

CHAPTER 5

**OPINIONS OF INTER-
CASTE MARRIED COUPLES**

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Introduction:

In the previous chapter problems faced by the couples before and after marriage were discussed. In this chapter let us see the opinions of inter-caste married couples regarding inter-caste marriages. Their opinions will reveal their experiences regarding inter-caste marriages, their societal acceptance to inter-caste marriages, their expectations from the society etc. In this chapter in short views of the inter-caste married couples about inter-caste marriages, changes needed in society, future of inter-caste marriages and also past of inter-caste marriages.

Let us see the following tables to come to a conclusion

5.1) Inter caste marriage prevailed in pre independence period/ if yes reason:

Though inter-caste marriages are increasing today but inter-caste marriages did take place in pre –independence period. The numbers of inter-caste were no doubt less but such marriages did prevail and the reasons as to how did such inter-caste marriages take place according to the respondent couple. The following cross table will show the same:-

Table no.5.1

**Inter caste marriage prevailed in pre independence period/ if yes
reason**

		Not applicable	Love marriage	No child from first wife	Maternal mortality rate was high	All of the above	Total	Percent age
Inter-caste marriage prevailed in pre independence period	Yes	00	38	08	06	14	66	66%
	No	34	00	00	00	00	34	34%
Total		34	38	08	06	14	100	100%

The following cross table shows that 34% respondent couples do not think that inter caste marriages prevailed in pre independence period and 66 %respondent couples think that inter-caste marriages did prevail in pre independence period and when enquired the reasons behind such marriages 38 %respondent couples that is maximum number of couples were of the opinion that those marriages were due to love affairs. According to them love was the prime factor at that time too for inter-caste marriages whereas 8% respondent couples were of the opinion that there were social reasons like no child from the first wife and if the husband cannot find a match from his own caste then inter-caste marriage is done and 6% respondent couple feel that maternal mortality rate was high so at that time the husband used to seek wife from the different caste and 14% respondent couples feel that all the above reasons are possible for inter-caste marriages to prevail in pre-independence period.

5.2) Reactions of the common people on inter-caste marriage in pre-Independence period:

From the above table it is clear that inter-caste marriages did take place in pre-independence period but when enquired about the reactions of the common people. The answers were as seen in the following table.

Table no. 5.2

Reactions of the common people on inter-caste marriage in pre-independence Period

Sr. no.	Reactions of the common people	Frequency	Percentage
1	Excommunicated the couple	40	40%
2	Social boycott	42	42%
3	Thrown out of the village	07	07%
4	All of the above	11	11%
	Total	100	100%

From the above table it is clear that the reactions of the common people on inter-caste marriages were negative out of the total respondent couples 40 % were of the opinion that common people excommunicated the couple from the society while 42 % were of the opinion that the couple had to face social boycott whereas 4% respondent couple opined that the couple was thrown out of the village and 11 % of the respondent couples were of the opinion that all of the above reasons were the reactions of the people on such marriages.

5.3) Views of the couples for inter-caste marriage in pre-independence period:

It is observed from the previous table that inter-caste marriages did prevail in pre-independence period but when enquired regarding the views of the couples which led them to inter-marry the results were as seen in the following table.

Table no. 5.3

Views of the couples for inter-caste marriage in pre-independence period

Sr. no	Views of the couples for inter-caste marriage in pre-independence period	Frequency	Percentage
1	They were educated and had modern values	10	10%
2	They had ideas of individualism	56	56%
3	They had forward outlook towards life	22	22%
4	All of the above	12	12%
	Total	100	100%

From the above table, it is seen that 56 % respondent couples views for inter-caste marriage in pre-independence period was that they had ideas of individualism, which refers to each and every individual has his own wishes and the decision to marry should be their own, 22 % respondent couples responded that they had forward outlook towards life that is they can marry the person according to their likes or to whom they loved and love has no caste barriers. 10 % respondent couples reported that they were educated and had modern values. Which means they

believed in equal status of all individual no one is inferior or superior, whereas 12 % respondent couples responded that all the above reasons are responsible for couples to marry inter-caste in pre-independence period?

