# ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF FAMILY MEMBERS: A CASE STUDY IN PUNE DISTRICT

A Thesis

**SUBMITTED TO THE**
**TILAK MAHARASHTRA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF**
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**
**IN**
**SOCIAL WORK**

Under the Board of Moral and Social Sciences Studies


BY

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**JUNE – 2023**

# CERTIFICATE

It is certified that work entitled **Analyzing the Impact of Divorce on Quality of Life of Family Members: A Case Study in Pune District** is an original research work done by **Joshi Geeta Sarang** under my supervision for the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work** to be awarded by Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. To best of my knowledge this thesis

- Embodies the work of candidate herself
- Has duly been completed
- Fulfils the requirement of the ordinance related to Ph. D. degree of the TMV.
- Up to the standard in respect of both content and language for being referred to the examiner.

**Signature of the Research Guide**

## DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that the work incorporated in the thesis titled **"ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF FAMILY MEMEBERS:A CASE STUDY IN PUNE DISTRICT"** is an original work done by me and submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work. No part of the thesis has been published, formed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma or similar title from any other University or Institution. Such material as has been obtained from various sources has been duly acknowledged in the thesis.

Place : Pune **Joshi Geeta Sarang**

Date: **(Research Scholar)**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Completing and writing the thesis of my research study wasn't easy task for me. There are many hands who helped me in this process. To show gratitude towards each of them is my moral duty. First and foremost, I am expressing my gratitude towards my Spiritual Sadguru Dr. Sunil Kale who graced me with the strength and good health to go on and finish this task I took on.

I am sincerely thankful to Dr. Deepak Tilak Hon. Chancellor of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, for his constant support throughout this journey. I am also thankful to Dr. Geetali Tilak, Hon. Vice Chancellor of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, for her motivation to complete this task. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Suvarna Sathe Hon. Registrar, of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth for the moral support to me. I am also thankful to my Research Guide Late Dr. Shashikant Lokhande who in spite of his ill health conditions provided me the timely guidance.

I must extend my gratitude to my Co-Guide and mentor Dr. B. T. Lawani, Former Director, Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Social Sciences Studies and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune, for accepting me as research candidate under him, and, for constantly guiding, correcting and keeping me in the right direction throughout this research journey. I thank him for being with me to convert my ideas in the form of this thesis. I thank Dr. C. Sunanda Yadav Hon. Head, Lokmanya Tilak Centre for Research and Development and her team for timely administrative help.

I am sincerely thankful to Dr. Prakash Yadav, Hon. Head of Department of Social Work, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, for encouraging me and putting the intellectual inputs to my research work. My sincere thanks to Asst. Prof. Komal Devkate for providing extensive support to work on Atlas ti software. I express my thanks to my close friend Asst. Prof. Kartiki Subakade for her entire support throughout this journey, her consistent support help me to sustain my motivation. I extend my special thanks to Dr. Ketaki Gokhale, Asst. Prof. Smita Warghade, Asst. Prof. Gouri Dongare and many more my professional friends for their support. I am thankful to Asst. Prof. Vijaymala Chavan & Asst.Prof. Janaki Gode, Mrs. Ashwini Swami and Mr. Sharad Mate for giving me their best wishes to complete this research.

I am grateful to all Mrs. Purva Joshi, Social Worker V. R. Ruia Deaf Mute School, Mrs. Smita Joshi, Counsellor Family Court, Mr. Vinod Jambhale, Sandeep Edkewar, NMP Plus organisation, Adv. Mangesh Ambule for providing reference and support to collect data of this research study. I am also thankful to all dignitaries of Civil Society Organizations..

I extend my deep gratitude to all my respondents who in spite of being in hard and vulnerable situations, not just agreed to share their views but provided me the base of this research work. Without their support this thesis couldn't have been completed.

I am immensely grateful to my father Mr. Madhukar Rajopadhye and my mother Mrs. Sulabha Rajopadhye who have been the strong personalities with motivation and courage to me throughout my educational journey. I am also thankful to my in laws Late. Vasant Joshi and Ms. Shalini Joshi. I must thank to my husband Mr. Sarang Joshi for encouraging & boosting me to complete this work. I am thankful to my daughter Ishwari Joshi for supporting me throughout this work. I am also acknowledging my all-family members and all my friends for encouraging me for this research.

I am thankful to all panel members during all presentations who provided me valuable inputs as experts and helping me shaping this work better. I extend my special thanks to Mrs. Pranjali Barve for proof reading and correcting the final thesis. I am also thankful to Mr. Mangesh Mate for doing all formatting, printing and binding work.

**Joshi Geeta Sarang**
**(Research Scholar)**

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# ‘ANALYSING IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF FAMILY MEMBERS: A CASE STUDY IN PUNE DISTRICT’

## Abstract :

- ## Introduction

**Marriage :**

Marriages are considered to be a very significant part of any individual's life rather it is a turning point of life. Marriage is a social institution however it is regulated by state with legal framework. In India variety of Acts are available for different religions.

With a view to protect possible threats to marriage, dignity of women and interest of other members in society. The Family Courts Act 1984 was adopted legal reforms concerning women. The Act is expected to facilitate satisfactory decisions of disputes concerning the family through a forum expected to work expeditiously in just manner and with an approach ensuring maximum welfare of society and dignity of women. Family Courts are expected to deal with marriage, matrimonial dissolution, maintenance and alimony, custody, education and support of children, settlement of spousal property and guardianship and custody of child's person and property. Family issues related to determination however , are as usual dealt with by civil courts. The purpose of family courts is to secure the legal rights of an individual and undertake the role of a guide, helper and counsellor to help the families to cope with their problems and establish family harmony.

**Divorce :**

The word ‘divorce’ in English is derived from the Latin word dovortium which again is derived from dis which means ‘apart’ and vertere which means ‘to turn’. Divorce is the word we use to mean the legal ending of a marriage. In the legal language, it might appear as a simple phenomenon, but in practical life its implications are massive. Divorce ‘represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other; it is the certificate that their relationship failed’. Divorce is a way of dissolving a legal marriage that permits the partners to remarry if they choose.

**Quality of Life :**

Quality of life refers to a subjective evaluation, which is embedded in a cultural, social and environmental context. (As such, quality of life cannot be equated simply with the terms "health status", "life style", "life satisfaction", "mental state" or "well-being"). Because the WHOQOL focuses upon respondents' "perceived" quality of life, it is not expected to provide a means of measuring in any detailed fashion symptoms, diseases or conditions, nor disability as objectively judged, but rather the perceived effects of disease and health interventions on the individual's quality of life. The WHOQOL is, therefore, an assessment of a multi-dimensional concept incorporating the individual's perception of health status, psycho-social status and other aspects of life. In short it is the happiness and satisfaction with the life. It is considered in two way one is objective and anther one is subjective. Objective can be measured through science based standards of needs and interest of people in terms that can objectively judge the degree of satisfaction of these needs and interest. On the other side, the needs and the interest of people differ from person to person, they exist only in the minds of people. Assessment of satisfaction with the quality of life of people cannot be captured by any statistical quantities because it is very subjective.

- **Objectives of the Study:**
  1. To explore the differences and similarities among the divorcees from diverse socio-economic background
  2. To analyze the socio, emotional and cultural factors influencing decision of divorce.
  3. To examine the impact of divorce on quality of life of divorcee, their families and children.
  4. To suggest social work intervention model for strengthening Quality of Life of Family.
  5. To know the perception & attitude of lawyers and counsellors towards preventing divorce.

- **Research Methodology**

Instead of survey method, qualitative research approach with case study method was used to get in-depth understanding about the phenomena. The researcher has used multiple case studies research design. It enables the researcher to explore differences within and between cases. The goal is to replicate findings across cases. Comparisons was drawn, by choosing the cases carefully so that the researcher was able to predict similar results across cases, or predict contrasting results based on a theory (Yin,2003).

Multiple case studies use replication design. The replication logic is the logic of selecting two or more cases in the multiple case studies. Researcher had identified the themes and variables. Through this qualitative study, differences were explored within and between the cases. Sample was selected through non probability with purposive sampling. The researcher, has selected a definite number of cases from families with different socio cultural context. It is classified into five contexts.

**Numbers of cases from different backgrounds are as given below**

| **Socio cultural background** | **Number of respondent** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Divorcee (6 male + 26 female) | Children(information provided by the parents) | Parents |
| Residential Institute | 2 | 1 | 1 (Head and Founder of Institute) |
| Urban base | 17 | 12 | 9 |
| Differently able | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Rural Base | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| People living with HIV | 4 | 2 | -- |
| **Total** | **32** | **20** | **15** |

- **Data was collected by using following methods and tools**

a) **In-depth interviews** were conducted with divorcee to understand their post divorce quality of life by using quality of life indicators.

b) **Children Divorce Adjustment Inventory (CDAI)** (Brown and Portes,1994) The CDAI is a 25-item checklist that serves to assess the child's response to

divorce and separation distress, using a scale from 1 (strongly agree) to5 (strongly disagree). The CDAI was published in the *Journal of Divorce &Remarriage* (Portes et al., 1994). The article states, "this inventory appears useful and internally consistent overall and provides a unique tool for family studies concerned with development and family status change"(Portes, Lehman, & Brown, p. 44).

c) **Interview guide for counsellors, lawyers, family members:** It is self structured to know the approach of service providers towards divorce on the basis of their experience and to understand how family members faced challenges after the divorce of their son or daughter.

- **Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions:**

**Impact of Divorce on Quality of Life of Divorcee:**

Researcher explored post-divorce situation of respondents from diverse backgrounds and effect of divorce on quality of life measured by using six indicators.

**Quality of Life of Divorcee:**

1) **Standard of Living/ Materialistic Living Condition**

Standard of living on the basis of type of house, availability of material goods, ownership of goods and fulfilment of daily needs mostly depended on the economic condition of respondents and their family support (Mattoo, Ashai,2012;Leopold Thomas,2018; Pinto Vincent., & D'Mello, Laveena,2018). More number of respondents were staying with their parents in their own house with availability of material goods. People living with HIV/AIDS and respondents from residential institute were more vulnerable in this aspect of quality of life. In comparison with men, women were more vulnerable to poverty and single parenting.

2) **Foundation of Wellbeing :**

In current technological world all respondents had access to basic information and knowledge. Respondents had different sources of knowledge where family was prime source for deaf mute and urban respondents and mobile was important source for suburban respondents and friends was source for rural as well as, people living with HIV/AIDS, respondents from residential institute. It shows changing functions of family. Now technology is leading source of

knowledge and people who are deprived of family environment have an alternate option to get knowledge

3) **Health and Wellness:**

Most of the cases did not have any physical health issues except two of them reported the blood pressure problem which started after divorce. All of them had access to treatment and only few males reported some kind of addiction. Health was greatly affected after divorce, especially, mental health (Sbrra David 2016) Depression was the most common experience for respondents from all groups. (Singh et.al.1978; Kaneez Salma,2015) Few women(3 out of 20) from urban and sub urban areas had taken post-divorce counselling with flower remedies. Two women and one male committed suicide attempt or suicidal thoughts in mind (Mattoo, Ashai, 2012). and 2 cases had to take psychiatric treatment for the same(Mary, M. J. 2013; J.K.Trivedi, et.al.2009).Stigma and discrimination associated with this makes an individual impossible to socialise. A large number of female confided that reading the wonderful status of friends compels them to ask themselves "*why can I not enjoy such happy life? I really want to be happy."* Few women (6 out of 20) state that hobbies help them to gives hope and cope with situation.

Mostly society blames women for their divorce and thus they excludes themselves from social participation (Kramrel Elizabeth et.al 2007) expressed by many (14 out of 20) women. Discrimination and deprivation faced by differently able, women from residential institute, people living with HIV/AIDS(Malik & Dixit ,2017).

4) **Environmental Quality:**

Respondents from all backgrounds reported that they were safe at their home and work environment. Some of them reported that to keep their environment safe they were not disclosing their marital status. Unexpected financial expenses depended on the economic condition of respondent and their family responsibility. Respondents only from rural, urban, sub urban and differently able had social security plan for future.

5) **Opportunities:**

Respondents from all backgrounds were aware of their rights. It was limited to marital area only because their lawyer had guided them about how to use it. In

spite of that women had fear of getting blame in the court, as a result, they mostly refused to use it. All respondents had opportunity to take further advance and technical education, specially respondents from urban area. However, those who had responsibility of child gave priority to their education. All respondents excluding differently able and fifty percent respondents from rural area had liberty to take decision.

6) **Overall Experience:**

More number of respondents reported that sometimes they feel insecure without support and facing daily incidents were always challenging for them. Sometimes it was difficult for them to live with religious and moral values. Respondents living with HIV/AIDS, differently able, residential institute had faced multiple discrimination (Bhatia and Munjal,2014)

- **Quality of Life of Children and Other Family Members after Divorce in the Family.**

**Impact of Divorce on Children:**

Family has strong influence of cultural norms, patriarchy, geographical location, social status, normality and it affects exclusion of children in getting their rights. However, in relation to conflict theory, children were caught in the middle of the situation. There were 13 girls and 7 boys among twenty children. The age group ranged in between 3 years to 22 years. Only one father had custody of child, rest of the children were with their mother**.**

Standard tool was used to assess the impact. Very few children directly communicated. Due to sensitivity, parents don't allow direct communication with children. Parents fill up the questionnaire, thus, there was possibility of parents' perspectives might have included in this questionnaire. Results show that out of twenty children 25 percent shows low score means low divorce adjustment. Children below the age group of 14 years and mostly girl children have exhibited low divorce adjustment. Fathers were not emotionally attached with their children. In a case, father tried to kill the son. In many cases girl child was rejected on the basis of their gender and normality. Some of them even don't know who is their father. Only one father was struggling for his daughter's custody as she was not happy with her mother. Coping and post-divorce adjustment of children depends on how parents communicate with them about their divorce. In few cases children have strong emotional impact. These children had to

undergo psychological counselling and affected schooling as well. A girl was forcefully separated from her mother and multiple responsibilities were assumed by maternal grandparents. The child yet not cried in any situation and met her mother twice a year and was always in some kind of fear. In one other case boy always feels very lonely and hopes that one day his mother will come back. He was trying for the same. Few parents reported that their children become matured untimely.

**Impact on family members:**

1) **Economic:**

   Few family members had effect and reported that responsibility increases in the old age as they had other expenses of medicine. On the contrary few had not faced any economical challenges. Parents reported that money was wasted in custody battle, in lawyer's fees and treatment of grand-daughters. Lot of money was also spent on marriage ceremony. They had to face huge financial setback. They refused the custody of their granddaughter as it was an addition responsibility for them as her mother is deaf mute.

2) **Social:**

   Parents face social pressure and lot of questions related to divorce. Society rejects divorcees due to negative attitude towards them. They are unable to socialize as people point fingers at them. Parents feel that their social status becomes negligible and relations are spoiled due to divorce. Grandchild has to face a lot at school, peer group level. People always find fault with their daughter. Nobody supports them and keep distance from them. As a result they never disclose the marital status of daughter in society.

3) **Emotional:**

   Due to emotional involvement, it was quite difficult for parents to get over the situation. After few days they became stronger. Questions arose about relationship. Parents were always carrying burden, thinking about future of their grandchild. Sometimes, they feel stressed, however, they are satisfied about the decision. They have little stress and tension. At the same time they are feeling very unhappy and angry about in laws of daughter. They felt bad and were unable to bare sufferings of their daughter. They felt guilty of not educating her and getting her married forcefully. They are unable to look at daughter, they are blaming the fate. It is so intolerant that they felt nobody should face it. Parents

keep thinking about where and how they have made mistake. Parents feel frustrated and guilty for not crosschecking the information given by groom's parents.

4) **Religious:**

Some parents were not bother to implement religious commitments and activities. When celebrating any function parents recognise the emptiness. They feel stressed while facing this situation in old age. People in community or religion could not able to accept these parents. Rural community is quite rigid to accept it.

5) **Daily functional:**

They feel guilty while looking at happy families with happy daughters-in-law. They do not meet many people regularly except their supportive neighbours. Each day is full of anxiety for their daughter and granddaughters. There is no set routine or structure to their life due to constant tension and pressure. They feel stressed and anxious about daughters and grand children's future. At this stage of life in their old age they have more responsibilities.

- **Opinion of Counsellors and Lawyers**

Counsellors shared their experiences and various causes of divorce. They have taken initiative in publishing journal based on their first hand experience to create awareness about marital issues and even implementing *Swaymsiddha* project to divorcee women to provide economic support.

Lawyers talked about the need of legal awareness is important. Evidences are necessary. Couples are using children as weapon and children are also becoming diplomatic in cases. They have also initiated *Janadalat* to ease the lengthy legal process.

- **Conclusion:**

Marriage is a union. Marriage is companionship and friendship. It is being together, acting together, doing things together, and not wanting it any other way. It‘s being considerate in every way-considerate of the other‘s time, feelings, and desires. It‘s giving them moral support, physical support, prayer support, all approximately support. It‘s cheering each other on and encouraging when they feel down. Marriage is

stooping to lift the other. It‘s being strong when the other is weak. Marriage is protecting mate from harm, physical and emotional. Marriage is provision. Marriage is lending a helping hand. Marriage is sacrifice. It‘s being ready to provide up own ideas or desires to make mate happy. Marriage is yielding, bending, melting together. Marriage is going the extra mile. Marriage is compassion. Marriage is submission. It‘s giving the other person a chance. Marriage is living and loving and helping one another. Marriage is learning from one another. Marriage is humbling. Marriage is being opened minded. Marriage is walking a mile in another‘s shoes. Marriage is listening and understanding.

All the above statements are now become traditional. Instead of building the marriage system strong it becomes fragile. In present study there are similarities in basic practices of marriage observed such as age, mate selection process, formalities in marriages, marriage finalization by parents. It was good sign that maximum women are economically independent hence they have taken initiative to take divorce after crossing the limit of tolerance.

Context wise differences found based on socio economic background of respondents, specifically on education wise employment differences, religion and social category differences. There are different causes of divorce however highly common and major causes are violence, extra marital affair and interference of in laws.

So many social, emotional and cultural factors are responsible for it. Though women are economically independent patriarchy is still dominant, hence it shows that women are emotionally tortured in married life in different way. Cultural and influence of rituals are still existing in some communities which is difficult to follow in present professional life.

In social factors ,the role of parents in nurturing and socialization of children is very crucial in building and sustaining marital relationship for both boys and girls. The basic learning of human values should be core part of socialization. It shows the failure of such values in relationship families are more money oriented and individual in family is self centered. Childhood experiences had a strong impact, on the other side controversy in one case the women from rural area is karate champion, but she had tolerate lot of violence from in laws. In family sub systems also played vital role and power structure works a lot. It was found that couples are lacking in family life skills. Differences in social background creating different issues for divorcees.

Quality of life of divorcee was mostly depends upon the economic condition and support they received from family members. Standard of living was mostly depend upon economic condition of divorcee. Women do not have their own property however men have ownership of home or farming lands. Due to digital advancement all respondents had access to information and the role of family replaced by mobile. Divorce has strong impact on mental health due to higher the emotional involvement higher the mental health issues experienced by women respondents and men as well. Those who are staying with parents and with their support feel safe in that environment. Future opportunities are depend on the responsibilities women are shouldering in their family. Women are not aware properly about their rights it is operational information given by their lawyer and they have used law as per lawyer guidance. Women are facing lot of challenges after divorce. It is difficult for them to live religious and moral values. Due to stigma attached to divorce and divorcee they never disclosed their status to society.

Children and other family members are facing lot of issues after divorce at different levels. Now society is changing maternal family is proving support to all respondents in spite are their background.

Counselors and lawyers had opinion that they observed how society is changing and different forms of marital issues Preventive and rehabilitative measure need to be taken for the same.

Success or failure of a relationship depends on the amount of personal investment in the relationship in terms of money, intellect, emotions, hard work etc. If the returns are better from the relation, then it sustains. The returns expected are subjective and depend on the perspectives of an individual. The circumstances might be conflicting but if there is freedom and expectations are fulfilled, then the relation thrives otherwise divorce becomes inevitable. Women mostly think about their maternal family support and their maternal family status before moving to **take decision of divorce. Marriage is long** term bond people should be careful about it. Love is the ultimate answer to each and every relationship.

- **Suggestions:**

According global the context of marriage and law the fundamentals of marriage are classified into three categories: eligibility, consent and formalities. All countries have their own interpretation on the basis of types of marriage.

**Parents of Married Couple :**

Eligibility : In India, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929,was sought to prevent child marriages by punishing the parents or guardians who arranged them. Still, we came across incidents of child marriages in India. Thus, parents should be very careful about it. Rather than become free from responsibility, need Parents need to understand strengths of marriage institution instead of treating it as away to get rid of their responsibilities. Instead of focusing on education ,income, family status, caste, religion as eligibility of marriage, they need to focus on compatibility(fundamental differences, lifestyle, personality, values, childhood experience, perception towards it, parents relationship, support system)

During socialization process parent should focus on developing ability to have self-opinion and its expression, to take decision and develop hobbies to cope with situation.Creating self- sufficient individual, inculcation of value such as gender quality, non-violence should be the aim of socialization.

