

A STUDY OF INTER-CASTE MARRIAGES IN KHATAV TALUKA IN SATARA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:-

Caste is an integral component of Indian society since the time immemorial. This system creates water tight compartment between different communities and bring division, hatred and tension among various social groups. Marriages within the same caste and same religion is the fundamental norm of the Indian society. To think of marriages between different castes and different religions is a difficult and socially unacceptable proposition. Recently the process of modernization, democratization and development has brought lots of positive changes in Indian society. In India, where marriage is nearly common, there are several important factors to take into account while choosing a partner. Caste, religion, mother tongue, economic situation are a few of the more significant ones.

Keywords: Inter-caste, proposition, modernization, democratization

INTRODUCTION:-

The concept of caste system is like a ban on the path of a India's progress. For centuries Indian society has been divided on the basis of caste system. The problem of caste system was so deep rooted that it took years for the Indians to come out of that idea. Even today, India is struggling to come out of this social menace. History reveals that efforts have been made by various social reformers and individuals whose name doesn't appear in the pages of history to make India free from the clutches of caste system, untouchability and race discrimination. And when we talk about Indian marriages, which are inter-caste, it seems like a taboo to most of the people. But in order to eradicate the caste system and race discrimination, it is important that there should be inter-caste marriages.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-

Chandra V. (1974) studied 124 inter-caste marriages in the city of Bombay. He found that inter-caste marriage is steadily increasing only recently and that has assumed a significant component since 1968. The age of the women at the time of her marriage, the freedom given to her to choose her partner, the range of female education are some of the important factors influencing the inter-caste marriages in Bombay (Chandra V. 1974)

A study on inter-caste marriage (Prasad et.al, 1994) shows that the scheduled caste has exhibited the highest tendency for inter-caste marriages than the other castes. The urban residence, education, employment in modern occupation and middle-class economic background have tended to be a set of attributes affecting the incidence of inter-caste marriages. He further observes that inter-caste marriage takes place at fairly advanced age rather than at the young age. (Prasad K. et.al, 1994).

Chitnis (1974) in a study of inter-caste marriages in India interviewed 480 university graduates. It was found that 54% parents expressed their willingness to cheer children

marrying outside their own caste. Only one-third against this departure from custom. Post graduate students were only moderately in favor of inter-caste marriage. Urbanization and industrialization have certain effect in breaking down the barriers of caste (Chitnis, 1974).

Kulkarni G.S. (1976) In 1976, G.S. Kulkarni published his book on inter-caste marriages in western region in Maharashtra. He focused on 85 inter-caste married couples in his book. This study was related with comparative approach. He compared the various regions such as Aurangabad, Nagpur, Pune and Mumbai. The condition of inter-caste married are found in Pune and Mumbai compared to Aurangabad and Nagpur (Kulkarni G.S., 1976)

OBJECTIVES:-

1. To study social background and problem of inter-caste married couples.
2. To study familial relations and social difficulties of inter-caste married couples.

HYPOTHESIS:-

1. Inter-caste married couples are facing social difficulties.
2. Inter-caste married couples are disorganized from familial relation.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:-

The present study is related appropriately to post modernity, because this theme is ‘Individual freedom to choose one’s lifestyle’. So this principle matches here for inter-caste married couples.

METHODOLOGY:-

The topic of present paper is related to primary data. It was collected from selected 50 inter-caste married couples from five villages in Khatav taluka. Interview schedule and Survey method was used for data collection. The topic of research goes through research process from formulation of problem to till last step of research.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:-

Table No. 1

Acceptance and oppose of respondent’s parents to inter-caste marriage

Sr. No.	Opinion	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
1.	Acceptance	18	36	12	24	30	30
2.	Oppose	32	64	38	76	70	70
	Total	50	100	50	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey by Researcher

The above table no. 1 shows that out of sample of 50 male respondents 18(36%) parents accepted their son’s inter-caste marriage and 32(64%) parents denied to accept it. Then out of sample of 50 female respondents only 12(24%) parents accepted their daughter’s inter-caste marriage and 38(76%) parents denied to accept it. Overall, majority of the parents in the study area denied to accept their son or daughter’s inter-caste marriage.

