

Chapter 7

CONCLUSION

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The present study which is empirical one could attempt to catch hold the various contributory factors responsible for occurring changes in the nature and structure of family and caste. Transition which is an universal phenomenon is possible to social issues like family and caste as well.

FAMILY

Family as an age old primary institution has witnessed significant and conspicuous changes due to various factors. Various factors like family role structure, functional structure, normative structure, attitudinal structure, occupational structure and organic structure have been subjected to various changes. The dichotomous forms like joint and nuclear are the significant. Organic changes that have taken place in the traditional family. 'Jointness' is considered as the prime feature of joint family. Nuclearity trend has been usually observed in the urban social system.

Many factors have been identified as sole responsible factors for bringing various forms of change in the family structure. Educational, social, political, scientific and technological urbanization and modernization have been the significant factors for bringing about change in the family. The economic determinants do have played significant role in influencing the rural society. It is true to know that the empirically verified factors have predominant role in bringing about the structural and functional change in the family.

CASTE

Hindu society has been distinctively compartmentalized by the institution caste, which is an unique feature of the Indian social system. Caste as a closed class grants an ascribed status to an individual whose occupational aspiration

was solely determined by caste alone. The dichotomous segments like upper caste and lower caste have divergent customs, norms and traditions which very well determined social relations among the different castes. Jajmani system was prevalent in the form of service caste rendering services and in return was given food grains which non-monetary activity prevalent in rural India. Untouchability which has been strongly attached to the lower castes governs the treatment mode exhausting between upper castes and lower caste. The marital, commensal, occupational and social relations purely caste based activities in the Indian society.

Modern era has brought changes to not extremely significant in the caste structure. Educational, legislative, political, constitutional and economical provisions have shown possibilities of tremendous change in the caste structure. However, it is making significant adjustment with the changing conditions in the modern period. Today occupational and educational status are not any more ascribed but achieved, not by the virtue of castes.

It is therefore put for empirical verification that to what extent the nature and structure of family and caste have undergone change.

REVIEW

The studies on family reveal that the large sample and cross-sectional field based studies could able to gather multidimensional factors responsible for changing family structure in the urban context only. The rural based studies have not been taken up extensively.

The studies on castes also focus on the urban system rather than village community it is very important to know that caste is at its gradual transitional phase in the rural context as well but, the magnitude of change varies.

Case studies which usually could bring unidimensional predominant

responsible for a significant change in the family and caste structure in the rural context need to be given a fresh impetus. And economic determinants from the Marxist's perspective need to be given in a new scope to study the rural structure.

Methodology

The principal aim of the present study is to unfold the factors responsible for changing nature and structure of family and caste. A case study of village Revaggi by the interviewing to respondent and observations of researcher is taken up since it exhibited certain inherent unique factors for such structural change in family and caste. The study covers 150 households belonging to 70 households of Lingayat caste, 45 households to SC-ST and backward communities and remaining 35 families to Muslim religion.

Results on family

Results on family can be classified into; social background of the respondents, attitudinal results, perceptual results and factual results.

The social background of the subject reveals that the nuclearity trend is not any more a phenomenon of old persons; but, young persons before attaining 30 years of age settle with their own separated family soon after the marriage, since a large number of the respondents were married. Educational background of respondents show that it has no significant place in determining nuclearity as there were many illiterates. The occupational data shows that the village was a agrarian society since a majority of respondents were indulged in agriculture. The economic data reveals that half of the sample was below poverty line. This significantly indicates that a large number of households have been pushed into nuclearity by economic deprivation conditions. The result shown that the size of households accurately present the nuclearity in the village.

The normative structure of reveal that marriage has been considered as the sacred relation. The conventional relation bond persists without any treat to its continuity. However, the marriage age as has been increased due to economic and other regions is a new trend. On the other hand the arranged marriage system, where self choice has got a say with parent consent is a new development. The conventional 'large family' is replaced by modern 'small family' norm. For this purpose people held positive attitude towards family planning, to have two or three children. The traditional attitude to have only male child has been replaced by gender-equity attitude by giving equal treatment of both male and female child. The new trend which has developed is that providing educational and employment opportunities to girls on par with boys. This has significantly changed the role structure of women by allowing them to accept non-domestic probes and responsibilities. Attitude towards divorce is positive only in case of biological defects rather than any social reasons, is a development of significant attitude towards the social issues. The attitude towards dowry positive interms of settling family rather than accepting it as a tradition.

The conventional grand parents role is withering because of nuclearity. The households clearly shows nuclearity since, parents usually stayed with their unmarried sons and married brothers also stayed independently.

The factors of economic problems persuaded villagers to have contacts with city for marketing and work. The influence of mass media though not significant but, cannot be overlooked. Although forming is purely convention of villagers, there is application of new scientific and technological developments.

On the other hand the families are not totally dependent on traditional family occupations, but intended to accept non-traditional occupations as well. The occupational structure is not any more uniform. Whereas, the political consciousness of the people has increased positively and significantly.

Results on caste

The village caste structure is at the traditional phase in various aspects. A caste is not playing any role in determining the conventional occupations. There is a new trend to go for non-conventional occupations overlooking the caste barrier. Although 'Jajmani system' is still in existence, but its forms is not healthy for a long survival. The services are still rendered by the service caste, but total dependency on the return of their services is not there since, it does not meant their economic needs. The service caste families persue other occupations as well. This indicates the significant change in the service castes.

The inter-caste relations though witnessed some change; marital relations are still maintained within the caste. As for as the integration of upper and lower castes is concerned, it is still at the surface level. The untouchables were allowed in the schools but, restrictions are still maintained to enter temple use wells their are some occasions like fairs and festivals which allow community integration to some extent. The conventional relations interms of common dining of all caste people is a very rare activity. However, low caste people have been able to participate in village politics due to reservation provisions. There is also a change in the treatment towards low caste people by the upper caste people.

The results confirm that caste structure though not loosing its existence, but changes are taking place due to mobility and orientation.

In-general the village transformation is going on in different spheres of village life. The norms, values, attitudes, perceptions, ideologies are changing due to basically the economic factor along with the social, political, legal, constitutional and legislative provisions. The structure of family and caste is thus undergoing a basic change. The observations of the cross-sectional studies agree in some aspects with the present study.

Findings

1. Pure nuclear family is also a major feature of the village; and therefore emerging nuclearity is no more a phenomenon of urban.
2. The nuclearity of the village family includes largely husband, wife and unmarried sons.
3. Structural, functional, attitudinal and normative changes are taking place in family.
4. Economic determinants are the major contributors of emerging nuclearity.
5. Gender-equity and modernity trends ~~are~~ emerging.
4. Jajmani system is almost withered away.
6. Free mixing of upper and lower caste is improving.
7. Trend to follow non-traditional occupation is emerging.
8. Inter-caste relations are on the verge of changing.
9. Attraction towards city life is positive.
10. The rural to rural migration were found in study area.

Limitations

No study is exception to limitations and this study too has its own limitations. They are;

- 1) A comparative study of villages has not been taken up, so the findings may not agree with the findings of other villages.

- 2) Economic determinants can not be generalized unless it is a cross-sectional study., and
- 3) An interior village and a village near to city should have taken up for the study.

Suggestions for further research

Based on the findings of the present study some suggestions need to be made for further research.

- 1) Case study approach need to be adopted to study family and caste in a village context.
- 2) Comparative case studies of different villages are to be taken up to bringout comparative and effective analysis and
- 3) Geographic location of villages need to be considered for case studies to bring out comparative result.