**Consent:**

Due to deep cultural influence, parents were taking initiative in finalising marriage. Should encourage the children to develop capability to take decisions and own the full responsibility of their life decisions like marriage, divorce etc. Marriage should not become an urgent need of any individual:- it should not be finalised by taking disadvantage of his or her helplessness. Forceful arranged or love marriage always results in ruining the life of involved individuals.

**Formalities:**

Formality means making marital status confirmed of both parties and announce it to community and society. i.e. actual ceremony of marriages. Couple should be very keen about not to spend so much money on these formalities. They should fulfil all formalities on their own money. Then only this dowry, economic exploitation will decrease. Marriage registration is very crucial, that has to be done by couple only. Parents should help the married couple to grow and evolve in each other's company rather than treating marriage as celebration of an event.

**Married Couple :**

1) Time is of essence to develop the bond between husband and wife. Both of them should decide when and how to expand their family.
2) Learn Essential Life Skills: Active listening skills, empathy, problem solving and conflict resolution techniques are important in building and maintaining relationship.
3) Use of Emotional Intelligence : Resist and control negative thoughts and feelings about your spouse and don't let it cloud the positive thoughts, emotions. Do not take your partner for granted and overlook the fine qualities of your partner. One should not focus on qualities that you want in your partner and are missing .
4) Use of Aikido Principal of Yielding: The said principal suggested by Gottman that couple to always keen in making outer circle larger of solvable problems and inner circle smaller of unsolvable problems.
5) Repair Attempts: It helps to prevent negativity from escalating out of control. Couples try to change each other's mind and spend many years for that.

**Marriage or Family Counsellor:**

The marriage counselling and family intervention techniques could be evolved to reduce marital discard. Even post-divorce counselling on a large scale will help the divorcing and divorced couple to overcome the stress and cope with future situation. High risk adults can be addressed to minimize the trauma. Counselling should be based on what makes marriages succeed rather than what makes them fail.

ART Counsellor needs to be very sensitive to deal with the cases of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Child Counselling*:* It is important to recognise specific needs of children in the divorce process in order to prevent or minimize negative consequences and chain reactions during their subsequent life. The parent who has custody of child should be very objective and sensitive towards child's emotions and feelings.

**State:**

- Awareness on prevention of child marriages:
- Young adults and their parents need to be educated about the eligibility of marriage institutions, scientific reasons behind eligibility, legal provisions related to it.
- State policy should be directed towards inclusion of family life education at all levels of education.
- Inclusion of Family Life Education in curriculum form secondary to higher education.

- *Key Words : Children , Divorce, Family, Marriage, Quality of Life*

❑❑❑

# CHAPTER - I
# INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

***Introduction:***

*The present chapter is an introduction about subject. It highlights the theoretical and legal supportive information relevant to subject of research. This helps to have an understanding about various dimensions of central theme of study. Divorce and Quality of Life are two constructs highly emphasized in the research in specific geographical area i.e. Pune District. Religion wise solemnization and dissolution, traditional feature and modern trends related to marriage, family and divorce studied and presented in this chapter.*

**Section - A**

## 1.1 Marriage :

Marriages are considered to be a very significant part of any individual's life rather it is a turning point of life. Marriage is a social institution however it is regulated by state with legal framework. In India variety of Acts are available for different religions. The first Governor General British in India, Warren Hasting in 1772 prepared the policy of personal laws in marriages which was then followed by the British colonials throughout their rule in India. After independence of India, the Government decided to continue with the same legal stand on marriages. The purpose was not to obstruct with the religious sentiments of the people. It defines marriage in different form and thus is applicable to people belonging from different religion.

On the assumption of marriage is financial drain, now a day's many young adults argue for cohabitation because they feel they should own a home and be financial secure before they marry. However, some studies show that married people experience greater physical and mental health. Also, marriage provides profound shock absorber that helps an individual to navigate disappointments, illness and other difficulties. It helps an individual to recover equilibrium faster, because spouses hold one another to greater level of personal responsibility and self-discipline than friends and other family members can. Also children who grow up in married and two parent

families have two to three times more positive life outcomes than those who do not.(Keller 2011)[1].

### 1.1.1 The Emerging Trend in Marriage :

The new trends are emerging in the process of selecting marriage partner mostly in educated and urban areas. Perception of women towards their marriages can provide valuable insights into the dynamic of conjugality and show whether and how marital practices transmuting in particular stratum of urban India. The alleged prevalence of love marriages in contemporary India tends to be interpreted as modernity induced marker and the effect of incipient changes in social mores and practices(Grover 2018)[2]. The popular discourse on marriage in Indian subcontinent makes a sharp distinction between the English term **'Love Marriage' and 'Arranged Marriage'**. Although these terms may have local connotations, arranged marriages are typically caste endogamous alliances initiated by family (Chowdhary 2007)[3]. Before marriage boys and girls go to restaurants, watch movies or visit gardens together. During this process of interactions they pass through three stages as it suggested by Murstein (1971)[4]**: stimulus stage (attraction stage),value stage (attitude, obligations, ownership )and role stage (expression of values in real life situation)** (Husain&Firdous,1993)[5].

There are sociological theories of modernization which put forward certain inevitable changes in kinship and marriage practices as traditional societies modernize and the earlier so called 'familial' ethos are replaced by an individualistic orientation. Changes in the marriage system are found in different areas 1) From ***dharma*** **to companionship, compatibility** 2) Polygamy to monogamy and **monogamy to live in relationship** 3) change in the process of mate selection i.e. **inter caste, interreligious marriages** 4) change in the age of marriage **especially age of women** 5) **increasing divorce rate** shows change in stability of marriage, 6) economic aspects of marriage have also changed i.e. **dowry system** 7) **remarriage** of widow and divorcee. Various feminist theories highlight the authoritative disparities in conjugal relationship and seek to assess the potential for democratisation of gender relations within primarily

[1] (Keller, 2011)
[2] (Shalini, 2018)
[3] (Chowdhry, 2004)
[4] (Murstein, 1970)
[5] (Firdous, 1993)

patriarchal family structure (Uberoi, 1998)[6].Anthropologists concur that the institution of marriage began as a way to connect the families of the bride and groom. It was usually arranged between the families and often accompanied by an exchange of asset (usually from the wife's family to that of the husband, in the form of a 'bride price' or 'dowry') and the formation of alliances. In patriarchal societies, a young woman or girl would leave her family and join that of her husband. The modern notion of companionate marriage is very different. It also involves a long-term commitment between a man and a woman, but it is voluntary relationship. (Uberoi, 1998)[7]Unlike traditional marriage, modern marriage resembles a partnership, a relationship of equals. Many women in such marriages, work outside the home. They are more likely to have some degree of economic independence, although they usually might earn less than their husbands.

**1.2 Divorce :**

Divorce is painful and privately unravelling for families and a sea of change for society. For parents and children ,divorce publicly marks the unfolding of long and difficult struggle; it is also the beginning of redefining family relationship, as renegotiation that may take as long to be every bit as painful as coming apart. For society, divorce is a sharp break from tradition a changed and still evolving definition of family, a burden on legal institutions, and a challenge for those concerned with financial support and emotional wellbeing of children and single parents.

The word 'divorce' in English is derived from the Latin word dovortium which again is derived from this which means 'apart' and vertere which means 'to turn'. Divorce is the word we use to mean the legal ending of a marriage. In the legal language, it might appear as a simple phenomenon, but in practical life its implications are massive. Divorce 'represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other; it is the certificate that their relationship failed'. Divorce is a way of dissolving a legal marriage that permits the partners to remarry if they choose. Divorce involves the recognition that marriage has irreparably failed and that at least one of the partners has no desire to continue the marital relationship. Total dissolution of the bonds of a valid marriage is what is now generally meant by divorce (Arora

[6 &5] (Uberoi, 1998)

2006)[8]. Divorce rate is higher in the states where quality of life is poorer. This suggest that marital instability may result from stressors external to spouses and their relationship. The 'Healthy Marriage Initiative' proposed by Bush administration intends to promote healthy marriages and fatherhood by providing couples with the information on value of marriage, marriage skill education to reduce conflict, and increase happiness and longevity of their relationship and reduces financial penalties against marriage that were contained in federal welfare program. (Mizrahi, Larry2008)[9].

The word 'divorce' has not been defined under any statutory provisions however it could be defined as legal dissolution of judicial ties established at marriages. Thus it considered the means to break marriage including two individuals but also two families.

## 1.3 Marriage Legislations :

### 1.3.1 Hindu Marriage Act, 1956 (www.ipleaders.in)[10]:

As part of Hindu Code Bill, Hindu Marriage Act 1955 was enacted in May 18,1955. It is applicable to Jain, Sikhs and the Buddhist. This act highlighted that : Hindu marriage is "a religious sacrament in which a man and a woman are bound in a permanent relationship for the physical, social and spiritual need of dharma, procreation and sexual pleasure."

The act even suggested following characteristics of the sacramental nature of marriage are thrown a light on the same: 1)It is so strong bond that it will never cancel or disappear even after death. 2) This union is everlasting. 3) The bride and groom are bound in this religious and holy union to perform religious ceremonies and rites.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 was passed to protect the legal rights of Hindu brides and grooms who are joined by the holy bond of marriage. The type of ceremony that must take place has not been specified by law because there are numerous methods by which a man and woman can be wed in accordance with Hindu tradition.

[8] (Arora, 2006)
[9] (Mizrahi Terry, 2008)
[10] (Srivastava, 2021)

**A) Essential features of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**

1. **Forbidding bigamy:** The law forbids a man from having multiple wives at the same time. Section 5 of the Act specifies that it is illegal to have two living wives at once, which is known as bigamy. It implies that one cannot get married to someone else without first divorcing their spouse (divorce). If he does the act, it is unlawful and he will be penalised in accordance with Sections 494 and 495 of the Indian Penal Code.
2. **Marriageable age prescribed:** The time frame for getting married is set forth by legislation. According to Section 5 (iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, the bridegroom must be at least 21 years old and the bride must be at least 18 years old when they get married. If a marriage is not carried out, it is void and has no legal standing.
3. **Act of 1955 intends to protect the party's marriage:** The restitution of conjugal rights is provided for in section 9 of the 1955 Act. Restitution of conjugal rights refers to the right to remain together. Conjugal rights are defined as rights deriving from a marital tie. The main idea of Section 9 is that a spouse has the right to cohabitate in order to safeguard their union and preserve its sanctity.
4. **Focus on the mental stability of parties getting married:** A person's marriage will be null and void if they were mentally unfit when they were hitched. The individual must also offer legally binding consent before becoming married. The prerequisites of Hindu marriage related to mental health and capacity are stated in Section 5(ii)(a),(b),(c).
5. **Significance of ceremonies involved in marriage:** The law states that if two people get married using the customary rituals and rights, their marriage is lawful. The father must take care of and safeguard any children born after marriage because they are legally entitled to exist.
6. **Sapind Marriage:** Section 18 of the Act, a marriage solemnised between two parties related to Sapindas is void and the parties are subject to punishment, which may include both simple imprisonment for a month and a fine of Rs. 1,000.
7. **Customary Rites and Ceremonies:** According to Section 7 of the Act, a Hindu marriage is lawful under the 1955 Act if it is performed in conformity with the traditional rites and ceremonies of either party. If such rituals and

ceremonies involve the saptapadi and binding, when the seventh step is taken, the marriage is considered to be complete.

**B) Registration of Marriage :**

To give the legal approval to marriage performed by two adults who want to have stable and permanent relationship registration is necessary. According to section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, a marriage is instantly recorded by the Registrar of Marriage on the same working day. The bride must be at least 18 years old and the husband must be at least 21 years old at the time of the marriage, per Section 5(iii) of the Act.Few documents of personal identity and residential proof are essential for both parties. The act applicable to all Indian states and the Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir being an exception to it.

The grounds of the divorce under Hindu Marriage Act had been stated under the section 13.

**C) Divorce grounds[11] :**

- **Adultery :** It is defined under Section 13(1) (i). Adultery means considered to be disloyalty. After solemnisation of marriage if married person who is in the ties of marital bonds is having sexual intercourse with outside marital relationship is said to have adultery.
- **Cruelty :** It comes under criminal offence and has statutory provisions. Section 13(1)(ii) states that cruelty means torturing or unreasonable brutal behaviour against any one or partner. It underline after solemnisation of marriage treating the petitioner with cruelty can also be considered as ground for divorce.
- **Desertion :** It means an act of abandoning a person. Under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 of Section 10(ib) state that if the petitioner had been deserted by the respondent for ceaseless period of two years at once after preceding the presentation of the petition it can be divorce ground.
- **Insanity:** It is another ground for divorce highlighted under Section 13(1)(iii) means not in sound state of mind. It is the foremost reason because when the

[11] (Chakrabarti, 2020)

marriage partner is not able to comprehend the difference between right or wrong, unable to provide consent or to approve or disapprove the happenings around him cannot be considered as competent enough to tie himself or herself within the matrimonial bonds.

- **Leprosy :** Lepromatous, leprosy is a virulent and incurable form of leprosy and thus a ground for divorce.

  Wives have some special rights to apply for divorce if and when husband has more than one relationship or wives at the same time or if the husband is guilty of rape, sodomy, and bestiality after the solemnization of marriage.

**D) Maintenance Laws in India[12]:** It is expected to get financial support from marriage partner referred to as alimony. To get the dignity and equivalent standard of life this alimony gives the right to wife.

- **Maintenance under Hindu Law :**

  Temporary and permanent maintenance are the two types mentioned under section 24 and 25 in Hindu Marriage Act,1955.

### 1.3.2 Muslim Law (blog.ipleaders.in)[13] :

It has ancient and historical background. The concept of marriage, divorce and development of Muslim Personal law is based on Quran (holy book of Muslim).Under the Muslim law marriage is considered as a civil contract to establish family and fundamental unit of society. There is no codified law for governing Muslim marriages in India. According to this law, *halal* or legal way to have intimate relationship between men and women and authenticity of children is marriage. Patriarchal notions are still common such as polygamy and men are considered more superior than women. These thoughts, customs, precedents, *Ijtihad* (independent individual reasoning supported to justice, equity and good conscience) and legislations have formed the modern Muslim Law of marriage and divorce.

There are two divisions of Muslims i.e. Shias and Sunnis. Owing to these diverse sects and schools of thought, there are different types of marriages and divorce that are established in Muslim society. Different types of marriages are Muta

[12] (Vaishali Jeswani, 2020)
[13] (Roushan, 2021)

marriage(Temparary), Sahih (valid)(Permanent) marriage, Batil (void) marriage, Fasid (irregular) marriage.

According to the Kuran, a person who is to be married must be of stable mind, attained the age of adolescence. In Muslim society age of puberty for a man is considered to be 15 years. The Indian Majority Act 1875 does not apply to Muslims in case of marriage, dower or divorce, but The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 is secular and it is applicable to all irrespective of religion, thus according to it the age of majority for a girl is 18 years and for a boy is 21 years.

- **Mehar :**

It is a consideration to be paid to the wife during Muslim marriage, to show respect to her from her husband. Mehar is important aspect for the legitimacy of Muslim marriage.

- **Polygamy :**

It is allowed in Muslim law, but it is limited to marrying four wives. If a person married four times and thinking to marry fifth woman, that marriage will be considered irregular and not void.

**A) Divorce under Muslims in India[14] :**

Divorce under Muslim law has various sections such as divorce by husband (Talaq-ul-Sunnat, Talaq-ul-Biddat, Ila, Zihar), divorce by wife (Talaq-e-Tafweez), divorce by mutual consent (khula, mubarat) and divorce by judicial decree under The Muslim Dissolution of Marriage Act, 1939 (lian, fask). Marriage under Muslim law need like a civil contract an offer (*Ijab* ) from one side and receipt from (Qubul) other side. For the bride and groom, this process is expected need to happen with consent, without any compulsion, unjustified influence and fraud.

There are processes through which Muslims in India can seek divorce. Under section 2 of The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 ,Muslim women can seek out the divorce on following grounds: 1.If the husband is missing for over four years. 2.The husband failed to maintain his wife for at least two years or more. 3.The

[14] (Roushan, 2021)

husband did not carry out his marital duties for at least three years with no any reasonable cause. 4.The husband was suffering from venereal disease or was impotent or of unsound mind found during the marriage. 5. The Husband was married before he was 15 or treated his wife with malice.

**B) Extra Judicial Process :**

- **Divorce by Husband :**

**1. Talaq-e-Sunnat**

1. **Talaq-i-ahasan:** Here the husband needs to pronounce talaq once at the time of tuhr (the period between 2 menstruation cycles). It can, however, be cancelled during the period of iddat. Talaq-i-hasan: Then, the husband needs to pronounce talaq three times during the period of three successive tuhrs. There should be no sexual intercourse during this period.
2. **Ila:** It is an oath taken by the husband to not have intercourse for 4 months and then at after completing this period, marriage is dissolved.
3. **Zihar:** The wife is matched up to her sister, mother or anybody in the prohibited degree by the husband**.**

- **Divorce by Wife :**
  1. **Talaq-i-Tafweez:** It is the delegate divorce because here the husband delegates his power to give divorce to his wife either temporarily or permanently.
  2. **Lian:** If the wife is blamed of false adultery, she is allowed to get a divorce.
- **Divorce by Mutual Consent :**
  1. **Khula:** Wife have the same opinion to give her husband the consideration free her from the marriage, it is considered as mutual divorce.
  2. **Mubarat:** Here, both the parties want to dissolve the marriage, and any one party applied to dissolve the marriage. If the other party accepts the proposal, the marriage is dissolved and divorce becomes irrevocable.

**C) Changes brought by the Muslim Women (Protection Of Rights On Marriage) Act, 2019:**

- Section 3- Pronunciation of triple talaq on wife by husband in any mode (including electronic), by writing or spoken, is void or illegal.

- Section 4- Any individual who pronounces talaq to his wife in a approach prescribed in section 3, shall be subject to custody extendable to 3 years or shall be legally responsible to a fine.
- Section 5- Muslim women who are being divorced can look for payment from their husband to take care of themselves and children reliant on them.
- Section 6- Muslim women divorced by husband are entitled to seek out custody of their minor child.
- Section 7- Magistrate can sanction bail to the accused after hearing both the parties, if he feels that rational ground to survive for granting bail. The offence is compoundable and there is also an alternative of negotiation at the instance of a married Muslim wife, which will drop the charges on the basis of fulfilment of specific terms and conditions.

**D) Maintenance under Muslim Law :**

Under the Muslim Law, Maintenance (nafaqa) is offer to the wife during the period of iddat, if the wife is pregnant during the period of iddat she can apply for maintenance for 2 years from child's birth date or if they had a child at the time of divorce the wife can claim maintenance till the time she remarries or the child becomes independent. If a provision for particular payment was there in the contract of marriage that needs to be provided to the wife. Muslim Women (Protection of rights on divorce) Act, 1986 ruled the provision of maintenance under Muslims.

### 1.3.3 Christian Marriage Act, 1872[15] :

Christian are the second largest minority in India after Muslim. The act specified the basic condition that solemnisation of wedding should be with the presence of the priest of the Church or minister. Under section 4 provision states that besides the marriage ceremony between a Christian and another Christian, the Act also legitimises a marriage between a non-Christian and a Christian partner. It also does not require non-Christian to undergo proselytisation. Age of marriage(18 &21), is basic condition. To this act too with consent of eligible couple and should not be having existing or living spouse at the time of wedding. Under the section 5 marriage required to be executed following the ceremonies, rules, rituals and customs of the

[15] (Bose, 2021)

Church of Scotland. A Clergyman from the Church of Scotland need to solemnise the marriage or deemed fit by the Priest or the Minister of Church. However, it is compulsory to have two witnesses other than the Church's Priest or the Minister to be present in the ceremony. Part IV of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 also highlighted marriage registration of a Christian Couple mandetory and thus granting their bond a legal validity.

**A) Divorce under Christians in India[16] :**

Section 10A of the Indian Divorce Act 1869, provides for 2 ways in which a Christian can obtain a decree for divorce:

1. Mutual Divorce: If both husband and wife are on the same line of dissolving marriage for 2 years or more they can proceed to the court for getting the marriage dissolved.
2. Contested Divorce: Either the husband or wife can approach the court for getting a Decree of Divorce. On the ground of Adultery, Desertion without reasonable cause, one spouse is missing for 7 years or more/ assumption of death, renounced the world, ceased to be a Christian, wilfully denies consummation of the marriage, Unsound mind, suffering from the not curable disease for more than 2 years, cruelty or when the husband is guilty of sodomy, cruelty or bestiality.

**B) Maintenance under Christian Law :**

The Indian Divorce Act governs the law relating to maintenance in Christians. It state that a woman can be endorsed maintenance but it should not be excess of one-fifth of the husband's income also there is a precondition that says the wife should remain unmarried and chaste. The quantity depends on the wife's income, husband's property and his income and related aspects.