Table No. 2

Respondent's opinion about decision of inter-caste marriage after got married

Sr. No.	Opinion	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
1.	Correct	42	84	44	88	86	86
2.	Wrong	04	08	03	06	07	07
3.	Sometimes Wrong	03	06	01	02	04	04
4.	Unable to answer	01	02	02	04	03	03
	Total	50	100	50	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey by Researcher

The above table no. 2 made it clear that out of sample of 50 male respondents 42(84%) told that his decision of inter-caste marriage was correct, 4(8%) told his decision was wrong, 3(6%) of respondents felt his decision was sometimes wrong and only 1(2%) male respondent was unable to answer to this. Out of sample of 50 female respondents, 44(88%) told that her decision of inter-caste marriage was correct, 3(6%) told her decision was wrong, only 1(2%) of respondent felt her decision was sometimes wrong and 2(4%) female respondents was unable to answer to this. Means majority of the male and female respondents told that their decision of inter-caste marriage was always correct.

Table No. 3

Social difficulties to brother and sister of inter-caste married couples

Sr. No.	Social Difficulties	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
1.	Yes	34	68	38	76	72	72
2.	No	10	20	05	10	15	15
3.	Don't Know	04	08	04	08	08	08
4.	Unable to answer	02	04	03	06	05	05
	Total	50	100	50	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey by Researcher

It is highlighted from the above table no. 3 that 34(68%) of male and 38(76%) of female respondents faced difficulties while making marriage of their brother and sister, 10(20%) male and 5(10%) female respondents did not face any difficulty. Total of 6(12%) male respondents and total of 7(14%) female respondents not replied to this because they didn't live with their family. Overall, both male and female inter-caste married respondents faced social difficulties while making marriage of their brother and sister.

Table No. 4

Caste-related obstacles to children of inter-caste married couples while making marriage

Sr. No.	Obstacles	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
1.	Yes	08	16	18	36	26	26
2.	No	10	20	14	28	24	24
3.	Not married till	02	04	04	08	06	06
4.	Minor	02	04	06	12	08	08
5.	Unable to answer	28	56	08	16	36	36
	Total	50	100	50	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey by Researcher

It is clear from the above table no. 4 that 8(16%) of male respondents and 18(36%) of female respondents faced caste related problems during their marriage of children. 10(20%) of male respondents and 14(28%) of female respondents didn't face any difficulty. Each 2(4%) of male respondents replied that no difficulties came till they married. 4(8%) and 6(12%) female respondents replied that no difficulties came till they married. 28(56%) of male respondents and 8(16%) of female respondents not replied for this means they were unable to answer. Means majority of female inter-caste married respondents faced caste-related obstacles while making marriage of their children as compared to male respondents.

CONCLUSION:-

India is large traditional society with rigid caste system. Caste plays important role in selection of mates in marriages. Now a days due to the impact of modernization, socio-economic development and globalization, there is change in the marriage pattern. Various socio-economic and demographic factors affect the inter-caste marriages. Parents of 32(64%) male respondents and 38(76%) female respondents denied to accept their son or daughter's inter-caste marriage in the study area. Majority of the male i.e 42(84%) and female i.e 44(88%) respondents told that their decision of inter-caste marriage was always correct. Both male and female inter-caste married respondents faced social difficulties while making marriage of their brother and sister. Majority of female i.e 18(36%) inter-caste married respondents faced caste-related obstacles while making marriage of their children as compared to male respondents in the study area. As a result, long time will require to completely free marriage system of caste discrimination.

SUGGESTIONS:-

1. Parents and elder family members should accept the inter-caste married couples. They should respect their children's feelings.
2. The next suggestion is legal laws on inter-caste marriages should be strictly implemented in practice and not merely remain on paper only.

3. Financial assistance should be given to inter-caste married couples by the government in order to construct their married life.
4. People must start accepting inter-caste marriage and younger generation should be motivated to marry inter-caste.

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