this case Mrs. Y was a Brahmin and Mr. Y was a Maratha by caste. It was an arranged marriage Mrs. Y was married for the second time to Mr. Y Earlier she was married within their own caste. But she had adjustment problems with her husband and then after she had a baby she was divorced Now when she was married she was happier than before.. But after marrying for the second time she was happily married with the parent's approval from both of them though Mr. Y was a Maratha by caste but was educated and a bachelor. He even accepted Mrs. Y's baby. Mrs. Y did not had any such adjustment problems as before in fact she was much more happier to find a match outside their caste.

6) Let us take Mr. and Mrs.Z as the respondent couple. In this case, Mr Z was a Vaishya vani by caste and Mrs. Z was a Brahmin by caste. They were neither accepted by the family. They decided to inter marry and went to their friends residence for a few days and then returned to their natal families. After returning to Mr. Z's residence, the couple especially Mrs. Z was treated with indifference. Mrs. Z had adjustment problems in the family as she was from a higher caste, but after two years she managed with the family. She even had to leave her job for the family.

She was not accepted by her father, brother, sister. Whenever her mother wanted to meet her she used to meet her outside without informing at home. But she is still not taken at home and so her mother has to meet her without her father's consent. She is happy now but still wants to mix up in her natal home.

7) Let us take the respondent couple as Mr. and Mrs. D. in this case, Mr. D belonged to lohana caste and Mrs. D belonged to Maratha

caste. Lohana is a caste in Gujarati community. People in this caste are pure vegetarian. They worship lord Krishna and other Hindu gods and goddesses Mr. D did not inform about his affair to his parents but when after marriage he took Mrs. D at home the parents were shocked and pressurizes him that he should divorce her and marry a female from their own respective caste as according to them Maratha caste too is a lower caste. But Mr. D was firm on his decision and stayed with Mrs.D

Mrs. D had numerous problems after marriage. The problem ranged from language, dressing, cooking, eating, etc which was very difficult to go through Mrs. D took a long time of four years in setting herself at home. She is happy with her husband. Slowly and gradually after 2 years she was whole heartedly accepted by Mr. D parents.

Conclusion :

There are total seven case studies in this chapter the researcher has taken seven different cases which faced different problems. These problems in short bring a clear picture of society and mentality or mindset of caste people. The problems ranged from acceptance to adjustment of the new bride in the family.

RESEARCHER'S SIGNATURE
DATE