### 1.3.4 Parsi Marriage Laws[17] :

Marriages in Parsi community are regulated by the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act of 1936. Registration of Parsi marriages takes place in the Registrar's office which falls under the jurisdiction of their territorial limits. Under this act,

[16] (Shekhawat, 2021)
[17,&5] (Shhrivastav, 2021)

marriage between kin relations is not considered valid. Essential ceremony of 'Ashirwad', presence of two witness and solemnised by the Parsi priest suggested under this act. Age criteria is same as in other laws. Marriage certificate is issued when newly married couple along with three witness sign the marriage registration document.

**A) Divorce under Parsis in India[18] :**

Divorce under Parsi's in India is governed by the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936:

- Section 30 of the act says that, if such conditions arise where the parties can't accomplished the marriage, either party can request for nullity of marriage.
- Section 31 of the act says that, if one spouse is missing for 7 years or more either by him/herself or spouse's relatives, then the termination of marriage can take place.
- Section 32 of the Act lays down certain grounds for obtaining a decree for nullity of marriage:
- Wilful refusal to consummate the marriage.
- The spouse was of unstable mind at the time of marriage and not informed to other party.
- The wife was pregnant at the time of marriage, which is unknown to the husband Divorce can take place within 2 years of marriage and no intercourse between the couple should have taken place.
- Cruelty, infidelity, forced for prostitution, rape, unnatural sex, venereal disease, wilful hurt, bigamy; in all such cases divorce can be obtained within 2 years.
- One spouse has abandoned the world or changed his religion.
- If he/she is jailed for 7 years and 1 year has already passed.
- Section 32B provides for mutual divorce, provided the consent for same is not obtained with force or fraud

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[18] (Aanika Aery, 2020)

**B) Maintenance under Parsi Law :**

- The Law in case of Parsi's is similar to Christians in this case. The difference is that the husband can also claim maintenance and it is not provided after the death of the person paying it.

### 1.3.5 Special Marriage Act, 1954 [19] :

If two individuals want to do court marriage belonging from different caste, creed or religion this act is applicable. No importance was given to rituals and religious ceremonies. Couple who wants to marry under special act can directly apply to the marriage registrar for registration and is granted the marriage certificate by the registrar. This act also provide guidelines of marriage between the Indians and Non Indians (foreigners) on the condition that marriage should take place in India. Special Marriage Act, 1954 is applicable in cases where an Indian marries a foreigner in India (in case of marriage outside the country, instead of the Special Marriage Act, the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 is applicable). Both parties should be in sound mind and competent to marry each other. The only difference from the Special Marriage Act's provisions, when both the parties are Indians, is a requirement of No-Impediment Certificate (or NOC) from the concern embassy and a valid VISA.

**A) Maintenance under Special Marriage Act, 1954 :**

The maintenance amount shall be purely the Court's discretion. This Act supports the wife to raise a apply for maintenance from the husband depending on his income and property, her income, their behaviour and various other circumstances. The court which passed the decree can modify the decree if it feels there are changes in the circumstances of the case.

## 1.4 Family :

### 1.4.1 Conceptual Understanding of Family :

Family is the basic unit of society where an individual is nurtured and a set of value is introduced. It provides security and hope hence family is very significant in life. Family is the sllatrong hold of happiness and peace where an individual feels rejuvenated every day. Nurturing bonds in the family help and support in holistic

development of an individual. It is the castle of harmony and growth. Though the members of family may reside far away from one another due to job or educational purpose, they have strong bonding and affinity with each other (Ikeda 2016)[20].

Family is the foundation for harmonious community as well as society. Faith is the power source for family and is fundamental for its happiness. Development of each family member can be achieved through mutual respect and encouragement. An individual can experience inner peace in the miniature form in family only (Ikeda Daisaku 2018)[21].

Several sociologists have regarded the family as the bedrock of society. According to George Peter Murdock, 'The family is a social group characterized through common residence, economic co-operation and reproduction. It comprises adults of both sexes, at least two of whom uphold a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually co-habiting adults'(Pauline 2001)[22]

The term applies to two or more individuals who consider themselves family. These persons generally share a common residence and assume the obligations, functions and responsibilities generally essential to healthy family life, such as economic support. (Barker,2003)[23]

A family is a group of persons directly connected through kin connections, the adult members of which assume responsibility of caring for children' (Giddens 2006)[24]

According to sociologists and anthropologists, when two adults are living together in a household with their own or adopted children, then this type of family is called as Nuclear Family. An extended family may include grandparents, brothers and their wives, sisters and their husbands, as well as aunts, and their nephews (Giddens 2006)[25]. In India joint family was considered as characteristic of Indian life. If considered as a group it consists of common residence, commensality, joint

[20&8] (Ikeda Daisaku, 2016)

[22] (Pauline, 2001)
[23] (Barker, 2003)

[11 & 12] (Giddens Anthony, 2006)

ownership of property, cooperation, patrilocality,(except in parts of southern India) and fulfilment of obligations towards kin and ritual bonds.(Singh 2005)[26]

### 1.4.2 Indian Family System :

- **Traditional Form :**

It highlights several characteristics of traditional family like being authoritarian in structure, where authority depends upon the principal of seniority, goals of family is goal of the individualization, status of members is determined by their age and relationship, the filial and fraternal relationship gets preference over conjugal relationship, the family functions on the ideal of joint responsibility, all members get equal attention on the idea of pooling of income for running the household.

There is tremendous difference in structural ideal of Indian family and western family. Talcott Parsons has called it 'isolated nuclear family', however, in Indian context it is not structurally isolated. It is the wider system of kinship, relationship and based on binding obligations and emotional support (Holton&Turner,2015)[27]. In India, traditional forms of family is mostly known as joint family. There were multiple views by various sociologist on joint family system. India has regional variation in family patterns hence attempt have been made to make generalisation and to suggest existence of particular type of family in the country.

The British colonial amalgam with native scholars of the ideological schools carved out the Indian family in the form of Hindu Joint Family. According to Nimkoff the term joint family is the household that structurally and functionally is joint(Tulasi Patel 2005)[28]. Shrinivas rightly highlighted that, as long as brothers stay united ,the social personalities of the younger brothers do not attain completion. The younger brothers are husband and fathers, and head of the elementary families. But as member of joint family they are subordinate to elder brother (Shah,A1998)[29].

Madan, Desai, Kapadia, Karve, Nimkoff, Gore, Ross especially contributed to the study and interpretation of the joint family in India. Kapadia highlighted that the early joint family essentially patriarchal was the one in which the eldest male member usually held higher authority. This joint family had property in common which was

[26] (Singh, 2005)
[27] (Holtern Robert, 2015)
[28] (Patel, 2005)
[29] (Shah, 1998)

considered as impartial. The patriarch of the family had highest authority over this property. The traditional joint family had something vital in its nature that prevented it from disintegration. Kapadia elucidates the point that the bases of the joint family are common values agreed upon and followed and which are often esteemed as ideals (Sinha, 1993)[30]. According to Gore there would seem to be no reason why the fraternal and conjugal systems of relationships should conflict.

In many Hindu communities characteristics of Joint family system underlines that its members live together, take meals at one place, perform religious and family rites at one place and collectively, are under the authority of elders in matters of family and religion, undertake joint investment of capital and joint employment of profits, and incur birth, marriage and death expenses form the joint funds. The family control over the finances and deciding of marriages by the elders are some of the essential features. In the joint family the eldest, the ***Karta*** is the guardian, the man who has the controlling voice in the family and performs all family and religious rites. The marriages in these families are arranged with the consent of the elder member of family. (Agarwala B.R.2005) [31]

*Karta* of joint family system is the hierarchical structure, where *karta* commands respect by virtue of his age, seniority and experience. According to Sinha (1995:68)[32],'The *Karta* is the father figure who is nurturing, caring, dependable, sacrificing, yet demanding authoritative and strict disciplinarian. He evokes feeling of security, trust and dependability in creating a family culture. He empowers, grooms guide and protect'. According to Gore,(1969) and Kalra (1974) he also mediates if there are any family disputes and generally his decisions are accepted and respected. Studies indicate that some *kartas* involve the family members by consulting them but generally a large number of *kartas* take unilateral decisions. Overall, there is an ambivalence towards the *karta.* He is perceived differently by different individuals as per their experience and perception of the karta.(Kalra 2004)[33].

This promoted patriarchy and power structure in family. As a result of globalization Indian economy grew and bringing in its wake increasing prosperity,

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[30&19] (Sinha R. , 1993)

[31] (Agarwala, 2005)

[33] (Kalra, 2004)

jobs, in migration from villages and towns to cities. Due to migration the nuclear families blooming up like mushrooms in the rain and new changes are emerging.

- **Current Trends of Family Pattern :**

Milton Singer highlighted the four factors responsible for change in family:- residential mobility, occupational mobility, scientific and technical education and modernization. Changes from traditional to transitional shows the trend towards neo local residence, functional jointness, equality of individuals, equal status for women, joint mate selection and weakening of family norms. **Blended family** is an advance term in which family structure is formed when at least partner in a marriage has been married before and has children from the previous marriage. **Single Parent Family**: family structure in which one parent is head of household raising children without other parent. **Childless Family**: family structure in which the married couple choose to or cannot have children. **Same Sex Family**: family structure composed of a homosexual couples living together as a family with or without children.(Sharma R,2013)[34]

As marriage has come to be regarded more as a matter of personal choice and individual self fulfilment, a space has been created for new knowledge concerned with human relationship, sexuality and psychological well being. The real tension has probably always been between those who advocate personal discipline and self-control and those who favour self- exploration and personal freedom as means of managing these human issues(Rodger 1996).[35] To understand human behaviour and human relationship theories helped researcher to know various dimensions of family and marriage its relevance to divorce. These theories are given below.

## 1.5 Theories of Marriage and Family :

### A) Symbolic Interaction Theory :

This theory observes how people interact with each other and are concerned about relationship. When we feel that our partner really understands us(or doesn't),that we communicate well(or don't),that we live in harmony with each other(or don't),we are expressing feeling which forms the care of symbolic interaction research. Symbolic interaction studies the interaction that makes up

[34] (Sharma, 2013)
[35] (Rodger, 1996)

a relationship. Marriage and family consist of individuals who interact with one another over a period of time which then define the nature of our family, emotionally distant family, high achieving family and so on .According to interactionalist each family has its own unique family personality and dynamics created by its members interactions.(Herman and Reynolds 1994)[36]

**B) Social Exchange Theory :**

It measures our action and relationship on a cost benefit basis. People maximize their rewards and minimize their cost by employing their resources to gain the most favourable outcomes. An outcome is basically figured by the equation Reward-Cost= Outcome. In family when emotional cost outweighs the benefits of the relationship, the relationship will end. In personal relationships, resources, rewards and costs are more likely to be things such as love, companionship, status, power, fear, loneliness, and so on. As people enter into the relationship they have certain resources, either tangible or intangible, that others consider valuable such as intelligence, warmth, good looks, or high social status or huge bank balance. A corollary to exchange is equity; exchanges that occur between people have to be fair, balanced out. Some researchers suggest that people are most happy when they get what they feel they deserve in relationship. When partner recognises that they are an inequitable relationship, they generally feel uncomfortable, angry or distressed (Ahuja R,1993)[37]

**C) Conflict Theory :**

Conflict theorists do not believe that conflict is bad. Instead they think it is a natural part of family life. It is the concept related to power in family and conflict s created due to power structure in family.

**D) Feminist Legal Theory Highlights Three Specific Terms in India :**

Spouse is the terminology used to give equality between men and women in the context of marriage. 2. In the context of order for uniform civil code, the phrase 'women' devoid of its socio-cultural context and location..3.It highlighted human right values which evolved and can apply in the local context.

[36] (Reynolds, 1994)
[37] (Ahuja, 1993)

**E) Family Systems Theory :**

It views the family as a structure of related parts or sub systems. Each part carries out certain functions. These parts include the spousal sub system/ child sub system/parental sub system and the personal subsystem. For the family to function well the subsystem must be kept separate(Minuchin 1985)[38]. In diverse and changing scenario parents conflict affecting child, the family becomes dysfunctional. Interaction is important in system theory. Researchers and therapist believe that interactions must be studied in the context of family system. The family structure can be seen in its day to day interactions. The family has purpose, it has a goal to remain intact. It seeks homeostasis or stability functioning family constantly changes and adapts to maintain itself in response to its members and the environment. Family systems theory is a theory introduced by Dr. Murray Bowen that suggests that individuals cannot be understood in isolation from one another, but rather as a part of their family, as the family is an emotional unit. Families are systems of interconnected and interdependent individuals, none of whom can be understood in isolation from the system.

According to Bowen, a family is a system in which each member has a role to play and rules to respect. Members of the system are expected to respond to each other in a certain way according to their role, which is determined by relationship agreements. Maintaining the same pattern of behaviours within a system may lead to balance in the family system, but also to dysfunction. For example, if a husband is depressive and cannot pull himself together, the wife may need to take up more responsibilities to pick up the slack. The change in roles may maintain the stability in the relationship, but it may also push the family towards a different equilibrium. This new equilibrium may lead to dysfunction as the wife may not be able to maintain this overachieving role over a long period of time.

There are eight interlocking concepts in Dr. Bowen's theory(1998)[39]:

- **Triangles :** The smallest stable relationship system. Triangles usually have one side in conflict and two sides in harmony, contributing to the development of clinical problems.

[38] (Minuchin, 1985)
[39] (Bowan, 1998)

- **Differentiation of self :** The variance in individuals in their susceptibility to depend on others for acceptance and approval.
- **Nuclear family emotional system :** The four relationship patterns that define where problems may develop in a family.
  - Marital conflict
  - Dysfunction in one spouse
  - Impairment of one or more children
  - Emotional distance
- Family projection process: The transmission of emotional problems from a parent to a child.
- Multigenerational transmission process: The transmission of small differences in the levels of differentiation between parents and their children.
- Emotional cut-off: The act of reducing or cutting off emotional contact with family as a way managing unresolved emotional issues.
- Sibling position: The impact of sibling position on development and behaviour.

## 1.6 Ancient Indian Judicial System :

Before we turn to the origin of Indian Family Court, it is essential to understand Indian Judicial system that handles family cases.

In ancient India, judicial system was primarily based on two ideologies. Before the Manu Smriti era, during the Maurya period, ancient judicial system was influenced by the Koutiliya Nyaysutras whereas after the Manu smriti era, that is after 1st century BCE Indian judicial system was influenced by the Manu smriti guidelines. During the Maurya period the judicial system was more or less controlled by rulers. During the period of Mauryan rule in the absence of a caste system, Koutiliya Nyaysutras were based on traditions, morality, good conduct, social behavioural norms and natural justice. Later on Varna system was altered into caste system and accordingly the Manu smriti also based the judicial system on the caste system. To solve the disputes within one's caste, Caste *Panchayats* (councils) began dominating judicial system. Outside caste *panchayats* there were *Panchayats* (councils) at the village level to take care of other issues. Religious disputes were taken to religious tribunals, but it was not as relevant to the common people. Issues related to wealth, partitions or boundaries, donating assets etc. were addressed by

rulers. Therefore caste *panchayat* was the primary judicial system to resolve marriage, divorce, marital or other family troubles.

Medieval legal system was influenced and executed on the lines of sutras mentioned in various smritis (Hindu text). 'Mitakshara' written by Vidnyaneshwar ($12^{th}$century A.D) and 'Dayabhag' written by Jeemutwahan (1090-1130 A.D) were two prominent point of views. While judging the wealth and inheritance cases these two smiritis were referred and the judicial system during the British rule followed suit. Current Hindu Inheritance Act is drafted upon the rules of 'Mitakshara'.

During the reign of Muslim rulers the Shariyat and the Shariya Acts were introduced in India. Though Muslim rulers made people acquainted with the Muslim judicial system, marital lawsuits were disposed of on the primary levels of caste *panchayat* and village *panchayat*. There were separate courts for revenue cases, criminal cases, retrial/reconsideration appeals etc. There were Amin-e Pargana courts for Revenue, Kotwali for Criminal Judgements and Quazi-e-pargana for Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction.

Around 1726, British started establishing courts in Presidency Towns and by 1772 all Presidency Towns had these courts. Separate criminal courts for the Hindu and the Muslims were merged into one by the British. Initially the British rulers chose not to interfere in personal laws as a result the Hindu and the Muslim community continued to follow their traditional rules and regulations in the personal life. But the British government passed a series of Social Acts in a rapid succession and weakened the foundation of traditional Indian laws.

### 1.6.1 Origin and development of Indian Family Court :

In 1953, Mrs. Durgabai Deshmukh was the first one in India to express the need for dedicated judicial system for marital problems. Mrs. Deshmukh was renowned advocate, social worker, politician and freedom fighter. She was the first chairperson of Central Social Welfare Committee as well as a member of Indian Constitutional Committee. As a member of Central Social Welfare Committee she encouraged Non-Governmental Organisations in India to conduct welfare programs for women and children. In 1952, Prime Minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had sent her on a special mission in China to study Chinese Judicial System. On returning from this tour, she had submitted a proposal to the Prime Minister stating the need for separate courts for marital problems. But nothing materialised after that.

In the decade of 1970, a committee was set up to study condition/status of Indian Women. Committee Report submitted in 1974 once again underlined the need for dedicated courts to dispose of marital disputes swiftly. This report known as 'In the Direction of Equality' was presented in the conference organized by UNO on the occasion of International Women's Year in 1975. This report was also put forward in Indian Parliament.

In the year 1974 the law commission recommended amendment in the Civil Procedure Code and (establishment of) special family court in their 59$^{th}$ report. Accordingly amendments and improvements were carried out in The Civil Procedure Court 1976. Also Order 32 A was included in The Civil Procedure Code.

It is essential to understand Order 32 A. Order 32 A describes claims regarding family matters and procedural implementation of the claims. The provisions in Order 32 A are applicable to cases of legitimacy of marriage, position/importance of a person in married life, legitimacy, guardianship, children's custody, custody of physically impaired members, alimony, adoption, will(wish) and heir ship. In addition to the above, additional provisions ensuring 'in camera'/behind closed doors proceedings for family cases, making efforts to mutually settle every case, acquiring help from welfare organizations are included. This order also clarifies the definition of the term family and its scope. This order was included in the Civil Procedure Code 1976. The Family Court Act 1984-Section 7, reflects these provisions made in Order 32A. Later on these provisions were also included in The Family Court Act. Further in 1984 the Family Courts Act was passed and it came into force on September 14, 1984.

Civil disputes were held in the regular courts with heavy workload. Family matters required sensitivity. Such cases continue for an atrocious period of time ranging from 7-30 years. In such situations, the channelling of cases to different courts set up especially for this purpose not only ensures their speedy disposal but also ensures that the cases are dealt by experts specially assigned for this purpose, more effectively.

With a view to protect possible threats to marriage, dignity of women and interest of other members in society. The Family Courts Act 1984 was adopted legal reforms concerning women. The Act is expected to facilitate satisfactory decisions of disputes concerning the family through a forum expected to work expeditiously in just manner and with an approach ensuring maximum welfare of society and dignity of

women. Family Courts are expected to deal with marriage, matrimonial dissolution, maintenance and alimony, custody, education and support of children, settlement of spousal property and guardianship and custody of child's person and property. Family issues related to determination however, are as usual dealt with by civil courts. The purpose of family courts is to secure the legal rights of an individual and undertake the role of a guide, helper and counsellor to help the families to cope with their problems and establish family harmony.

Section 3 of the Act empowers need of family court by consideration of population. The eligibility criteria for appointment of a Family Court Judge are same as those for appointment of a District Judge requiring seven years of experience in judicial office or seven years' practice as an advocate. The Central Government is empowered to make rules prescribing some more qualifications. Apart from prescribing the qualification of the Judges of Family Courts, the Central Government has no role to play in the administration of this Act. Different High Courts have laid down different rules of the procedure. A need for a uniform set of rules has however been felt. The purpose of this act is to protect and preserve the institution of marriage and to promote the settlement of disputes by conciliation and counselling. Women appointment is preferred as Family Court Judges. Section 5 enables the association of institutions engaged in promoting welfare of families, especially women and children, or working in the field of social welfare, to associate themselves with the Family Courts in the exercise of its functions. The State Governments are also required to determine the number and categories of counsellors, officers etc. to assist the Family Courts (sec. 6). Section 7 confers on all the family courts the power and jurisdiction exercisable by any District Court or subordinate civil court in suits and proceedings of the nature referred to in the explanation to section 7(1) of the Act. These, inter-alia relate to suits between parties to a marriage or for a declaration as to the validity of marriage or a quarrel with respect to the property of the parties, maintenance, guardianship etc. In addition, the jurisdiction exercisable by a First Class Magistrate under Chapter IX of the Cr.P.C. i.e. relating to order for maintenance of wife, children or parents, has also been conferred on the family courts. There is one additional provision that the family courts may exercise such other jurisdiction as may be conferred on them by any other enactment. Provision has also been made to exclude jurisdiction of other courts in respect of matters for which the family court has been conferred jurisdiction.