5.4) Inter-caste marriage is still an issue before society:

The previous tables dealt of pre-independence period but now the following tables will deal with the present scene. When asked couples that do they feel that inter-caste marriage is still an issue before society the responses were as follows:-

Table no. 5.4
Inter caste marriage is still an issue before society

Sr. no	Inter caste marriage is still an issue before society	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	82	82%
2	No	18	18%
	Total	100	100%

82 % of the respondent couples responded that they do think that inter-caste marriage is still an issue before society whereas only 18% of the respondent couples responded that inter-caste marriage is now-a-days not an issue before society.

5.5) Attitude of common people towards inter-caste marriage:

Attitudes of common masses reflect the acceptance of society. The following table will show the attitude of common people towards inter-caste marriage.

Table no. 5.5

Attitude of common people towards inter-caste marriage

Sr. no	Attitude of common people	Frequency	Percentage
1	Positive	37	37%
2	Negative	23	23%
3	Neither positive nor negative	40	40%
	Total	100	100%

From the above table, it is observed that 40% respondent couples responded that attitude of common people towards inter-caste marriage is now-a-days neither positive nor negative recording to these people inter-caste marriage is a personal affair and they do not mind it. 37% respondent couples felt that the attitude of common people toward inter-caste marriage is positive that is they accepted inter-caste marriages whereas only 23 % respondent couples felt that the attitudes of common people towards inter-caste marriage are negative that is they did not accept inter-caste marriage.

Out of 100 respondent couples only 37 % respondent couples felt that the attitudes of common people towards inter- caste marriage are positive. This means that societal acceptance of inter-caste marriage is still a problem before the younger generation.

5.6) Inter-caste marriage creates problems for the society:

When enquired to the couples that whether inter-caste marriages create problems for the society the results are as shown in the table.

Table no. 5.6

Inter-caste marriage creates problems for the society

Sr. no	Inter-caste marriage creates problems for the society	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	09	09%
2	No	91	91%
	Total	100	100%

From the following table, it is seen that 91 % respondent couples think that inter-caste marriages do not create problems for the society and only 9 % of the respondent couples think that inter-caste marriage create problems for the society. According to the 91% respondent couples inter-caste are good for the progress of the society and they should be encouraged.

5.7) Inter-caste marriage positively affects society/if yes reasons:

The following cross table will show whether inter-caste marriage positively affects that society and if yes reasons behind it:-

Table no. 5.7

Inter-caste marriage positively affects society if yes reasons

Inter-caste marriage positively affects society		Not applicable	Because caste rules will decline	It will help in modernization of society	It will bring out the modern value of individualism and freedom	All of the above	Total	Percentage
	Yes		00	28	21	18	20	88
No		13	00	00	00	00	13	13 %
Total		13	28	21	18	20	100	100 %

From the following cross table, it is clear that, 88% of the respondent couples think inter-caste marriages positively affects the

society and among 88 % respondent couples 28 responded that through inter-caste marriages caste rules will decline 21 responded that inter-caste marriages will help in modernization of society which will lead to progress of the nation and 18 responded that inter-caste marriages will bring out the modern value of individualism and freedom that is the future generation will be given the freedom to inter-caste marriage by the society itself which will the promote more inter-caste marriages that will lead to the progress of the nation. 20 responded couples think that all of the above three reasons are responsible because an inter-caste marriage positively affects the society.

5.8) Inter caste marriages are accepted whole heartedly:

Inter caste marriages were not accepted whole heartedly in pre-independence period but when enquired that whether inter-caste marriages are accepted whole heartedly the responses were as shown in the following table.

Table no. 5.8

Inter caste marriages are accepted whole heartedly

Sr. no.	Inter caste marriages are accepted whole heartedly	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	65	65%
2	No	35	35%
	Total	100	100%

From the following table, it is observed that 65 % respondent couples were of the opinion that inter-caste marriages are accepted whole heartedly by the society whereas 35% respondent couples were of the opinion that inter-caste marriages are not accepted whole

heartedly. They do not think that inter-caste marriages are welcome by the family or by the society at large. Society though accepts inter-caste marriages but not whole heartedly.

5.9) Worried for the marriage of siblings:

When the couples were enquired about the future that is because of their inter-caste marriage are they worried for the marriage of their siblings? The responses were as shown in the following table.

Table no. 5.9

Worried for the marriage of siblings

Sr. no	Worried for the marriage of siblings	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	13	13%
2	No	87	87%
	Total	100	100%

From the above table, it can be observed that 87% respondent couples were not worried for the married of siblings because of their inter-caste marriage they were of the opinion that in today times it is not a big issue in the society as inter-caste marriages are a common phenomenon. 13% respondent couples responded that they were worried for the marriage of their siblings because still the society has not wholly accepted inter-caste marriages and it is a matter of worry to find suitable match for their children from their caste.