Chapter IV talk about dealing of cases (sec. 9). It has been made present on these courts to see that the parties are need to be assisted and persuaded to come to a settlement, and for this purpose they have been authorized to follow the procedure specified by the High Court by means of rules to be made by it. If there is a option of settlement between the parties and there is some delay in arriving at such a settlement, the family court is empowered to adjourn the proceedings until the settlement is reached. Under these provisions, different High Courts have specified different rules of procedure for the determination and settlement of disputes by the family courts. In the rules made by the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the family court judge is also involved in the settlement, and if a settlement cannot be reached then a regular trial follows. It is also provided that the proceedings may be held in camera if the family court or if either party so desires. The family court has also been given the power to take assistance of legal and welfare experts from the field. Section 13 provides that the party before a Family Court shall not be entitled as of right to be represented by a legal practitioner. However, the court may, in the interest of justice, provide assistance of a legal expert as amicus curiae. Evidence may be given by affidavit also and it is open to the family court to summon and examine any person as to the facts contained in the affidavit. The judgement of the family court is brief and in simple format of point for determination decision and the reason for the same. The decree of the Family Court can be executed in accordance with the requirements of the CPC or Cr.P.C., as the case may be. If there is further appeal against judgement or order of family court lies to the High Court. High Courts governs and make rules for the procedure to be followed by the family courts in arriving at settlements and other matters. The Central Government had the power to make rules prescribing supportive qualifications for appointment of a Judge of the family court. The State Government has also been empowered to make rules providing for, inter alia, the salaries of family court judges, terms and conditions of service of counsellors and other procedural matters. The Act was expected to make possible satisfactory resolution of issues concerning the family through a forum, and this forum was expected to work expeditiously, in a just manner and with an approach ensuring maximum welfare of society and dignity of women. Though not defined family by the act, matters of serious economic consequences, which affect the family, like testamentary matters are not within the purview of the family courts. Only matters concerning women and children - divorce, maintenance, adoption etc. - are within the purview of the family

courts. The Act also brought civil and criminal jurisdiction under one roof. This helps women in positive way. Secondly, the very nature of criminal courts facilitated quicker disposal of applications to a civil court. Thirdly, there was seriousness and a sense of intimidation associated with a criminal court, which would act in a woman's favour. Also the Act brought under one roof, matters which were handled by forty odd magistrates and at least two courts in the city civil court, into five court rooms in the city of Mumbai. While the Act laid down the broad guidelines it was left to the State Government to frame the rules of procedure. The basic situation is the same everywhere, with little differences. In 1987 Maharashtra Family Courts Rules framed. Marriage counsellors are given importance here. Maximum powers has been given to the marriage counsellors e.g. to make home visits, to ascertain the standard of living of the spouses and the relationship with children, seek information from the employer, etc. Sometimes marriage counsellors take benefit and shown personal interest. Further, the reports prepared by marriage counsellors based on their investigation, are not obligatory on the judges. The report of the marriage counsellor is supposed to be confidential, and not made a subject of cross-examination. After the preliminary meeting with the marriage counsellor, the case would proceed as per the rules of the Code of Civil Procedure. The rules do not simplify procedures but merely reproduce the Code of Civil Procedure with the minor addition that parties should be present in person.

## 1.7 Quality of Life :

### 1.7.1 Evolution and Development of the Term Quality of Life:

The Concept of 'being happy', 'good life' or 'doing well ' came in existence in the Nichomachean Ethics, (384-322 BC).Actually, the happiness is matter of disputes. It differs from person to person, situation by situation and with time it is changing. The concept initially emerged in Greek translated by Harris Rackham in 1926 in more accurate way of well being. Aristotle clearly appreciated that quality of life changing with person to person but it also differs with person's current situation. Until the 20th Century it was never mentioned. Earlier it was noted that happiness is not the object of life, however the courage consists in the readiness to sacrifice happiness for an intense quality of life.(Fayers, Machin ,2013)[40]. History of quality of life also found in

[40] (Fayers P, 2007)

medical sciences and public health in 1940 and its evidences and linkages also found health policy of USA during World War II. Attention drawn on social and psychological forces driving health and wellbeing by social scientist in the same era. In 1948 World Health Organisation recognised the importance of concept of quality of life It means not only physiological wellbeing but also psychological, social and economic aspects are critical to consider. (Land et.al.2012 )[41].

The quality of life of population can be measured in the degree of satisfaction of material, spiritual and social human needs. (Krinitcyna1 et.al.2016)[42].The concept of quality of life is multi faceted and illusive (Tripathi et.al. 2022).[43] Several factors could influence how quality of life could be perceived and experienced? Quality of life is a construct which is relative and situational. (Mc. Gregor and Goldsmith,1998)[44] Core perspectives of quality of life was economic and health. It is also social construct that is comprehended and experienced differently by various levels of society and found influenced by culture too. There are variety of definitions and perspectives of quality of life. Commonalities among these definitions is the consideration of well being indicators that are economic, social, environmental, psychological, physical and demographic in nature. Very few differences found among these definitions focus on longevity, freedom of choice, sustainable development and over all wellbeing.(Tripathi et.al.2022)[45]. WHO defines Quality of Life as an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns.

It is a broad ranging concept incorporating in a complex way the persons' physical health, psychological state, level of independence, social relationships, personal beliefs and their relationships to salient features of the environment. This definition reflects the view that quality of life refers to a subjective evaluation, which is embedded in a cultural, social and environmental context. (As such, quality of life cannot be equated simply with the terms "health status", "life style", "life satisfaction", "mental state" or "well-being"). Because the WHOQOL focuses upon respondents' "perceived" quality of life, it is not expected to provide a means of

[41] (Kenneth C. Land, 2012)
[42&48] (Krinitcyna, 2016)
[43&47] (Tripathi Shruti, 2021)
[44&49] (Gregory, Pratt, & Watts, 2009)

measuring in any detailed fashion symptoms, diseases or conditions, nor disability as objectively judged, but rather the perceived effects of disease and health interventions on the individual's quality of life. The WHOQOL is, therefore, an assessment of a multi-dimensional concept incorporating the individual's perception of health status, psycho-social status and other aspects of life. In short it is the happiness and satisfaction with the life. It is considered in two way one is objective and anther one is subjective. Objective can be measured through science based standards of needs and interest of people in terms that can objectively judge the degree of satisfaction of these needs and interest. On the other side, the needs and the interest of people differ from person to person, they exist only in the minds of people. Assessment of satisfaction with the quality of life of people cannot be captured by any statistical quantities because it is very subjective. (Krinitcyna1 et.al.2016)[46].

It is also a very complex term as different literature interpreted, it in variety of way. Quality of life should not be confused with the concept of standard of living, which is based primarily on income. Standard indicators of the quality of life include not only wealth and employment but also the built environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, and social belonging. (Gregery, Derek, et al., eds, 2009)[47].

### 1.7.2 Philosophical Approaches :

Brock (1993)[48] was a distinguished philosopher described three approaches to get an understanding about the individual and his system. He highlighted how an individual is striving for happiness through this approach.

1. **Characteristics of Good Life:** It is based on religious and philosophical system & come from rational thought, in which helping others is one religious principle or judgement about correctness of behaviour. These approaches neither depend on individual experiences nor on fulfilment of their wishes but are mostly related to social indicators tradition in social sciences.
2. **Satisfaction of Preferences:** People within the constraints of resources are selecting those resources which enhance their quality of life. But it also

[48] (Brock, 1993)

depends upon the people to obtain the things they desire. This choice depends upon their individual resources.

3. **Experience of Individual :** In this approach factors such as feelings of joy, pleasure, contentment and life satisfaction are ultimate measurement. Hence this approach is associated with subjective well being tradition in the behavioural science.

### 1.7.3 Scientific Approaches :

There are major scientific approaches namely 'objective' or 'social indicators' and subjective wellbeing. Land provided a history of social indicators and subjective wellbeing movements in social sciences. Social indicators focused on measurements. The growth of the social indicators movement coincided with the questioning of economic growth in terms of whether more was always better(Land, 1996).Subjective well being is based on subjective experiences of the life. Wellbeing can be defined as people's conscious experiences – in terms of hedonic feelings or cognitive satisfactions. The term is considered on the assumption that is to understand individuals experiential quality of well being and thus it is ok to examine person's feelings about life in the context of his or her own standards.

Research highlighted that, the improvement and deterioration of quality of life depends on empirical evidences' of intuition. Especially in the time when industrialisation is transforming the lifestyles and values of every society on earth, scientific knowledge regarding human wellbeing is vital in determining whether material affluence should be the dominant concern in attaining a desirable quality of life. In addition to informing policy, subjective well-being findings and social indicators can also assist individuals in their everyday life decisions, such as where and how to live.

### 1.7.4 Domains to Assess the Quality of Life:

One approach, called engaged theory, outlined in the journal of Applied Research in the Quality of Life, posits four domains in assessing quality of life: ecology, economics, politics and culture (Magee, Liam; James, Paul; 2012). In the domain of culture, for example, it includes the following sub-domains of quality of life:

1. Identity and engagement
2. Creativity and recreation
3. Memory and projection
4. Belief and ideas
5. Gender and generations
6. Enquiry and learning
7. Well-being and health.

Broadly six domains were defined physical, psychological, level of independence, social relationship, environment, spirituality/religion/personal beliefs. According to sociologists of the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, high quality of life involves:

- Sufficient length of healthy life, supported by good medical services and security
- Acceptable volume of consumption of goods and services, guaranteed access to material goods
- Satisfactory social relations, the absence of serious social conflicts and threats to the achieved level of well-being;
- Family well-being;
- Knowledge of the world and development – access to knowledge, education and cultural values that shape identity and ideas about the world;
- Taking into account the views of the individual in solving social problems, participation in creating the common picture of the world and rules of human behaviour.
- Social belonging, full participation in public and cultural life in all its forms.
- Access to a variety of information, including information about state of affairs in society.
- Comfortable working conditions, giving room for creativity and fulfilment, a relatively short working day, allocating enough free time for a person to engage in different activities.

In 2005 the economist intelligence group in USA has developed a methodology to measure the quality of life index, thus linking the survey's results of subjective evaluation of life satisfaction to objective determination of quality of life.

The index has been calculated for 111 countries. Following table shows factors and indicators of the same (Krinitcyna1 et.al.2016).

**Table No. 1.1**

**Quality of life factors and Indicators of quality of life**

| Quality of life factors | Indicators of quality of life |
|---|---|
| 1. Material wellbeing | GDP per person, at PPP in |
| 2. Health | Life expectancy at birth year. |
| 3. Political stability and security | Political stability and security ratings |
| 4. Family Life | Divorce rate (per 1000 population) converted into index of 1(lowest rate) to 5(Highest) |
| 5. Community life | Dummy variable taking value 1 if country has either high rate of religious places attendance or social group membership |
| 6. Climate and geography | Latitude to distinguish between warmer and colder climes |
| 7. Job security | Unemployment rate % |
| 8. Political freedom | Average of indices of political and civil liberties. Scale of 1 (completely free) to 7(un free). |
| 9. Gender equality | Ratings of male and female earnings |

Belyaeva L.A.(2009), a doctor of sociology, a leading researcher of the Institute of philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, proposed a system of subjective indicators of quality of life.

**Table No. 1.2**

**Quality of life Components and Private Indexes**

| Quality of life components | Private Indexes |
|---|---|
| I. Level of life (wellbeing) | 1. The index of material standard of living<br>2. The index of satisfaction with housing<br>3. The index of accessibility of medical care<br>4. The index of availability of education |
| II. Quality of the nearest social environment | 1. The index of self-identification with the residents of their settlements |

| | |
|---|---|
| | 2. The index of security from crime<br>3. The index of security from poverty<br>4. Index of protection against arbitrariness of officials<br>5. Index of protection against an arbitrariness of law enforcement bodies |
| III. Quality of ecology | 1. The index of security from environmental threats<br>2. The index of air purity<br>3. The index of water purity |
| IV. Social wellbeing | 1. The confidence in the future index<br>2. The index of life satisfaction of the population.<br>3. The index of independence |

**Section B**

## 1.8 Profile of Study Region

Present study had been conducted in the Pune District of Maharashtra state.It is the eighth largest metropolis in India. As per 2011 census Pune Districts population was 9,429,408 and was the most populous district in Maharashtra. In all there are 14 blocks in Pune District. Maharashtra has a glorious history. It is a holy land of Saints, Sages and Social reformers, Peasants and workers have toiled for centuries to make Maharashtra the prime state of India. Maharashtra's performance in diverse fields like Arts, Sports, Culture, literature, social and administrative reforms as well as academic research, defence, agriculture and cooperation has left its unique mark. Many great personalities from Pune reached the pinnacles of achievements in their respective fields of activity. The social reform movement in the state began over 150 years ago. It has been the source of inspiration for the country. Maharashtra is known for bravery and people who blend it with tolerance (www.pune.gov.in)[49].

[49] (Centre National Informatics)

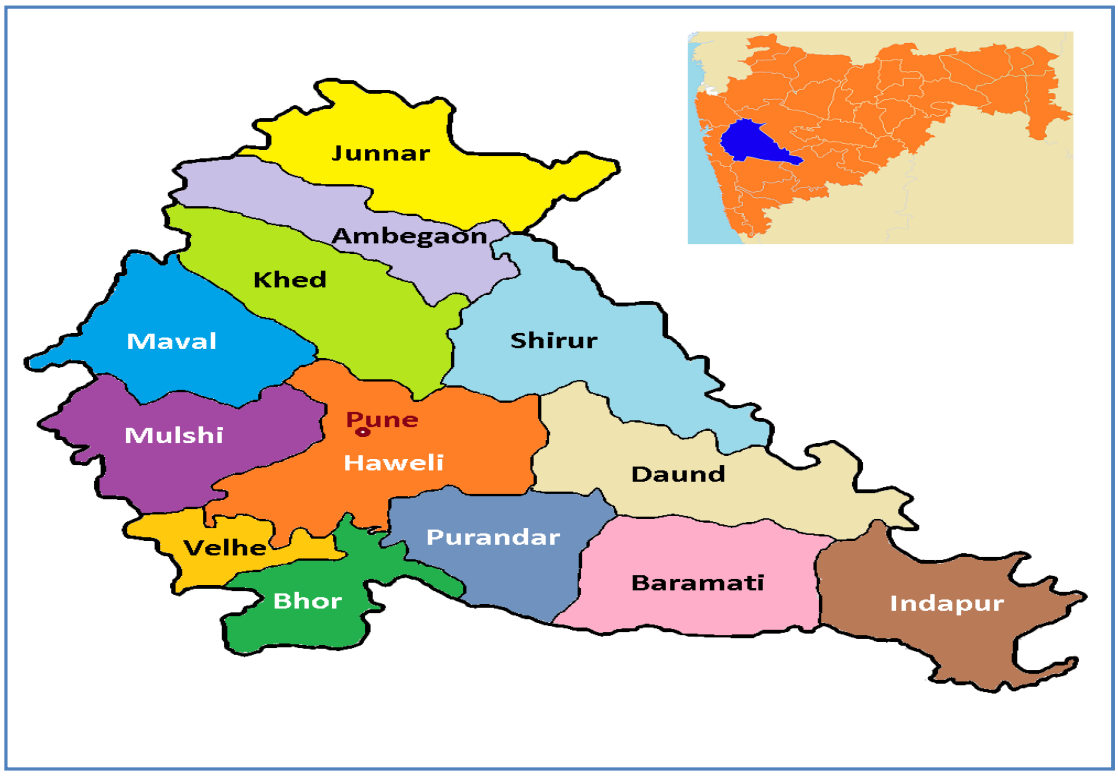



**Figure No. 1.1 : Map of Pune District**

Pune which once ruled all of North India, has been known as the Oxford of the East. This division has taken rapid strides in IT. Pune Division is perhaps the most affluent in all respects in India. It has demonstrated how a determined band of people can transform a landscape into thriving economic entity. This division is leader in defence, agriculture, education, power generation, irrigation etc. Pune has many places of attraction for tourists, pilgrims and history researcher. Pune is always a leading region in social change & transformation from pre independence era. In last 30 years, industrial regions were developed nearby Pune like Chakan, Talegaon, Khed, Ranjangaon, Kurkumbh, etc and because of this many people from various districts and states are drawn to Pune. It is also known as educational hub, thus thousands of students have migrated to Pune city from all over the country and abroad. In recent years the Information & Technology (IT) industry in Hinjewadi & Magarpatta city has become the identity of Pune city which adds more migrants not only from India but also internationally to related services. Due to changing culture and family structure in Pune city various family issues are increasing. To solve these family matters along with family court is playing significant role.

Mumbai was the first independent family court in Maharashtra. It was started in 1989 in a very small space. The newly constructed building consists of four floors

with a total area of 7,700 square metres. The building has eight court halls and eight adjoining chambers for the judges; 15 chambers for marriage counsellors, two bar rooms for lawyers, a separate library for judges, meeting halls, a crèche for the children who would accompany the litigants, among other facilities. Two more floors are proposed, which will have additional infrastructure to meet the special needs of the family court. The association's legal experts maintained that an increasing number of women in city are enjoying financial and emotional independence, which has now helped them to take decisions on their own. Economic stability is the main reason behind the increasing number of divorce rates as couples are parting ways due to ego clashes, In the last few years, divorce rates have risen sharply. Pune family court was started on 27th January 1989. According to the statistics compiled from the family court, 1192 divorce cases were filed last year in the Shivajinagar Family Court. Of these, 1,004 divorces have been granted by mutual consent. The data also reveals that three to four divorce cases are filed every day. There are 10 -12 professional social workers (marriage counsellors ) are providing counselling services in Pune family court. Among privacy and confidentiality, quality of life, least harm, autonomy and freedom, equality and inequality, protection of life, social worker or counsellor tend to place more emphasis on improving quality of life of individuals, groups, communities.

This court has also developed a childcare centre for custody dispute cases where non-custodial parents can meet their children, and a child-friendly room meant for recording the statements of child witnesses and for interviewing children in custody cases in an informal setting. Cases are filed in this court from 34 villages around Pune city.

Family matters have been on the rise for the past few years. In the last two and a half years, 3,352 divorce cases have been filed with mutual consent. Couples are counselled by the family court counsellor after divorce petitions are filed. Most of the divorce applications are moved on minor or petty reasons such as differences in preferences, ego problems, and financial instability. In some cases, the dispute between couples has been settled and the family's life has been brought back on track. But the mutual consent divorce leaves no chance for any attempt to save the marriage and therefore divorce rates have risen sharply.

Many have lost their jobs in the lockdown. There was a pay cut. In such a situation, it is observed that the dispute between the couple has also increased. Minor disputes also escalated.

Along with Family Court various civil society organisations are working in Pune to prevent divorce by providing pre marital counselling, such as Asha, Stree Mukti Sanghatana, MASUM, Nari Samata Manch etc. These organisations are working in urban and rural area as well. District Women and Child Development department and Pune Muncipal Corporation has its initiative in family counselling. Professional social workers and psychologist were appointed for counselling. Some organisations are working to give justice to women against violence. Pune Police Commissioner Office initiated '***Bharosa Cell'*** working on family issues especially for elderly people, marital issues and behavioural problems of children under one roof. In *Bharosa Cell* various counsellors on voluntary basis are providing service to family. Counselling is highly used by private practitioner and civil society organisation to deal with divorce issue.

In present research case studies were included from diverse backgrounds.Thus specific organisations like residential institute Maher, Marriage Bureau functioning for Deaf Mute adult, V.R. Ruia Deaf Mute School were approached. Network of Maharashtra People Living with HIV/AIDS (NMP +) was one of the organisation that helped researcher to get some cases of divorcee. Some lawyers and organisation such as *Tejaswini* foundation helped researcher to get some cases from rural area.

## 1.9 Present Scenario of Divorce :

As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20, **the gross enrolment ratio of female students stands at 27.3%, more than that of male students**, which is 26.9%. This indicates an overall increase of 18% in the gross enrolment ratio of female students in higher education from 2015-16 to 2019-20.[50]According UN Women data Almost a third of women's employment globally is in agriculture, including forestry and fishing, the female labour force participation rate in India increased by 0.6 percentage points in 2021. In total, the rate amounted to **19.23 percent in 2021**. Female labour force participation is the share of women over 15 years who are economically active. According to the Union Budget 2022, the

[50] (India, 2019-20)

overall workforce participation rate in India is 20.3%, of which 18.2% is in Urban India presently. In 2022, Women's employability is at 51.44 per cent for 2022, compared to 41.25 per cent in 2021.[51] Women education and economic independency influenced divorce. (Sayer L.C., & Bianchi,S.M.2000)[52] According to data published on web site of Department of Justice Government of India highlighted that up to December 2022, There were 67828 cases were pending in Maharashtra. Following table shows highest number of family courts in India and it is self explanatory of family issues.

**Table No. 1.3**

**Number of Family Courts**

| State | Number of Family court |
|---|---|
| Uttar Pradesh | 189 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 61 |
| Rajasthan | 50 |
| Maharashtra | 40 |

**Table No. 1.4**

**Pune Family Court two years statistics**

| Year | Petitions filed | Resolved /Settled | Cases registered by mutual consent | Resolved /Settled | Reconciled |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020-21 | 2332 | 2187 | 676 | 1053 | 118 |
| 2021-22 | 3797 | 3731 | 2005 | 1688 | 135 |

The above table shows the severity of divorce issue and very low rate of reconciliation. Thus social work intervention is necessary to strengthen the marriage and family system.

## 1.10 Summary of Chapter :

The Introduction chapter divided into two sections (A & B). Section A started with concept of marriage and divorce and it proceeds with solemnisation of marriage under Hindu Marriage Act, 1956, marriages in Muslim law, including Changes brought by the Muslim Women (Protection Of Rights On Marriage) Act, 2019,

[51] (Yadav, 2022)
[52] (SAYER, 2000)

Christian Marriage Act, 1872, Parsi Marriage Laws,1936, Special Marriage Act,1954 and divorce grounds under all these acts were studied by researcher. It continued with the Emerging Trend in Marriage.

Further conceptual understanding of family and Indian family system covered in which traditional and contemporary family patterns were covered. Then theories of Marriage and Family: Symbolic Interaction Theory, Social Exchange Theory, Conflict Theory, Feminist legal theory highlights three specific terms in India, Strategic Theory, Structural Theory: Transgenerational Theory, Family Systems Theory were covered in sequence. Further chapter move towards, Ancient Indian Judicial System and Origin and development of Indian Family Court, related act and provisions highlighted.

In continuation with quality of life : Evolution and Development, philosophical approaches, scientific approaches highlighted. Then domains to assess the Quality of Life suggested various scientist and well known institutions especially WHO was included in introduction.

Section B was on profile of study region, its geographical as well as socio cultural aspects were covered. Subject related contribution and references were highlighted here. Then chapter ends with present scenario of divorcee by using current statistical data received from authentic sources.

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# CHAPTER - II
# LITERATURE REVIEW

**Introduction :**

*Present chapter is about studies reviewed by the researcher. Numerous studies in the sociological literature in the west have examined and analyzed the phenomenon of divorce and its implications. In India, considerable research on divorce has been documented, albeit on lesser scale compared to the west. The main reasons for the limited number of empirical studies on divorce in India, are the lower divorce rates, and lack of adequate data has been found that various studies related to marriage, family and divorce have been conducted at various periods of time. These studies, despite offering vital insights into the subject, circumscribed their scope to the demographic and causative factors of divorce; the "pre-divorce" stage, which a crucial determinant is of "divorce process", has not received adequate attention.*

## 2.1 Legislative Procedures on Marriage and Divorce :

**González Libertad (2015)**[53]studied on social effects of divorce laws which shows that recent reforms in divorce legislation have social impact across the countries. It moreover shows that introduction of no-fault, unilateral divorce raised divorce rates, and had some negative effects on families who were trapped in the transition and children born shortly before the legal changes. Sometimes the increase in divorces suggests positive effects on at least one of the divorcing spouses. Researcher also throw attention on no-fault divorce helps to increase saving among married couples, and may lower the incidence of domestic violence, suggesting that the overall long-term effects of these reforms are likely to be welfare-enhancing. Beside this, recent reforms favouring joint child custody seem to have encouraged marriage and fertility. Studies conclude with two final thoughts. First, it seems clear that family law has the potential to affect a whole range of social outcomes, above and beyond marriage and divorce rates. It is necessary to consider social impact of

[53] (Libertad, 2015)

changes in divorce law. Second, more research is needed to find out the short- and long-term effects of easy divorce on child outcomes.

**Jalsy T. (2015)[54],** concluded in the study which was conducted in Kerala that, lack of infrastructural facilities and inadequate staff affect on effective functioning of Family Court, It was also found that court was lacking in speedy disposal. Though family court act wants family court work in different manner than regular court. However in practice its infrastructure and existing mediation and counselling were ineffective for an amicable settlement of family disputes.

**Nambi S. (2005)[55],** conducted study in Institute of Mental Health, Chennai with 147 patients. It highlighted the consanguineous marriages and its impact on mental health. However it conclude that it is necessary to recognise constitutional and legal perspective provided by legislations. Legislations also help to set standards for the cases which are going to be settled through process law. Study also thrown a light on importance of promotive and harmony seeking approach than legislations.

**Dr. Justice A. R. Lakshmanan (2008)[56],** published its report on, 'Laws on Registration of Marriage and Divorce – A Proposal for Consolidation and Reform'. Its finding shows tremendous diversity in the laws relating to registration of marriages, it highlights necessity of Registration of out-of-court divorces among the Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs – which the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 recognizes. Advantages of marriage registration and disadvantages of non registration need to be mentioned in law or policy document. Some communities are still governed by different marriage law. Hence it is not possible to make rule for compulsory marriage registration for all communities.

**Rao, Nanda Chiranjeevi (2011)[57],** studied the concept of marriage and provisions given in Hindu and Muslim laws related to marriage and divorce. Study highlights the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 1976 the grounds for judicial separation and divorce. Even it liberalised the grounds for judicial separation and divorce were different.

[54] (T, 2015)
[55] (S., 2005)
[56] (Lakshmanan, 2008)
[57] (Rao, 2011)

**Mary M.J. (2013)[58],** conducted study in Karnataka which shows that more respondents were satisfied with legal procedure and interactions with legal aid professionals. Respondents expressed that there is enough clarity in divorce law however the process of divorce law is very lengthy.

**Choudhari L. et.al. (2015)[59],** concluded in the review article that six decades back while framing the law marry to a person with mental disorder was included because it was incurable. Now there is advancement in the field of psychiatry and it was proven that most of the mental illnesses can be cured and person can live normal life. Hence there is need to remove mental disorder from the disability under the marriage laws. Stigmatisation should be removed by changing negative societal attitude. Marriage is an important turning point of one's life so it irrational to deny the right to marriage with mental disorder.

**Verma R.K. (2016) [60] ,**conducted study in Luknow which highlights on matrimonial offences. It shows that there cannot be straight forward solution to such offences. However philosophical foundation is very much strong where only use of law is not work for social change.

## 2.2 Socio – Economic, Cultural and Demographic Profile :

**Reed Magan Nicole (2022),[61]** suggest dual earner professional couples in India challenge male breadwinner norms through their division of labor. Men who married working women mostly report that they were actively searching for an employed wife on the marriage market because of the financial security that a second income could provide. In addition, to some respondents, dual earning was believed to help facilitate a companionate marriage. This dissertation highlights the role of family, economic precocity, risk, and social norms in shaping marriage and family life in India.

**Kathrine Bejanyan et.al. (2014) [62]** found that Indians' gender role traditionalism and collectivism were associated with stronger desires for a partner

[58] (M.J, 2015)
[59] (Choudhary Laxmi Narayan, 2015)
[60] (Kumar, 2016)
[61] (Reed, 2022)
[62] (Kathrine Bejanyan, 2014)

with traditional mate characteristics and greater anticipation of future difficulties in marital life. Researchers also noted the possibility that Indians may have anticipated greater future marital difficulties because they may be less prone to a positivity bias than Americans.

**Gabriel Jelestin, S (2000)[63],** discussed divorcees in Kanyakumari district; the rate of persons applied for divorce has been increased. The age range at the time of divorce is 21 years to 40 years, (for men 31 years to 40 years for women 21 years to 30 years). High percentages of divorcees have lived together with their partner for 1 to 5 years. Significant percentage of divorces duration of wedded life is few month. Among the divorcees maximum percentage are either both qualified or unqualified similarly, very high percentage of divorcees are both either employed or unemployed. The percentage of divorcees who were coming from nuclear families are high. Most of the divorcee's marriages are arranged marriages. In these cases significant percentage of divorcees had self arranged (love) marriages. In general divorcees have either or child or no children. Women divorcees have given number of reasons for their divorce. Among the reasons family problem due to misunderstanding, dowry problem, harassment by husband and in-laws, and illegal contact of husbands are the significant reasons for their divorce. Some divorcees have given single reason and others have given multi reasons for their divorce. Men divorcees have given few reasons for their divorce. Among the reasons wives' illegal contact, sexual maladjustment and suppressing the truth at the time of marriage were the significant reasons for their divorce.

**Christina Y.N. Niermann et.al. (2018)[64]** highlights the framework that family environmental influences arise from the individuals within the family, from the parent-child subsystem and from the family as whole. Level of Interacting Family Environmental Subsystems (LIFES) combines these three subsystems (individual, parent-child, family) with three levels of environmental factors ranging from behavior-specific to general (immediate, proximal, distal).It emphasizes reciprocal influences or feedback loops between the factors and includes both direct and mediated influences as well as higher-level moderation effects.

[63] (Gabriel Jelestin, 2000)
[64] (Christina Y.N. Niermann, 2018)

**Mandu, Bahalen (2015)**[65] concluded in the study that Marital duration is an important indicator to understand marriage dissolution. Most of the women in India have experienced marriage dissolution in the first few years of their marriages. Timing of divorce/separation plays an crucial role for determining family size, and it has an strong influences on their reproductive behavior. Divorce during the reproductive span of life, may affect the fertility behavior of women. It is found that most of the women got divorced in their early years of marriage, i.e. within 10 years of their marriage. The study also suggest The mindset of society can be changed through various intervention programs and through educating people. Children of divorced parent suffer from early behavioural and academic problems, early school leaving and poor mental health. (Sigle-Rushton et al. 2005).

**Yuanting Zang, Jennifer Van Hook (2009)**[66]**,**revealed in the study that compare to endogamous marriages interracial marriages are less stable. Study also shows risk of divorce and separation among interracial couple was similar to more divorce prone origin group after controlling for couple characteristics. However results failed to provide evidence that interracial marriage is associated with an elevated risk of marriage dissolution.

**Conger R (2010)**[67]**,** conducted review study reported that last some decades shows support for an interactionist model of the relationship between socio economic status and family life which supports the assumption from both the social causation and social selection perspective.

**Girse R. et.al (2006)**[68] conducted study on socio demographic factors leading to divorce: A social problem. It concluded that couple without child had maximum divorced and divorces were more commonly seen early years of married life. More number of female filed application for divorce. The main reason for divorced were cruelty and desertion and mutual consent. In our study, among male and female applicant with lower income was seen to be significant factor for divorce among all the variables.

[65] (Mundu, 2015)
[66] (Yuanting Zang, 2009)
[67] (Rand D. Conger, 2010)
[68] (Girase RD, 2016)

**Sharma Priya (2017)[69],** conducted study in Jaipur. It was found that, the social stigma associated with the divorced or widowed status has changed but the ambiguous attitude of people with which they view a divorced or widowed women still prevails. The social attitude still centres on rejection and the divorced or widowed women are treated as liability. Divorce or widowhood has still not been accepted as a normal sociological event. Remarriage of women is associated with several demographic variables such as age during first marriage, age during divorce or widowhood, length of previous marriage and children from first marriage.

**Emery Robert (2013)[70]** highlighted in the book about relationship between socioeconomic factors and divorce rate which shows that family structure, economic issues and influence of religion created stress among married couples. Now divorce is worldwide issue, notably in northern Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, further in Southern Europe and industrialised Asia including South Korea and Japan. It is increased in China and socially conservative India which historically has had one of the lowest rates of divorce in the world. Only two countries do not have legal procedure for granting divorce the Philippines and Vatican City.

**Carr Alan, McNulty Muireann (2006)[71],** highlighted in his book that due to pre disposable constitutional, historical, contextual factors strengthen depression and entrenched in rigid behaviour patterns with unhelpful belief system. Authors revealed that, similarity in cultural values and role expectations, high socioeconomic status, good mental health, absence of parental divorce, absence of premarital pregnancy, living in rural area, and marriage after the age of 30 are all the significant factors in positive demographic profile associated with good adjustment in long term relationship.

**Shrivastava S. et.al. (2019)[72],** described differences in attitude of 25 upper and lower middle class cohort cases. The focus area of the study was upbringing, conjugal expectations, marital dissolution and support of natal kin. It was found that lower middle class grew up in conservative joint family milieu where family honour was the norm. Education enhanced the prospect of family arranged marriage. While post marriage women were expected to lead secluded life. Where upper middle class

[69] (Priya, 2017)
[70] (Robert, 2013)
[71] (Carr Alen, 2006)
[72] (Shrivastava Sanjay, 2019)

women were raised in free environment. Family comprised the professional elite. Parents did regard marriage as the most important goal in the life but they did not exclude the possibility of the career for their female children. Here women expectation of marital equality is higher and better informed about their rights.

**Dommaraju Premchand (2016)[73],** conducted study between 1987 to 2007 of Nationally representative survey to investigate impact of social changes on durability of marriage. Study conclude with upward trend and significant differences by religion, region, rural and urban ,and number and sex of children in divorce and separation. Findings shows that marriages are more stable in higher educated family.

**MI Friedner (2011)[74]** highlighted that for families, love and communication were two different things while deafs, through their participation within deaf sociality, came to see love and communication as existing hand in hand. There could be no love without communication. 80% of families of deaf children never learn to communicate with the children.

**Nigam, Shalu. (2015)[75]** reviewed book & depicts that a majority of women with no guarantee of social or economic rights are dependent on their husbands or parents. Under personal laws as well as under civil laws, the only right a woman has is to request for maintenance from her husband in the event of judicial separation, desertion or divorce, as an ancillary relief. Many women who came to claim maintenance were awarded symbolic amounts. Factors like caste, religion, education, community or any other could not help to eliminate women's tribulations nor offer any options. Thus, an educated woman in the city experiences the situation in the same way as an illiterate woman once she enters the domain of the courts, says the study. The law expects women to prove the income of their husband. Furthermore, women face difficulties in getting their *streedhan* or dowry back. Hence, it may be deduced that the mere existence of the law does not translate into justice. The findings suggest 'poor women struggle to survive while the middle class plunge into poverty'.

[73] (DommorajuPremchand, 2016)
[74] (Friedner, 2011)
[75] (Nigam, 2015)

## 2.3 Skills required in Marital Life :

**Ozoemena et.al. (2020)**[76]**,** revealed the result that there exists a weak relationship between marital satisfaction and problem solving ability.There was no relationship between problem solving ability and marital satisfaction. The level of Education and the gender of the respondents did not influence courtship and problem solving ability to significantly ($p>0.05$) predict the amount of variation in marital satisfaction of married individuals in South East Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study, implications were highlighted and recommendation made, prominent among which is that the counsellors should organize seminars and workshop on problem solving ability and marital satisfaction for the youths and married individuals. Limitations as well as suggestions were also highlighted.

**Haris Farah & Aneesh Kumar (2018)**[77] revealed that, the interpersonal communication skills are necessary for making good relationship bond between the partners. There also existed no statistical significant difference in gender, age and years of marriage on the study variables among couples**.**

**Moiser Anthony (1999)**[78] state about Deaf-Deaf and Deaf-hearing couples consider the most important factors contributing to marital happiness. Both Deaf-Deaf and Deaf-hearing couples reported that language and cultural compatibility is the most important quality of a successful marriage.

**Bino Thomas (2012)**[79] highlighted that family is given priority in everyone's life. But opportunities for dealing with the troubled situations in proportion with the contribution that every family makes in people's life are yet to be created. Even in the light of existing services, the number of professionals with proper knowledge, and skills to understand and engage an individual in the context of family is low. As long as the concept of ' the individual is the problem ' remains, negative attitude in seeking help for issues pertaining to relationships is unchanged, stigma prevails, and evidence-based results are published in India, dealing with issues of family remain a challenge for professionals, and a continuing process for elders in the family or influential members close to these troubled families.

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[76] (Ozoemena, 2020)
[77] (Kumar H. F., 2018)
[78] (Anthony, 1999)
[79] (Thomas B. , 2012)

## 2.4 Causes for the Increasing Rate of Divorce :

**Shelby B. Scott (2013)**[80] identified the most commonly reported major contributors to divorce were lack of commitment, infidelity, and conflict/arguing. The most common "final straw" reasons were infidelity, domestic violence, and substance use. More participants blamed their partners than blamed themselves for the divorce.

**Derek A. Kreager et.al. (2013)**[81] studied opportunities outside marriage are salient for women in abusive marriages, and educated women are more likely than uneducated women to consider and act on those opportunities. The greater tendency for educated women to leave abusive marriages was substantial. For example, in highly violent marriages, women with a college degree had over a 10% greater probability of divorce in the observed time period than women without a college degree. It was found that women's proportional earnings operated in much the same manner as education. In support of exchange theory, women who earned a high proportion of the total family income were more likely to get divorced if they were abused. On the other hand, the effect of women's proportional earnings on divorce was negative in non abusive marriages.

**Kelly Robert et.al (2016)**[82]**,** studied on the factors which are considered by the couple mostly while taking the decision of divorce. These four factors are children, happiness, money and love. Sometimes people are unsatisfied in their marriage still they are linked with it due to children. Concept of happiness in married life linked with possibility of enjoying their own life choices without influence of their own spouse. Feeling of happiness depends upon their spouse current frame of mind. Thinking of futuristic financial situation people taking next move. Feeling of being in love or expressions of love affect their thinking.

**George Levinger (1979)**[83]explained in the book that, divorce generally is the end product of a process of estrangement. It is often observer can note stepwise detachments or withdrawals; intimate relationships are not easily broken. If they do break, how-ever, they seem already to have declined to a point where one or both partners see an alternative state that is more attractive.

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[80] (Shelby B. Scott, 2013)
[81] (Derek A. Kreager, 2013)
[82] (Kelly Robert, 2016)
[83] (George, 1979)

**Ramachandra N. U. & Deepthi Radhakrishna (2019)**[84]stated that a deep-seated cultural phenomenon is custom of settlement in Indian matrimonies This Performance did not remove the dowry request that is still amenably experienced in India by philanthropic it another name, such as the bride's share. Dowry is an ancient tradition that existed at the time of Kanyadana in India and other nations as a symbol of a gift, which means giving the bride to the family of the bridegroom as a gift. Dowry is presently known at the time of matrimony as a assignment of property from woman's parents to groom's personal. Property and various gifts are passed to the family of the groom at this time. Originally, dowry was used as a way both to sanctify material wealth and also to boost marital social position. In India, marriages are usually decided by the potential spouses' relations**.**

**Dr. Parimal Kumar Roy (2003)**[85] in the book entitled, 'Family Diversity in India' studied that court documents of 200 divorces granted in Indore, a city in central India, & subsequently interviewed a selected group of divorced individuals. He found that upper castes (Brahmins and Vaishyas) were heavily represented & the most frequently cited grounds for divorce, regardless for caste or occupation of the husband were spousal abuse & interference in marital affairs by parent in law.

**Amato, Previti (2003)**[86] studied on People's Reasons for Divorcing: Gender, Social Class, the Life Course, and Adjustment. Author used national panel data collected between 1980 and 1997 to classify 208 people's open ended responses to a question on why their marriages ended in divorce in Pennsylvania. It was found that, infidelity was the most commonly reported cause, followed by incompatibility, drinking or drug use, and growing apart. Former husbands and wives were more likely to blame their ex-spouses than themselves for the problems that led to the divorce. Former husbands and wives claimed, however, that women were more likely to have initiated the divorce. People who attributed the cause of the divorce to the relationship itself, rather than to internal (self) or external factors, tended to have the best post divorce adjustment.

[84] (Ramachandra N.U, 2019)
[85] (Roy, 1989)
[86] (Amato Paul D. , 2003)

**Vasudevan (2015)**[87] conducted study on causes of divorce among the couples attending the family court, kottayam, kerala. The study is descriptive in nature and it shows that adjustment problems within the extended family, alcoholism and resulting physical abuse were the leading causes of divorce among the couples in Kerala. More females were found to be initiating proceedings for divorce than males.

**Arunima Kumari (2016)**[88]**,** conducted study in Samastipur, Bihar, which highlights many more and endless causes of divorce but after this small study the most prominent reasons which have come out of peoples mind are as follows; Physical and Mental harassment by husband: male dominance, extramarital relationship of either of the spouse, infidelity, inferiority complex, lack of adjustment, nosy mother in law, unreasonable expectations, lack of physical intimacy, negligence of responsibility, lack of time, impotency.

**Mujumdar K (1996)**[89] as family counsellor described the level of assessment at individual, dyad, parents and family subsystem level. Researcher suggested that husband and wife are individual and they have different personalities hence it need to be assessed with standardised tests. As a dyad, the couple has unique features. Many times couple has not expressed their love for many years to each other. The dyad assessed through conjoint interviews and role plays. In family there are sub groups and counsellor needed to study these group dynamics and their relationship through interviews and observation. To deal with family as subsystem couple may feel pressure and struggling to cope as familial obligations and responsibilities are primary in India rather than conjugal relationships. Further she also through a light on following assessment factors in marital conflicts like self image and image of partner, perception of the problem, areas of conflict, communication pattern between partners conflict solving methods used by the couple, other contributory factors.

**Mahdinia and Nezhad (2016)**[90] discussed their study in journal that increased in resiliency could reduce the probability of divorce in couples. Researcher highlights that poor social and economic status, high stressful life experiences, harmful physical or emotional situations increases the risk for divorce.