5.10) Will give freedom to siblings to marry inter-caste if no reasons:

When enquired to the respondent couples that whether they will give freedom to their sibling to contract inter-caste marriage the answers were as shown in the following cross table.

Table no. 5.10

Will give freedom to siblings to marry inter-caste

		Not applicable	Because of caste difference	Because of societal difference	All the above	Total
Will give freedom to siblings to marry inter-caste	Yes	90	00	00	00	90
	No	00	05	03	02	10
Total		90	05	03	02	100
Percentage		90 %	05 %	03 %	02 %	100 %

From the following table, it is seen that 90% respondent couples will give freedom to their siblings to marry inter-caste whereas only 10% respondent couples were of the opinion that they will not give freedom to their siblings to marry inter-caste 5% respondent couples will not give freedom to marry inter-caste because of caste difference, 3% respondent couples will not give freedom because of societal indifference as according to them, inter-caste marriages are still not fully accepted by the society as a whole and 2% respondent couples will not give freedom because of both reasons caste difference and because of societal indifference.

5.11) Still discrimination between caste married couples and inter-caste married couples /if yes, reason:

Talking about inter-caste marriages it obviously brings to one's mind that do the couples face any kind of discrimination in their family or in society at large. The response to such questions was shocking which is exhibited in the following cross table.

Table no. 5.11

Still discrimination between caste married couples and inter-caste married couples /if yes, reason:-

		Not applicable	Traditional mindset	Traditional mentality	Lack of modern education	Total
Still discrimination between caste married couples and inter-caste married couples	Yes	00	11	06	37	54
	No	46	00	00	00	46
Total		46	11	06	37	100
Percentage		46%	11%	06%	37%	100%

From the above mentioned cross table, it is clear that 54 % respondent couples think that still there is discrimination between caste married couples and inter-caste married couples amongst 54% , 11% think that this discrimination is due to traditional mindset of the people that is these people have made a mindset that people from different caste have a particular type of mentality and these people should not be accepted in their family, 6% respondent couples think that discrimination in due to traditional mentality which does not allow such inter-caste

married to be accepted in their family and 37% respondent couples think that it is due to lack of modern education that leads to discrimination as lack of education does not let an individual to broaden their mind and does not give chance to socially progress fast and therefore there is still discrimination between caste married couples and inter-caste married couples.

5.12) Opinion about caste institution:

When the respondent couples were enquired for their own opinion about the caste as an institution the answers were as shown in the following table.

Table no. 5.12

Opinion about caste institution

Sr. no.	Opinion about caste institution	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rigid in nature	23	23%
2	Caste differences should be changed	69	69%
3	Flexible in nature	08	08%
	Total	100	100%

From the following table, it is clear that 69% respondent couples think that caste differences should be changed as these differences are a hurdle to inter-caste marriages, 23% respondent couples think that caste is rigid in nature that is it is not easy to change the nature of caste, whereas only 8% respondent couples responded that caste is flexible in nature this can be shown more clearly with the help of a bar diagram.