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[87] (VasudevnB, 2015)
[88] (Kumari, 2016)
[89] (MjumdarKalindi, 1996)
[90] (Shokoh, 2016)

**Dommoraju Premchand (2016)**[91]**,**observes today romantic love ,emotional, physical and cognitive intimacy is considered as significant factor for marital satisfaction. However marital discord can lead to divorce and separation. Researcher pointed out that the durability of marriage and strong bonding among higher educated people is only possible because higher bargaining power, greater autonomy in marital partner selection, more equal gender relationship.

**Unnikrishnan, B., et.al. (2010)**[92]**,** revealed in his study that people opted to allow their son/daughter who was infected, to get married. This reflects that there is a need to increase the awareness regarding consequences of such practices and the moral duties one needs to pay attention to, in the event of your loved one becoming a victim of HIV/AIDS.

**Damodaran and Varghese (2018)**[93] state that **t**he odds of having physical and sexual abuses and risk of major depression in adulthood were significantly greater(two times) among the males than females. Further the odds of experiencing antipathy, sexual and psychological abuses (two times),physical abuse (three times) and risk of major depression in adulthood (four times) were significantly greater among youth with family dysfunction than those without it. Irrespective of gender Kerala's youth have exposure to multiple adverse childhood experiences. However males and those with family dysfunction are at greater risk(Physical and sexual abuses and major depression in adulthood)

## 2.5 Psychological Situation of the Divorcees :

**Vitelli Romeo (2015)**[94] highlighted that post divorce life have lot of struggle and divorcee has to face it alone. Due to stress and emotional consequences of divorce along with support from friends and family, divorcee can often need counseling to handle and learn how to move on afterward. While divorce is becoming increasingly common around the world, the emotional pain involved is still very real. Learning to deal with that pain and moving on afterward can be the key to a successful life.

[91] (DommorajuPremchand, 2016)
[92] (Unnikrishnan, 2010)
[93] (Deepa Damodaran, 2018)
[94] (Romeo, 2015)

**J. K. Trivedi, et.al (2009)**[95] conducted study and it reveals that divorce and widowhood are very distressing event of individual's life which creates psychological implications. Further it also resulted in feelings of guilt, remorse and aloofness. Sometimes there is inclination to reject depressive symptoms which are socially and culturally acceptable. However distress associated with these events could be harbingers of psychiatric illness often requiring attention (medical or otherwise). Hence there is need to create awareness among public in general through various means of mass media about these consequences.

**Meinou H.C.et. al. (2017)**[96] conducted study to examine the link between divorce or separation and emotional and behavioural problems in children age 2-4 years. Finding suggest the importance of identifying care needs and providing care for preschool children whose parents have divorced since they suggest that there may be negative effect in longer term.

**Njeru Mercy, (2017)**[97]**,** revealed that there was a positive significant correlation between parental divorce and social wellbeing, emotional wellbeing, intellectual wellbeing. The study further concludes that the estimated effects are generally strong. These strong effect sizes can be interpreted in two ways. The study recommends that in future studies, it would be important to account for a complete list of different family structures. For example, we could include same-sex families. In the current study only accounted for single, married and divorced families which may have limited participants' options if they described their family structure in a different manner. Also, for researchers interested in family relationships and attitudes, it is important to collect data from a diverse population of participants.

**Kaneez Salma (2015)**[98] studied on psychosocial determinants of divorce, divorcee's life style and their perceived life satisfaction, a comparative study of Hindu and Muslim. The results revealed that social, emotional, financial, and health were the important facets of life where most of the divorced women found dissatisfied. Studies suggest that problems of divorce must be extensively studied in psychological perspective. The marriage counselling and family intervention techniques could be evolved to reduce marital discard.

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[95] (Trivedi, 2009)
[96] (Meinou H.C., 2017))
[97] (Mercy Wawira Njeru, 2017)
[98] (Salma, 2015)

**Naz Arab, et. al. (2016)**[99]The results reveal that divorce produces several negative impacts on children that bring negative consequences in personality and socialization of children and draws pessimism in the larger spectrum of society.

**Jurgita Babarskiene & Julija Gaiduk (2017)**[100]young people learn from parents through observation, direct teaching, interaction patterns. Thus if parents pay more attention to the quality of their couple relationship, levels of conflict, and ways of resolving problems as well as how they model and teach about gender roles and values, it could help young people develop more healthy ideas about marriage. In addition, more research should be done in the area of gender role ideology and how it is an important socialization agent which is transmitted through families, education, media, and being learned by observing other and own relationships.

**Malik & Dixit (2017)**[101] studied that women are more susceptible to HIV due to cultural barriers, health vulnerabilities and social structures. They show less awareness about the treatment facilities, prevention strategies and perceived risk of infection. Women have to face numerous challenges after the infection, such as lack of social support, a higher level of stigma and discrimination, decreased quality of life, mental health issues and adverse coping.

## 2.6 Post Divorce Life :

**Gabriel Jelestin, S (2000)**[102]**,** Mismatching divorce and dowry practice in Kanyakumari District. Children lost their parental love, affection and security. Totally they will not get proper future. In Indian society more people are not in favour for divorce and they feel that divorce and divorce law is not necessary. In most of the families in-Iaws, relatives and friends are responsible for mitigating divorce. Significant percentages of people have taken various efforts to avoid divorce in their families. But only little percentage have succeeded in their efforts. Majority people who were not taking efforts to avoid divorce have no interest in other family issues.

[99] (Naz Arab, 2016)
[100] (Gaiduk, 2017)
[101] (Anu Malik, 2017)
[102] (Gabriel Jelestin, 2000)

**Singh et.al (1978)**[103]**,** analyzed the causes of divorce and how divorce affects the entire system. i.e. the husband wife and the family. The various behavioural changes, which take place as a result of divorce like stress, low self esteem, depression, rise in crime rate among the children.

**Mary, M. J. (2013)** [104] analysed the judicial dissolution of marriage in Kannada district, India. The study is aimed at exploring the factors of increasing divorce rates, the phases the persons undergo during the process of divorce and the adjustment to the post divorced life and it also aims at preparing intervention plans on the basis of the findings to help in the amicable settlement of divorce and better adjustment in post divorced life. Study concludes that no single causal factor is responsible for dissolution of marriage. Different natures of dissatisfactions between the spouses are affecting due to the personal, familial, social and economic condition or structure. Divorce has been found to have social, psychological and educational effects on the children of divorced parents. Therefore, it is suggested that further studies on divorce should take cognizance of the changed situation. It is also recommended to start divorce counselling on a large scale to help the divorcing and the divorced overcome the stress and cope with the future situation.

**Mattoo, Ashai (2012)**[105]**,** conducted study and aims of the study were focused on impact of divorce on the attitude of women, attitude of women towards society and societal relations of women. Forty divorced women were selected for the study. It concluded that cruelty was the main reason of divorce and maximum women were emotionally traumatized and depressed after divorce. They lived with their parents and had to face a lot of difficulty in the upbringing of their children especially financial and emotional. Little attention was paid to self and their self worth had also decreased. Majority of the women thought that unemployed women suffer the most but suicidal tendency was not found among the maximum of them. They blamed the other partner for divorce and hated their ex husband's. Decision of divorce is not regretted and they rarely think of reconciliation and remarriage.

[103] (Singh, 1978)
[104] (M.J, 2015)
[105] (Mattoo, 2012)

**Kramrel Elizabeth et.al (2007)[106],** conducted meta analysis on the role of social relationship in adults post divorce adjustment. Study reveals that social relationship between the post divorce life are associated with higher levels of positive adjustment and lower level of maladjustment. Particularly network relationships are important in promoting positive adjustment. While specific relationships are important for buffering against maladjustment.

**Jennifer E. Lansford (2015)[107],** reviews the research literature on links between parental divorce and children's short-term and long-term adjustment. First, consider evidence regarding how divorce relates to children's externalizing behaviours, internalizing problems, academic achievement, and social relationships. Secondly examine timing of the divorce, demographic characteristics, children's adjustment prior to the divorce, and stigmatization as moderators of the links between divorce and children's adjustment. Third, author examines income, inter-parental conflict, parenting, and parents' well-being as mediators of relations between divorce and children's adjustment. Finally, he considers notable policies related to grounds for divorce, child support, and child custody in light of how they might affect children's adjustment to their parents' divorce.

**Sbrra David (2016)[108],** conducted study in USA to understand how health and well being is dependent on social relationship. It also focused on relationship between marital separation and health outcomes. Results shows that experience of divorce confers risk of poor health outcomes including 23% of higher mortality rate. However majority people were able to cope well and are flexible after their marriage or in long term relationship ends. Three primary areas were suggested for further research. a) Genetic and third variable explanation for divorce related health outcomes. b) Better studies on social behaviour after separation. c) Increased attention to interventions targeting high risk adults.

**Leopold Thomas (2018)[109],** conducted study during 1984 to 2015 examined 18,030 individuals initially in marital union, among them 1220 were divorced during observation period. Findings shows that men were more vulnerable in short term consequences of divorce for subjective measures of wellbeing. However midterm

[106] (Kramrel Elizabeth, 2007)
[107] (Lansford, 2015)
[108] (David, 2016)
[109] (Thomas, 2018)

consequences of divorce were similar in terms of subjective economic well being, mental health, physical health, psychological well beings, residential moves, homeownership, and satisfaction of housework, and chances of re partnering, social integration with friends and relatives, and feelings of loneliness. Compare to men women were at risk of poverty and single parenting.

**Watson N. 'Greef A. (2004)**[110]**,**studied on learning theory and schema theory were evaluated as possible explanations for the variance found in the adjustment of adolescent children of divorce. Results did, however, support learning theory as an adequate explanation for the positive correlations found between parent-adolescent relationships and adolescent adjustment. Knowledge of the importance of learning theory in explaining variance in adolescent adjustment to divorce can increase parents' awareness of their influence on their children's adjustment.

**Huurre T.et.al (2006)**[111] conducted 16-year follow-up study to investigate whether 32-year-old adults who had experienced parental divorce before 16 years of age (n = 317) differed in psychosocial well-being or life trajectories from those from non-divorced two-parent families (n = 1069). Study revealed that parental divorce is an indicator of sufficient stress in childhood for its influences to persist well into adulthood, possibly with wider scope among females. It is important to recognise specific needs of children in the divorce process in order to prevent or minimize negative consequences and chain reactions during their subsequent life.

**Eymann (2009)**[112] conducted study on impact of divorce on the quality of life in school-age children**.** The results of this study show that divorce affects children's quality of life. Child Health Quality -Parent Form scores were lower in children of Divorce Families than in those of Married Families for various domains, namely time impact on family, social-emotional functioning and behaviour, self-esteem, mental health, behaviour and finally the psychosocial summary score integrating all these variables. These results agree with those reported in a quality of life survey conducted in a group of Austrian elementary school children.

[110] (Watson, 2004)
[111] (Huurre T, 2006)
[112] (Eymann, 2009)

**Flood Michel et.al (2007)[113],** described in encyclopaedia in the context of western societies considering the citizenship and ideas of responsibility particularly in U.K.it was found that clear and determined attempt to affect social engineering in the area of family by changing very nature of post divorce family life where men and masculinity is central element. Few aspects of new divorce correlate the tendency for men about right based framework. The image of good father would and should fight for his children and reflecting new culture.

**Bhatia and Munjal (2014)[114]**those patients living with HIV/AIDS that are divorced or widow/widower have a very high prevalence of depression as they have to deal with stresses of taking care of their children and families by themselves and face the stigma from the society.

**Pinto Vincent., & D'Mello, Laveena (2018)[115]** in their study states that the highest number of divorced women had full sympathy from their parent and friends. Due to the strong social bondage, divorcee receives good treatment from parents & others in India. Divorce is a personal tragedy. The gravity and implications of anguish & pain depends on the treatment he/she receives from the society.

**Subramanian T.et.al (2009)[116]** gender and marital status had significant association with quality of life of people living with HIV /AIDS. The findings of the study underscore the need for enabling environment through "human force" to uplift their social status and to have a better quality of life. stigma were experienced on a higher proportion by females than males.

## 2.7 Intervention for Better Adjustment of Divorced Persons :

**Gilman, Schneider, and Shulak (2005)[117]** an intervention study of Children's Ability to Cope Post-Divorce conducted in San Francisco Bay area. The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of the Kids' Turn program upon the coping skills, behavior and attitude of participants aged 7 to 9 years of age. The goal underlying this program is to mitigate the difficulties that children experience through

[113] (Flood Michel, 2007)
[114] (Bhatia, 2014)
[115] (Pinto Vincent., 2018)
[116] (Thilakavathi Subramanian, 2009)
[117] (Gilman Jan, 2005)

parental separation and/or divorce. These difficulties include emotional problems, acting-out behaviour, poor school achievement and adjustment, and confusion about the family situation (Kelly, 1999). Within its six-week, 12-hour framework, the format includes programming for both parents and children aged 4 through 14. The study included 60, 7-9-year-old children who participated with their parents. Based on specific behavioural criteria, pre- and post testing revealed that children's adjustment significantly improved after completing Kids' Turn. The results of this study show that Kids' Turn is capable of affecting change in attitude and belief systems, as well as behaviour, for 7-9 year olds enrolled in the program. This change appears quite broad and may have far-reaching effects.

**Tousi Dorri (2013)** [118] conducted experimental study in Arsanjan, Iran. Sample of 60 individuals who were selected for sampling. Using these 60 patients randomly divided into two groups of 30 patients (15 women and 15 men with high education and low education) and 30 control subjects (15 women and 15 men with high education and low education) were employed. Following the pre-test was administered to both groups. Then 8 decisiveness and assertiveness skills training sessions were conducted for the group while the control group did not receive any training. After applying t-test results shows that decisiveness and assertiveness training had more significant impact on divorced women with high education.

**Kanel Kristi (2010),**[119] described intervention model for divorcee and their children in the book. It is related to crisis intervention. The goal behind it is help the client grieve. Individual can be encouraged to cry, write, pray, read and go to divorce support groups. Educating the clients about the grief process which help normalize their experience. Author pointed out that effect of divorce on children is depending on how parents deal with them and each other during divorce. Civility and assurance that both still love the children help them greatly. Author suggested intervention to children is to participate regularly in group sessions to share their experiences, learn about problem solving strategies, offer mutual support and individual therapy.

[118] (DorriGhanadTousi, 2013)
[119] (Kristi, 2010)

**Gottman and Silver (1999)** [120] **,** described in the book that emotional intelligence can be prime indicator for long lasting and successive married life. Author highlighted that there are 35% chances of getting sick in unhappy marriage and shorten the life by four to eight years. They can suffer from high blood pressure, heart disease, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, psychosis, violence and suicide. Author intervened and studied the effect of standard marital therapy. It was found that success rate is about 75%.

**Sprenkle Douglas (1985)**[121] introduced and defined divorce therapy in the edited journal. It is to assist the divorcee to deal with his /her loss, resolving ambivalence, fostering sovereignty or self esteem as independent individual. Author highlights that divorce is complex process hence tailor made therapy can be applied with deeper understanding of phenomena. Intervention with other stake holder is necessary. Its challenging to psychotherapist to understand transitions in family system which is major support for individual begins to break apart.

**Neil Katler (1987)**[122]**,** introduced intervention in America to reduce incidence and severity of the problems which have been associated with parental separation and divorce. It is group model implemented in elementary schools once a week for eight weeks. Five to eight members in a group with two adult one male and one female group leader. The flow of intervention is first to remove the stigma as divorced parent child. Second concerns and questions clarifying which are related to divorce. Then free space provided to children where they can ventilate their emotions. Lastly coping skills were promoted to manage trouble feeling and difficulties in family interactions.

**Wegscheider-CruseSharon (2012)**[123]**,** talks in the book about his more than twenty years of experience to working with divorcee and his survey emphasize that people always afraid of divorce ,are feel lonely and depressed. Author suggested to divorced couple that nothing is constant in our life, hence it is necessary to swim against the current. Further highlights that it is necessary to maintain the balance between human interactions and their use of technology which is the major cause of divorce now a days.

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[120] (Gottman John, 1999)
[121] (Douglas, 1985)
[122] (kalter, 1987)
[123] (Wegscheider-CruseSharon, 2012)

**Dragica Vukalovich (2004)[124],** revealed that adjustment to separation and divorce can be a lengthy and lonely process and recovery may appear like that long and winding dusty road to now here. For those experiencing the anguish of separation and divorce and seeking intervention, the results of this study are encouraging. Some attendees found participation in group intervention program helpful and experienced short term benefits while others reported long term benefits. On the other hand some found less value in group intervention experience where short and long term gains were limited. Study suggest that the majority of the participant reported adjustment changes, hence gained more positive outlook of the future.

## 2.8 The empirical studies reviewed by the researcher reveal the following aspects :

In the context of legislative procedures and legal system it was found that the divorce rates are increasing due to unilateral divorce unilateral divorce. It was having adverse effects on families and children who born shortly before the legal changes. Divorce law gives the clarity but process is very lengthy. In some places of India inadequate infrastructural facilities and limited human resources have implications on effective functioning on Family court. By respecting the legal system there is need to identify constitutional and legal provisions. Process law support to develop some standards for cases which are going to be settled. However uniformity and compulsion of marriage registration is not possible some communities are still governed by different marriage laws.. Concentration given on removing mental disorder from the disability under the marriage laws because mental illness can be cured to survive as normal life. It could be violation of right marriage with mental disorder. Social change is not possible only by using law, hence philosophical base must be strong.

Socio Economic, cultural and demographic profile highlights of the age, sex, economic, rural or urban residence, literacy of the divorcees and foreign countries family structure, economic issues, influence of religion were the factors creating stress among married couples. The couple taking divorce in very young age and companionship or partnership period was found one to ten years. Hence its affect on

[124] (DragicaVukalovich, 2004)

fertility rate of couple. Higher percentages of divorcees were coming from nuclear family and marriages were arranged marriages. Risk of divorce and separation among interracial couple was similar to more divorce prone origin group. It was found that majority of female filed application for divorce. Remarriage of women was totally depend on the age during the first marriage, age during divorce, length of previous marriage and children from first marriage. In the context of positive demographic profile in long term following significant factors were important similarities in cultural values and role expectations, high socioeconomic status, good mental health, absence of parental divorce, absence of pre marital pregnancy, living in rural area, marriage after age of thirty in foreign countries. Socio economic class has its impact on marriage values.

Familial obligations and responsibilities are primary in India rather than marital relationship. Hence single as well as multiple reasons were found for divorce, such as misunderstanding or adjustment problems within the extended families, infidelity, inferiority complex, unreasonable expectations, alcoholism, patriarchy, dowry, exploitation by husband and in laws, extra marital relationship of either or spouse, sexual maladjustment, impotency, deception made at the time of marriage, interference by in laws in marital affairs. Personality differences and incompatibility were major reasons for initial conflicts between couples. Many times couples were not expressing their love to each other for many years.

In foreign countries incompatibility, drinking or drug use, extra marital relationships are major reasons for divorce.

Divorce shows major impact on psychological situation on divorcee, such as feeling of guilt, sorrow, aloofness, depressive symptoms etc. To cope with stress and emotional consequences here majority couple need counselling and for some psychiatric treatment. Hence there is need to create awareness about the implications of divorce on mass level.

The situation of post divorce life shows that children were deprived from their parental love, affection and security. Very controversial behavioural changes takes place among children such as low self esteem, stress, depression and increased crime rate. In Indian culture many people are in against of divorce hence trying to avoid such situations in their families but very few were succeeded. Divorcee were

emotionally traumatised and depressed after divorce and emotionally. It was very difficult for the divorcee to raise their children financially; they blamed each other for divorce but rarely thinking of reconciliation. Association between social relationship and post divorce life shows that higher level of positive adjustment.

In foreign countries suicidal attempt or mortality was found during post divorce life. Impact of divorce was more on women rather than men on social, emotional, physical and psychological well being. They were more prone to single parenting and poverty. Parental divorce creates stress among children and persist well into adulthood. Quality of life of divorcee definitely affected

Some initiatives were taken in foreign countries for coping skills, behaviour and attitude, and it was found that children were significantly improved in behaviour and change was found in attitude and belief system. Crisis intervention was suggested and implemented to help the individual to cry, write, pray, read and go to support groups.

## 2.9 Research Gaps Identified from the Review :

1. There is paucity of literature on existing intervention or preventive intervention on divorce.
2. Most of the studies which have been conducted mainly focused on institutionalized approach of divorce like age at marriage, polygamy, cause of divorce etc. Socio- psychological and legal aspects, post divorce situations, possibility of intervention to reduce the increasing divorce rate or assisting the better settlement of the divorcees have not been given importance.
3. There is no specific confirmation from the studies that whether divorce occurs among higher and middle class people or lower income people and whether initiative of divorce comes more from husbands or wives. So need to collect the data from diverse population means from different socioeconomic strata.
4. Number of studies discusses the divorce connected issues like dowry, marriage registration, separation etc. And these studies have been conducted only on an opinion based in urban areas, not personal interviews. However in India nobody yet covered the study by using quality of life indicators.

In view of the above research gaps, the researcher taking up all the gaps identified into consideration has come up with a specific methodology which has been clearly and step by step explained in research methodology chapter.

The situation raise some questions – If the family system is basic unit of the society the how individualism, materialism is breaking this units. Whether greater independence both sexual, as well as economic has been given to individual.

## 2.10 Summary of Chapter :

In Literature Review chapter total 72 studies were reviewed and differentiate it under significant aspects of divorce. The first point is legislative procedures on marriage and divorce under which eight studies were covered which highlighted the legal aspects, procedures and interactions with legal professionals related to divorce and its limitations were covered. Second point is Socio – Economic, Cultural and Demographic profile of divorcee. 15 studies were covered under this point which highlighted the common demographic features fund in their respective studies, i.e age of marriage, education, religious and social category, professional aspects, rural-urban differentiation etc. Third point highlighted the skills required in marital life, such as interpersonal relationship, problem solving skills, which are related to marital satisfaction. In fourth point 14 studies were covered and this point titled with causes for the increasing rate of divorce. These studies conducted in different parts of India. Physical and Mental harassment by husband: male dominance, extramarital relationship of either of the spouse, infidelity, inferiority complex, lack of adjustment, nosy mother in law, unreasonable expectations, lack of physical intimacy, negligence of responsibility, lack of time, impotency are some prominent causes found in studies. Next point state in review was psychological situation of the divorcees. Eight studies shows that due to stress and emotional consequences divorcee need counselling to cope with the situation. In further point post divorce life, how in Indian culture significant percentages of people have taken various efforts to avoid divorce in their families because stigma is attached to divorce highlighted in 15 studies. Intervention for Better Adjustment of Divorced Persons is next point mostly studies highlighted the intervention with children who need support after parental divorce. The chapter ends with the gap identified in review.

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# CHAPTER - III
# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Introduction :**

*Present chapter is about the research methodology used in research process. Basically present research is qualitative in nature. Case study method is applied to understand the detail impact of divorce on quality of life. The chapter starts with the point statement of problem to understand the background and the need of the study, followed by conceptual framework of study and then research questions highlight and facilitate more detailed information about the issue. Immediate after research questions objectives are stated. Followed by scope of the study and significance of the study highlights the usefulness of study to various stake holders connected with research. Further methodology used in this research is explained which is the core part of the study. The process of Analysis of data described and chapter concludes with limitations of study.*

## 3.1 Statement of the Problem :

Now divorce is the worldwide issue, prominent in northern Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as in Southern Europe and industrialised Asia including South Korea and Japan. It has been steadily increasing in China and socially conservative India which historically has had one of the lowest rates of divorce in the world. Only two countries Philippines and Vatican City do not have legal procedure for granting divorce. (Emery Robert, 2013) [125]

The Family system all over the world is changing today with increased divorce rates due to the great social political & economic changes which adversely influence children. In the midst of these changes, the Indian family still holds its solidarity and plays an important role in the formation of values in our society. In spite of the solidarity in the Indian families a silent social transformation is taking place in the Indian families also.

[125] (Emery, 2013)

Urbanization & industrialization is drawing more & more people towards the cities & causing disintegration of family as a unit. Modernization and growth of individualism are also the reasons for the disintegration of joint family as a system leading to the growth of the nuclear family.

Over four decades, the proportion of divorced or separated women between the age group of 45-49 has increased steadily, from 3.3 per cent around 1980 to 4.7 per cent around 2010. Average regional rates span 21.1 per cent in Australia and New Zealand to 1.4 per cent in Central and Southern Asia. A Research in 91 low- and middle-income countries revealed the rate of extreme poverty among divorced/separated women (8 per cent) to be double the rate for divorced/separated men (3.9 per cent),Divorce rates in India are amongst the lowest in the world. 13 marriages out of 1000 marriages ended up in divorce. The divorce rate is lower in villages; higher in urban areas(UN report 2019).

The traditional image of home & family as a cosy nest of love, security, togetherness and never-ending happiness has been severely battered in recent times. This is also proved by an abundance of statistical evidence based on empirical studies that family discord and divorce is continuously on the rise.

The Family Court came into existence to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. Besides this, the idea underlying the movement for family court is that ordinary courts with their conservative atmosphere, setting and procedure, cannot appropriately deal with family disputes in the proper spirit. There is also the feeling that all matters concerning a family should be settled speedily in one court.

Divorce rates are shooting up in Pune, a noted IT city is western India. With a population of 4.5 million, Pune is the second largest city in the state of Maharashtra. It is located roughly 150 kilometre east of Mumbai, India's commercial metropolis and itself a rising industrial city. It has a very strong presence in the automobiles sector and is home to many software and information technology (IT) companies. Interestingly, Pune is also considered the cultural capital of Marathi-speaking Maharashtra'. Pune has several reputed colleges and other educational institutions- as a result it is called the Oxford of the East (or 'Oxford of India'). The trend of increased divorce rate considered disturbing, if not alarming. According to Vinay

Borikar Principal Judge at the Family Court, in 2006, there were an average of 150 divorce cases a month but number went up to approximately 240 cases a month during 2007. While half of them are as per mutual consent, the rest are on unilateral consent." This is very unusual for a country where marriage is considered for life, "till death do us part." Among states with the highest number of divorces Maharashtra topped the list in the past year accounting for nearly 20,000 cases, with Mumbai and Pune alone accounting for 15,000 of them, while remaining were reported from Nasik, Aurangabad and Nagpur.

Undergoing the process of divorce and consequences of divorce is a mentally as well as economically shattering experience for the partners. The after effects of divorce, especially for the children, have a damaging effect when the issue of custody arises. The practice of awarding custody primarily to one parent is bad for everyone involved:- child, father ,mother and even in-laws.

On this background, marriages dissolving quickly are indeed a matter of concern. A host of social, psychological, economic and cultural reasons are cited by couples while applying for a divorce. Lack of compatibility, interfering in-laws, cruelty, domestic violence and irregular communication were the causes of the split.

Considering the increasing trend of the family disputes researcher seek to compelled the unresolved questions and interest in knowing about why the basic human values, commitment towards marriage conquer with individualism and materialism. Study explored the key aspect of individual's life to take decision of divorce. The present social problem is so sensitive that researcher wants to gain concrete, contextual, in-depth knowledge about a specific real world subject. To facilitates exploration of a phenomenon within its context using a variety of data sources and to know the social construction of reality researcher used qualitative case study method by understanding the stories of participants researcher was able to describe their views of reality and this enables the researcher to have better understanding the participants' actions. The study analyzed the impact of divorce on quality of life of divorcee and family members of divorce families by using qualitative data analysis techniques.

## 3.2 Conceptual Framework :

In the present research study researcher explored the quality of life of divorcee and factors responsible for divorce. The conceptual framework presenting the quality of life depends on journey of individual from childhood (socialization) to adulthood. Perception of family or individual towards marriage in the context of eligibility of individual for marriage, consent for marriage and formalities done in marriage(spending money).Culture of specific location and community impact on marriage means it is a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms through which people communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge and attitudes toward life.

Divorce become inevitable on the basis of above factors (means socio, emotional and cultural).Then the quality of life of divorcee depends upon the socio economic background of individual(education, income, facilities, responsibility of children) and the support system available for him/her(family support, friend circle, relatives)

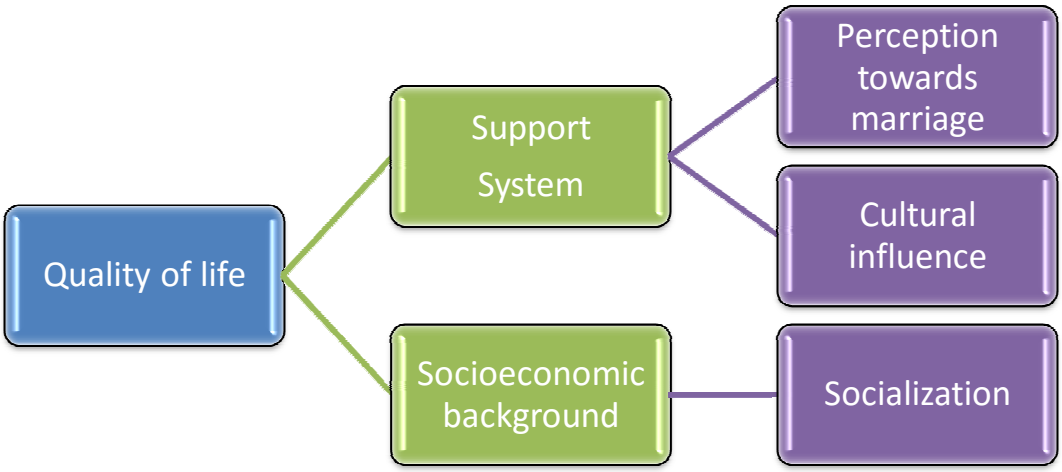



**Figure No. 3.1 : Quality of Life**

## 3.3 Research Questions :

1. What are the similarities and differences in divorcee families belonging from diverse socio-economic and cultural background?
2. Why the basic humanity values, commitment towards marriage is conquer with individualism and materialism?

3. How do social, emotional, cultural key aspects influence the decision making process?
4. How does divorce affect the Quality of Life of divorcee?
5. How are children and other family members coping after divorce in the family?

## 3.4 Objectives of the Study :

1. To explore the differences and similarities among the divorcees from diverse socio-economic background
2. To analyze the socio, emotional and cultural factors influencing decision of divorce.
3. To examine the impact of divorce on quality of life of divorcee, their families and children.
4. To suggest social work intervention model for strengthening Quality of Life of Family.
5. To know the perception & attitude of lawyers and counsellors towards preventing divorce.

## 3.5 Scope of the Study :

This study was limited to Pune District only. As applied case study method total 32 cases were studied. The study was focused on the approach of youth towards Family and Marriage. The study examined perspectives of divorcee about their quality of life with diversified background. The study also highlights on the consequences of divorce on the children and other Family members.

## 3.6 Significance of the Study :

This study was focused on the current status and lacunas in the family of Indian society. The study will be helpful to family counselling centres to understand the emerging transitions in the family system.

The data will be supportive for the civil society organisations to work with preventive measures to inculcate the importance of family as strong moral and social support system.

This study envisages the importance of inclusion of family life education in the college level curricula that will help the government to take related policy decision.

This study also includes scope of social work intervention among the divorced families in post divorce life and in improvement of quality of life of people.

The study also suggests the probable intervention strategies to prevent and minimize the divorce rate. The researcher envisages the outcome of this present study will be highly supportive in the inclusion of family life and life skill education in the curriculum of education. It could also be applicable to futuristic couples to prepare to face the challenges of married life. The study prominently contributes in building qualitative family relationship which is the basic unit of society.

## 3.7 Variables :

**Table No. 3.1**

**Variables**

| Independent | Dependent |
|---|---|
| Socialization | Socio Economic background |
| Attitude towards marriage | Support system |
| Socio cultural factors | Decision of divorce |
| Divorce | Health and wellness |
| Socioeconomic background | Quality of life |
| Support system | |

## 3.8 Propositions :

- **Proposition 1:** Divorce has major impact on health and wellness of divorcee women despite of any socio economic group.
- **Proposition 2** : Various socio, cultural and economic factors affecting the decision of divorce.

- **Proposition 1 :**

  The researcher proposed that divorce has major impact on health and wellness of individual and family members. Health and wellness here refers to one of the indicators of quality of life suggested by World Health Organisation. Many studies have been conducted on Divorce, however, very few studies have focused on the quality of life post-divorce. The researcher finds it imperative to understand primary impact of divorce on individual's life and to explore the need of psychological and emotional support.

- **Proposition 2 :**

  Lot of changes have occurred in family functions and extra familial institutions are emerged in the society. Members are less dependent upon the family. Thus, traditional image of home and family has been seriously decrepit. Parents are investing huge money in marriage for happiness of their children. In spite of provision of counselling services available in family court, rate of divorce is still increasing. The researcher proposes to study influence of family dynamics and socio economic, cultural factors affecting the decision making in divorce. The researcher also proposes to study the perspective of people towards marriage and divorce.

## 3.9 Multiple Case Study Research Design :

Instead of survey method, qualitative research approach with case study method was used to get in-depth understanding about the phenomena. The researcher has used multiple case studies research design. It enables the researcher to explore differences within and between cases. The goal is to replicate findings across cases. Comparisons was drawn, by choosing the cases carefully so that the researcher was able to predict similar results across cases, or predict contrasting results based on a theory (Yin, 2003)[126].

Multiple case studies use replication design. The replication logic is the logic of selecting two or more cases in the multiple case studies. Each case study is selected to a) Predict similar results i.e. literal replication. b) Predict contrasting results but for

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anticipatable reasons- a theoretical replication. The procedure to conduct the multiple case studies was based on the procedure given by Robert Yin 2012. Researcher had identified the themes and variables. Through this qualitative study, differences were explored within and between the cases.

### 3.10 Unit of Analysis :

The units of analysis in this particular case study were the divorcee individual in the family. The aspects broadly studied were socioeconomic background, type of marriage and family structure, core reason of divorce etc. The researcher, has selected a definite number of cases from families with different socio cultural context. It is classified into five contexts.

a) Families in Urban setting.
b) Families in Rural Setting
c) Families with differently able divorcee individual
d) Families with divorcee person living with HIV /AIDS
e) Divorcee Individual (Destitute) from residential institute

- **Numbers of cases from different backgrounds are as given below**

**Table No. 3.2**

**Number of Cases from different backgrounds**

| **Socio cultural background** | **Number of respondent** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Divorcee (6 male + 26 female) | Children (information provided by the parents) | Parents |
| Residential Institute | 2 | 1 | 1 (Head and founder of institution) |
| Urban base | 17 | 12 | 9 |
| Differently able | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Rural Base | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| People living with HIV | 4 | 2 | -- |
| Total | 32 | 20 | 15 |

### 3.11 Data Collection Process :

It was nothing but a procedural guide for collecting the data for a case study, including a set of questions to be addressed by the researcher. The researcher had designed a data collection protocol for key person of family i.e. Divorcee individual, Children, and the family members. The discussion questions were used as outline for the in-depth discussions.

### 3.12 Inclusion Criteria :

Individuals who were divorcee either had children or were childless, staying either with their parents or alone were research participants. Focus in selection of cases was an individual who had completed minimum one year of total legal process of divorce, not remarried.

### 3.13 Exclusion Criteria :

Individuals those who have applied for divorce or the process is going on were not selected for the study. Even after divorce those who remarried were excluded from the study.

### 3.14 Data was collected by using following methods and tools

a) **In-depth interviews** (self structured) were conducted with divorcee to understand their post divorce quality of life by using quality of life indicators.

b) **Children Divorce Adjustment Inventory (CDAI)** (Brown and Portes,1994) The CDAI is a 25-item checklist that serves to assess the child's response to divorce and separation distress, using a scale from 1 (strongly agree) to5 (strongly disagree). The CDAI was published in the *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage* (Portes et al., 1994). The article states, "this inventory appears useful and internally consistent overall and provides a unique tool for family studies concerned with development and family status change"(Portes, Lehman, & Brown, p. 44).

c) **Interview guide (self structured)for counsellors, lawyers, family members:** It is self structured to know the approach of service providers towards divorce on the basis of their experience and to understand how family members faced challenges after the divorce of their son or daughter.

## 3.15 Sources of Data :

The researcher resorted to both primary and secondary data collection methods for the present study. The primary sources included Divorcee Individual, Children of Divorced parents and family members with whom they are staying. They were contacted in person, through email and over the telephone. At least 2 discussion rounds were conducted to understand each case in detail. The secondary data sources included Journal, Books, Internet, Online library, Website, annual reports etc. '*Pratibimb*' is the journal used to understand present situation of phenomena which is published every year by team of marriage counsellors of family court from Maharashtra for the last 22 years. Association of Marriage Counsellor of Family Court, Maharashtra State has started to publish this journal in 1995 and every year it was published in Annual Coordination Meeting of Marriage Counsellors. In case studies credibility of research results is determined by their quality, which in turn, is defined by fulfilling the four criteria:-

1. **Construct Validity :**

   Triangulation of data sources was used. It involves using different sources of information in order to increase validity of a study. Such as family members, documents, relatives, friends, lawyers, special organisation working for them. This was an endeavour to arrive at the same set of conclusions.




**Figure No. 3.2 : Triangulation of Data Sources**

2. **Internal Validity :**

   Pattern matching approach was used to confirm the results. It shows relationship between the two variables.

3. **External Validity** :

   It was checked by using theoretical replication.

4. **Reliability :**

   Researcher followed all protocols of case study such as rules and procedures.

## 3.16 Analysis of the Case Study :

Researcher had arranged the collected qualitative and quantitative data in systematic pattern, insights or concept which can be further analyzed using various case study techniques of analysis. The researcher used exploratory and descriptive analytic framework drawing its inferences from the and the case study protocol.

The researcher has used the non-traditional question and answer format for each case. The case study report also consists of separate section on individual analysis of the initiatives based on the thematic analysis..

a) **Context wise analysis :**

   The researcher has used atlas ti to analyse cases in their respective context by using variables and its interrelation.

b) **Cross case report :**

   The researcher has used a comparative structure across the multiple case studies. The comparison is done based on predefined concepts defined in theoretical framework in the beginning of the case study.

## 3.17 Limitations of the Study :

The present study was limited to Pune District and 32 case studies.

The present study was on very sensitive and personal issue thus it was quite difficult to convince respondents and organisation to participate in the research.

To study the impact of divorce on Quality of Life on family members could be time and energy consuming process as it involves interaction and dialogue with children and other family members of the couple.

Conducting interview with children was challenging because parents were not ready with it. Even an individual's adaptation of new environment process after divorce could create limitations to get in depth data.

Reaching out to respondents unavailable at the family court at their home after getting their consent can create limitations in the context of distance of place (house), availability of time, readiness to respond.

### 3.18 Ethical Consideration :

The researcher while exploring and gaining insight into the subject of study from different stakeholders had maintained appropriate ethical standards. The following steps were taken to ensure appropriate ethical standards.

- **Institutional permission to conduct the study:** Researcher had followed the proper protocol to get the permission from family court, Pune and then Mumbai High court. After refusal of permission researcher approached different civil society organisations in Pune District to saught the permission for data collection. In this regard, a letter of request indicating the purpose of the study was sent.
- **Beneficence** meant maximising the benefits and minimising the risk or harm. The researcher applied this principle by making sure that the participants were not exposed to mental or physical danger or harm. Anonymity and confidentiality helped the participants avoid harm. Confidentiality meant that the researcher knows the identity of the participants and their associated responses but ensures non disclosure of this information. The researcher applied these principles by asking the respondents not to give their names and assuring them that he would not reveal their identity to anyone who requested the results of the study.
- **Respect**: The researcher applied this principle by explaining the purpose of the study to the participants and also the importance of their participation in

this endeavour. Informed consent was obtained from the participants. Participants were informed that they could revoke their consent to participate in this study at any time during the process.

- **Justice** : The respondents of the study were treated fairly and also given a choice whether to participate or not. When treated with respect and fairness, they can trust the outcome of the research; the result is the co-operative and productive relationship between researchers and participants.

### 3.19 Summary of Chapter :

The third chapter is research methodology. The chapter begins with statement of problem in which background of study subject and importance to study the subject was focused. Second point was conceptual framework. This framework explained the quality of life after divorce depends upon the two factors i.e. support system and socio economic background. The chapter continued with research questions. Research questions are important in case study because it helps to explore answers to how and why questions. After research questions, objectives were stated then to explain the geographical area and nature of the respondents the next point added and it was scope of the study. Further how the study will be useful for different stake holders highlighted in the point significance of study. Independent and dependent variables were included to explain interrelationship of various factors. Then two propositions written and described in next point. After that research design included in the chapter followed by unit of analysis explained. Further it continued with data collection process, then inclusion and exclusion criteria. Then three different data collection methods and tools were used for different stake holders were highlighted. Then data source explained by using four factors i.e. construct validity, internal validity, external validity and reliability. In last section of this chapter case study analysis written. Further limitations of study and chapter ends with ethical consideration applied by researcher in whole research process.