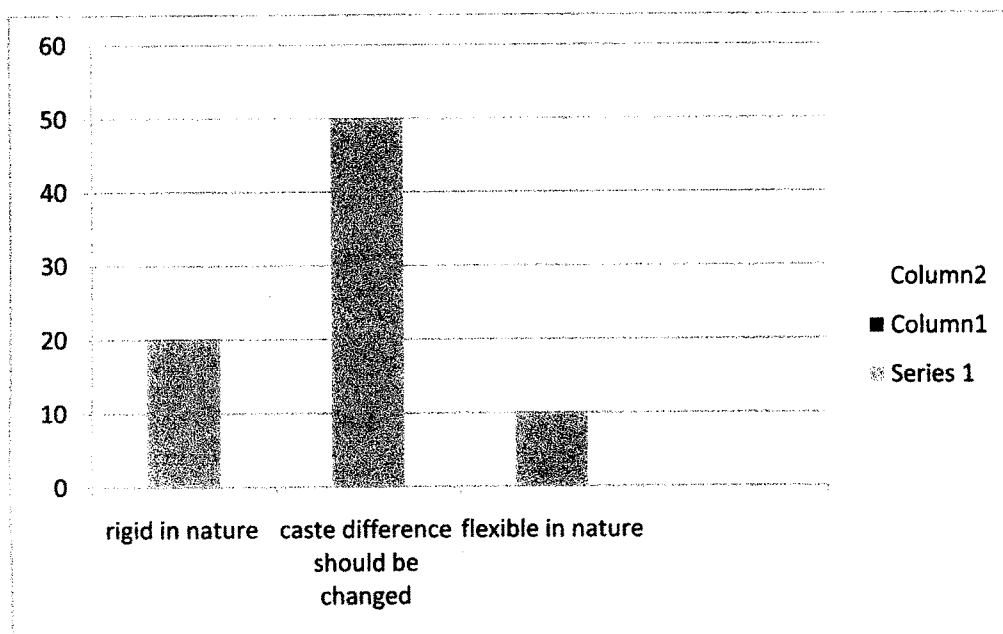


Diagram no. 5.12

Opinion about caste institution

5.13) Needs to be changed in our society:

Finally, when enquired their view as to what is needed to be changed in our society to make progress the responses were as shown in the following table and bar diagram.

Table no. 5.13

Needs to be changed in our society

Sr. no.	Needs to be changed in our society	Frequency	Percentage
1	Mentality of common people	68	68%
2	Outlook of the common people	22	22%
3	Rigid caste rules	02	02%
4	All of the above	08	08%
	Total	100	100%

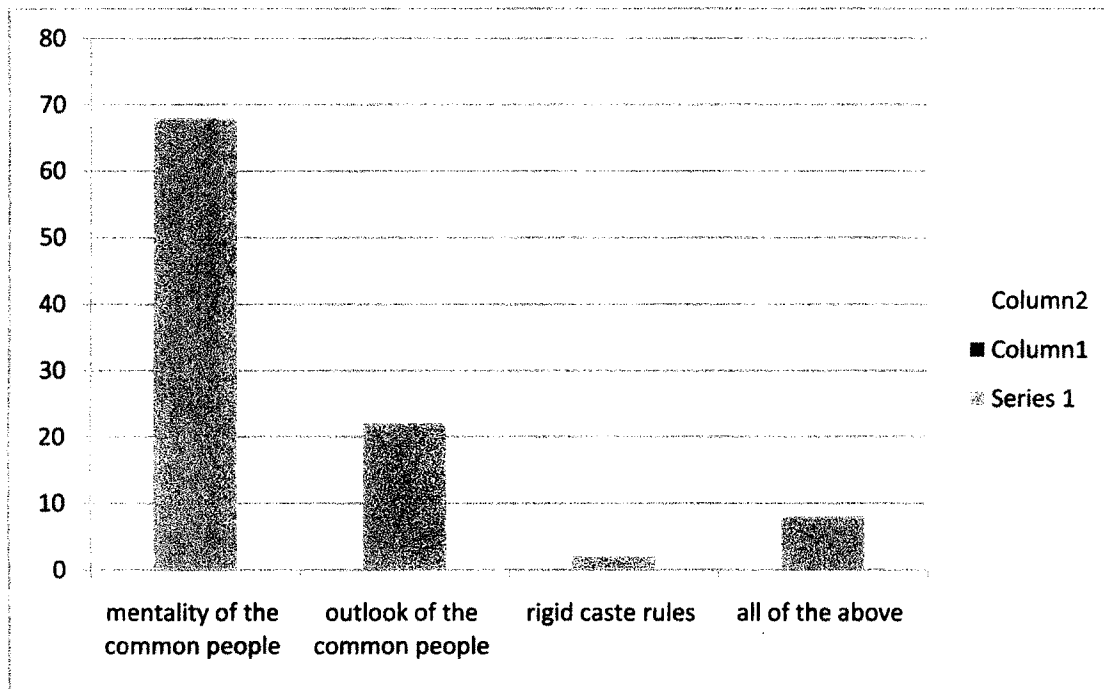


Diagram no. 5.13

Needs to be changed in our society

From the above table, it is seen that 68% of the respondent couples think that mentality of the common people should be changed and if the mentality of the people is changed only then the society will progress 22% of the respondent couples think that outlook of the common people should be changed and 2 % think that rigid caste rules should be changed and 8% of the respondent couples think that all of the above three reasons are needed to be changed in our society to make progress as progress of the society will finally lead to the nations progress.