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# CHAPTER - IV
# DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Introduction :**

*The present chapter speaks about data analysis and is divided into six sections. The section one is dedicated to the narration and analysis of the individual cases. Family Genogram is used to show the relationship and health history of that family and individual. All these thirty two cases are divided into six subgroups. Five case studies are in differently able group, four case studies are from rural area, seven case studies are from urban area, ten cases studies are from sub urban area, two case studies from residential institute and four case studies of living with HIV/AIDS affected spouse. The researcher has conducted in depth interview. The outline used for presentation of the case is Socio economic and family background of an individual, marriage procedure, cause of divorce mentioned by respondent, divorce process, effect of divorce on quality of life and interpretation by researcher. Section two highlights the analysis with the context by using Atlas ti software. Researcher analysed these cases in the same context by using variables related to socio economic and marital issues. The variables like socioeconomic background, type of marriage and causes of divorce were studied and researcher identified its correlation with each other. It is shown in network presentation of the same software. Section three consists of cross case analysis by using Quality of Life indicators. It is depicted in graphical presentation. The cases were cross analysed with indicators of quality of life.A. Standard of Living, B. Foundation of Well being, C. Health and Wellness, D. Environmental Quality, E. Opportunities, F. Overall Experience. Each indicator is further analysed in sub indicators. Section four focuses on analysis of Children's Divorce Adjustment Inventory. Section five analyses on effect of divorce on family members. Interview guide was used for the same. Section six states opinions of lawyer and counsellor on divorce.*

**Section - 1**

## 4.1 Quality of Life of Divorcee : Case Analysis

The selected case units were classified as;

**Table No. 4.1**

**Selected Case Units**

| Differently able | Rural | Urban | Sub Urban | Residential Institute | People living with HIV /AIDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5** | 4 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 4 |

### 4.1.1. Differently Able Group

**Case Study - 1**

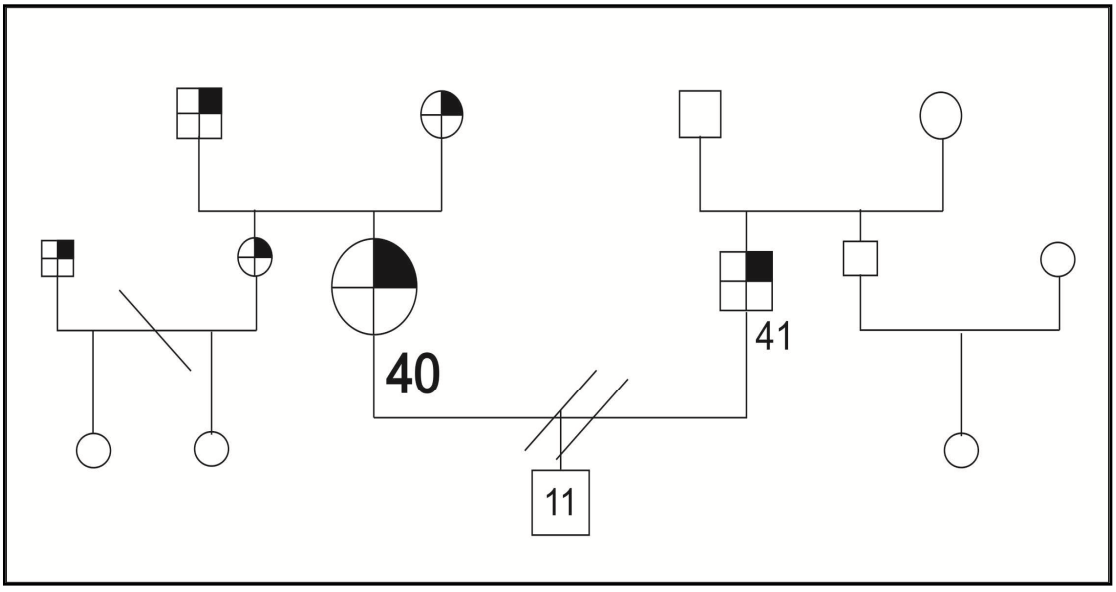



**Figure No. 4.1 : Case Study 1 - Family Genogram**

Sunita (name changed) is 40 years old and has completed her school education till 10th std. She got married 14 years ago at the age of 26 years. Currently she lives with her mother. She is deaf and mute. Her mother, father and sister are also deaf and mute like her.

3 years after her marriage, her father passed away due to heart disease. Her family consists of her mother and a deaf mute married sister who stays at her husband's house. As a result of ageing, her mother suffers from poor eyesight. Sunita

shoulders mother's responsibility. Both of them support and look out for each other. Sunita doesn't have a job.

14 years ago, she did love marriage. Her father was a sports coach. Her husband frequented the sports centre and her home as well. He also accompanied her at the computer course she had joined. They fell in love. Both the families agreed to the match and they got married. Her husband was also deaf mute. The husband's family was better financially, than the Sunita's family. As a result, both husband and Sunita did not have to shoulder much financial responsibility. Sunita was working for a while and her husband had a job in a company. Their income was just enough to fulfil their personal needs. Both husband and wife are Hindu and belong to open category. They lived in urban area.

After 4 years of the marriage, a son was born. Their son is not abnormal or handicapped in any sense. Initially everything was fine but her husband was repeatedly fighting over money. According to Sunita, her husband being aggressive and short-tempered, incessant altercations became routine. Husband was also suffering from seizures. She often used to visit her parents. During this period, her younger sister also came back to parents' house as she couldn't get along with her husband and in-laws. But her in-laws brought her back home after reaching an understanding. Sunita chose to spend more time at parents' house because of aggressive husband and stern mother-in-law. During the same time frame, Sunita came closer to one of her friends. The affection and closeness grew day by day as a result of his mellow nature. They were in close contact all the time. Sunita said that she was in love for 8 years with this friend. She registered a divorce case in the court with the help of a lawyer who was an acquaintance of this friend. While revealing the reason behind this decision of divorce case, **Sunita said that, "one day her husband paid her a visit at her parents' house. He was enraged and terribly aggressive. He assaulted her physically till she started bleeding."** Her Muslim neighbours intervened and stopped the abuse. Sunita had photographed her injuries on the advice of her neighbours which she presented in the court later on.

Sunita and her mother were terrified due to this physical assault. As a result, she finalized the decision of divorce. She and her mother feared for her life. They felt that if she ever returned to her husband, he would kill her. Before marriage, she lived in a nuclear family but after marriage she was part of a joint family. She has a

younger brother-in-law who is married. Sunita showed her husband's photo with an alcohol bottle and blamed brother-in-law for her husband's drinking issues. 10 years after the marriage, she filed a petition for divorce. Prior to filing the case, she had consulted the senior members and had tried for reconciliation. But her nature and fear of her husband did not allow her to get back with her husband. Thus, divorce was opted for on mutual grounds.

In court, trained counsellors are not available to communicate with disabled individuals, so an interpreter was appointed. Sunita communicated through her. She did not find counselling beneficial. She had also not availed pre-marital counselling.

Post-divorce, father of the child has custody of child. Grandparents look after the child. Custody of the child was awarded to father because of sound financial position. Sunita received Rs. 5,00,000 as one time alimony. An interest of Rs. 2000, earned per month takes care of monthly expense for her.

Sunita confided that her relationship with her friend lasted for some period only. Currently, they are not in relation. Their relationship or marriage was unacceptable to his family. He has blocked her on social media as well.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material Living Conditions/ Standard of Living**

Sunita owns the house (parents' house) where she stays presently. The house is in the heart of the city. She has material possessions to some extent whereas essentials for day to day existence are available to lesser extent. She owns a house has fixed deposit in bank and negligible amount of jewellery. She feels that post-divorce, needs are fulfilled rarely or to some extent only.

**B) Foundations of Well-being**

Sources to gain knowledge and information are limited to mobile and friends. Information and dialogue necessary for herself is available at times.

**C) Health and Wellness**

At present she suffers from body ache but that doesn't restrict her participation in any activities. She is free from any kind of addiction. She avails treatment for health issues in absolutely necessary situations. She faces mental health

issues like insomnia, stress etc. Sunita had become quite emotional and was crying while conversing. She feels that there are few instances of cheerfulness. Now a days she tries to find solace in religious observance. Life is not pleasant and delightful for her. She watches television in her spare time. She rarely participates in family events. She engages in creative and recreational activities if she has time on her hands. She is not a member of any social organization or group. She meets her relatives occasionally.

**D) Environmental Quality**

Sunita feels safe and secure at her current home. The neighbours support them as and when needed. Sunita and her mother, both, being physically disabled, are vigilant about their safety. She doesn't allow strangers to her home.

At times, she has to cope with unexpected financial hardships. She has not secured finances for her future life due to poor economic conditions. She is not satisfied with her life at present.

**E) Opportunities**

She is somewhat aware of her rights. She cannot acquire either contemporary or professional training. She is at liberty to take future decisions but her desires are fulfilled to a certain degree only. Thus, she feels helpless at times. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. Life with social framework of religious values, moral values and principles is difficult for her.As a result, she finds it arduous to accept the decisions along with the consequences by herself.

- **Interpretation by researcher:**

In this case study, Sunita has taken initiative for divorce as she experienced few situations. The basic fact found in this case study is differences in both family structure (Joint and Nuclear) (Normal and Deaf Mute), economic condition of both families (husband's family is economically well settled compared to Sunita's family so it affects need fulfilment), which caused conflict between both of them. Differentiation in personalities is basic cause for divorce. Actually it is love marriage, but husband lacks in expressing his love, affection towards her wife. Thus she got

attracted towards alternative relation. The environment around the couple in creating misunderstanding among couple, is also responsible.

The quality of life in this case study is quite poor due to lack of income sources. Thus, standard of living is affected. Divorce and breaking of other relationship very much affected the mental health. To cope with this, she turned towards religious observance. She is quite careful about safety of environment. Life is challenging for her.

## Case Study - 2

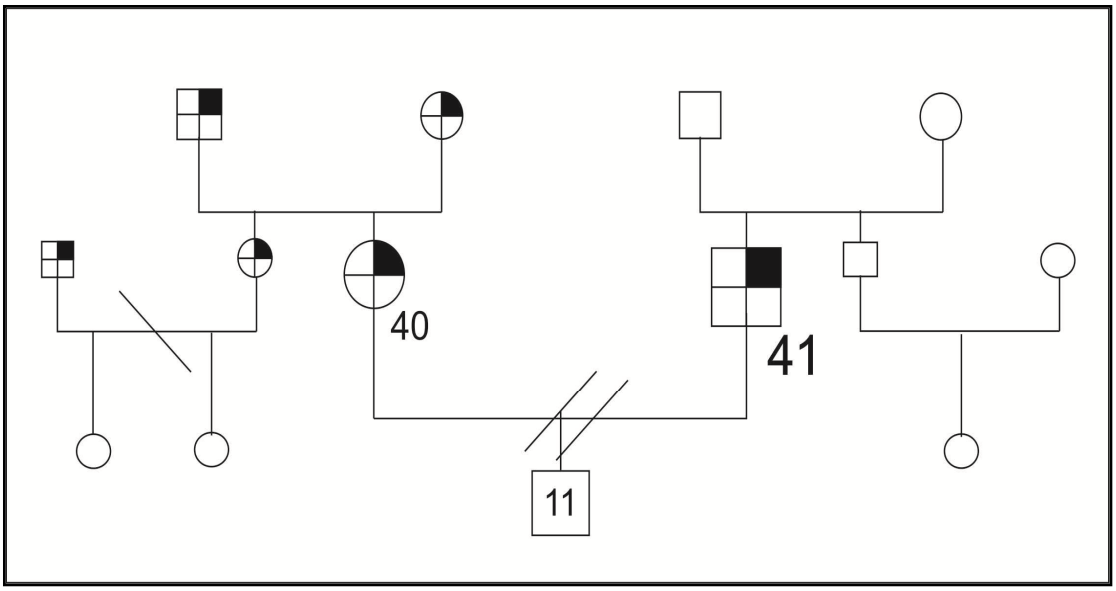



**Figure No. 4.2 : Case Study 2 - Family Genogram**

Niraj (name changed) is 41 years of age and has completed his education till 10th standard. He works in a private limited company and earns up to Rs. 10,000/- per month. He got married 14 years ago and it was a love marriage. He fell in love with a girl who was speech and hearing impaired. His father in law was a sports teacher and he often visited him at his home too. Similarly, Neeraj and his wife before marriage also used to go to a computer class together. Both of them were students of the same school for the speech and hearing impaired. Hence, they were well acquainted and fell in love with each other. Their families then got them married within a year.

His father works in a private limited company and his mother is a homemaker. His younger brother (Normal) is married and lives separately and has a daughter. His son (Normal) is 11 years of age. Currently, he lives with his parents and son in an

urban area. They have a 2-3 storied house in the heart of the city and they also own a four-wheeler and a two- wheeler as well. Altogether they are in a good financial condition. He belongs to Hindu religion under open category.

Niraj is a bit short tempered and often gets easily angry. A few years after the marriage were cheerful and both were happy together. His wife was working too. She often visited her maternal home. One of her male friends always used to visit their home. He often came after Niraj left for office or was not home. They spoke for hours in sign language in the couple's room. Niraj was slightly violent and angry by nature whereas, her male friend's nature was calm. This might have been the reason why his wife got attracted towards her male friend. The couple argued quite frequently. He asked his wife about the spending money and she disliked it. This resulted into differences which grew more after the birth of their son. His wife then used to leave the child with him and lived at her maternal home for more and more days at a stretch. The couple grew apart and his wife filed for divorce. He paid an alimony of Rs. 5 lakhs.

His family tried a lot to reconcile as they were aware of their son's angry nature, but the wife did not agree to it. The son's custody was given to Niraj. The son is completely normal. Neeraj went for counselling and was also ready to rectify his mistakes by stepping back a bit and changing his nature, but his wife had already made a decision. Hence, the counselling did not prove to be helpful. He had not availed counselling prior to marriage. Presently, Niraj and his family have the financial responsibility of his son as well as looks after his education, health, etc.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

A) **Material Living Conditions** - He lives with his parents and they own a house in the heart of the city. His father earns well from his job and hence the availability of material things and facilities is abundant. Niraj drives very well and in the present scenario, he owns vehicles and some money/deposits. With the financial support of his father, it is easy for him to take care of his needs. It is difficult for the client to take care of the needs of his son and himself if he has to rely on his own salary.

B) **Foundation of wellbeing** – With the abundance of material things, he has access to technical resources. He also has other resources such as family members, friends, etc. to gain information and communication.

C) **Health and Wellness** - Currently, he has no medical ailments whatsoever and so he can participate in any kind of activities. He says that he has no addictions of any kind. (According to other sources, he is addicted to alcohol and was also suffering from seizures). He can take medical help as and when he needs it.

When it comes to mental health, client faces depression and emotional highs and lows at times. He has no interests or hobbies. In his spare time, he likes to spend time with his friends. He watches television for entertainment. He is not part of any social group or social organization. He often visits his relatives.

D) **Environmental Quality** – He always feels safe and secure with his family members. The environment at his workplace is favourable and they treat him well too which is why he has been working there since past 15 years. He and his father, together have planned for his son's financial and social security. He also has a Mediclaim policy. All-in-all, he is happy and content in his life owing to all this.

E) **Opportunities** – He is aware of his rights to some extent. He can avail advanced or technical education as and when he feels the need to do so. But he has to rely on his parents when it comes to taking any decisions for his future. The decisions are made under their guidance. There are no limitations when it comes to fulfilling his wishes. He never feels insecure or helpless. He does not find it difficult to face the daily challenges because of the support that he gets from his parents. He however finds it difficult to live with the religious beliefs and ethical values.

Since Niraj is speech and hearing impaired, the information was provided by his parents. For the sake of their grandchild, they are thinking of marrying their son off again but are doubtful whether the new partner will accept the child too with the same affection. They are also reconsidering to reconcile with the Ex-wife as the child should ideally be with the mother in the first place. **While speaking about it, the client violently said, "Ask her to get the 5 lakh rupees, if she wishes to come back."**Niraj is a tall and aggressive personality. His son was interpreting the

conversation well. It was told that the child also did the interpretation while the couple conversed. Niraj feels that though he has the responsibility of the child, the situation would have been different gender-wise. Since, he belongs to the special group, it is felt that most of the responsibilities of the child are taken care of by his parents.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Getting attracted and falling in love is quite natural however in depth understanding and unconditional acceptance of partner each other was lacking. Nurturing in the family develops or creates strong beliefs or attitude. Here money is important for Niraj and he was dominant and stingy. The way he interacted with his wife, imposing his values (related to money or other behaviour) affected his life. Aggressive nature can be accepted by parents but not by the wife. Expression of love, fulfilling basic needs of married life, importance to marital relationship, Developing strong bonds are missing here. Thus wife was involved in alternative relations.

Being a male and getting all kinds of support from family affected on quality of life in the context of standard of life, foundations of wellbeing, health and social security, environmental quality, opportunities etc. Whatever the status of a male is, it is quite readily accepted by the society in comparison with a female.

**Case Study - 3**

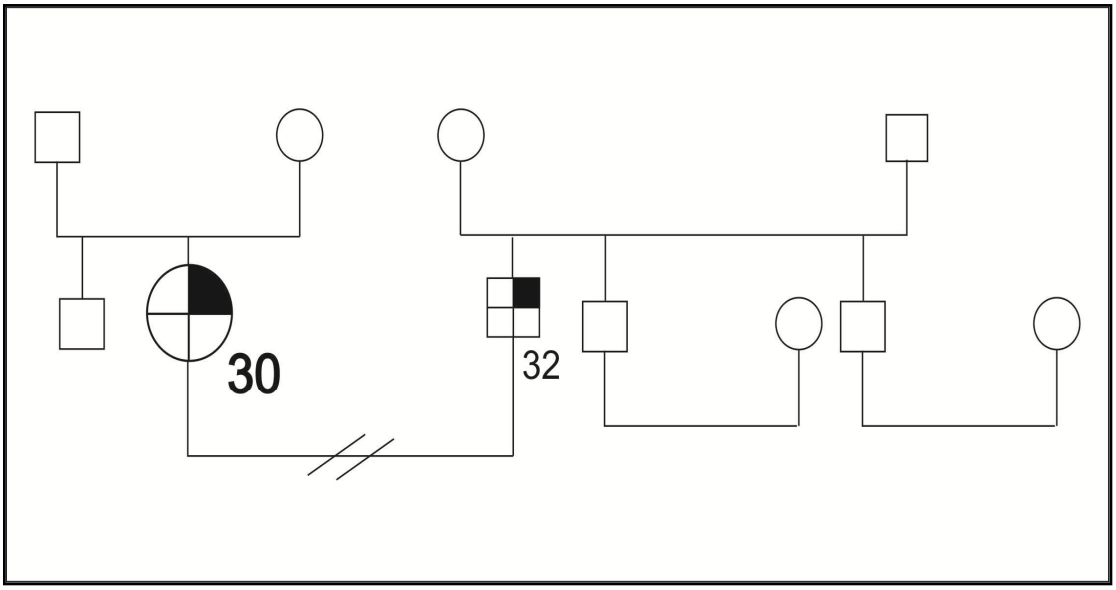



**Figure No. 4.3 : Case Study 3 - Family Genogram**

Seema (Name changed) is 30 years of age and is speech and hearing impaired. She comes from a Hindu family under open category. She used to stay in an urban area. She belongs to a nuclear family. Her father earns well from his job and her mother is a homemaker. Her younger brother is completely normal. Their family is basically from Karnataka, but they have settled in Maharashtra since many years. Seema's parents noticed her disability quite late but they accepted it unconditionally and left no stones unturned for the upbringing of their daughter. She has completed her education till 10$^{th}$ standard in a school for speech and hearing impaired. She has been working in a private limited company since last 10 years on a monthly salary of Rs. 15000/- and hence, she is independent.

Seema was 20 years old when she got married. It was an arranged marriage, and the marriage proposal came through an acquaintance. The guy was speech and hearing impaired too and had a joint family. He has two normal brothers who are married but her husband had one more disability which was not disclosed by that family. It was like lack of understanding, practical knowledge. Due to this, he was nurtured in so protective environment that he was not able take decision, firm position in his married life. The early days of marriage went well but then her mother -in-law started troubles. The mother-in-law did not let the couple get together, pointed out mistakes in Seema's cooking and tried to separate her from rest of the members. The mother-in-law would make the client sit next to the gas and make her count the whistles of pressure cooker. Under the influence of his mother, her husband was unable to take a firm decision. He agreed to all that his mother said which led to ignorance towards his spouse. Seema was emotionally abused as they wanted her earnings, but they did not wish her to be independent. They would get angry at petty things and said a lot many things to hurt her. She was treated differently and when she told her parents about the same, they brought her back to their home. The couple stayed separately for 2 years. They tried a lot to reconcile and she also tried to talk him into living separately, but he didn't agree to it. Seema was also not sexually satisfied with her husband. There were no efforts whatsoever from her in-laws to get the couple together, so with mutual consent they got divorced. Nobody else in the family is divorced.

During the procedure of divorce, Seema also went for counseling but was not counseled properly and hence she is not satisfied with it at all. She feels that post-

divorce counseling is necessary but is unsure if it helps. Secondly, if the decision to get divorced is already been made, then the entire counseling process in vain but pre-marital counseling is absolutely necessary and everybody should avail it. Presently she lives with her parents and has no children, hence she has no responsibilities to take care of.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

A) **Materialistic Living Conditions** – The current home where she lives is owned by her father and she earns well too. So materialistic needs and luxuries are available in abundance. Currently, she owns properties and deposits. Her earnings add up to her savings. Parents are aware and take care of all her needs.

B) **Foundation of Wellbeing –** The knowledge or information that she wishes to gain can easily be made available. Being a special case, there are a few limitations, Seema's parents noticed her disability quite late but they accepted it unconditionally. She is also in touch with her girlfriends. So, the essential communication can take place as and when needed.

C) **Health and Wellness** – At the moment, she has no physical ailments. Her body posture is slightly different as compared to other normal people. She hardly mixes up with anybody else. Owing to their good financial condition, there are no problems when it comes to taking medical treatments whenever required.

She likes to cook and prepares a variety of recipes. In her spare time, she likes to go for walks, watch movies, help her mother. She actively participates in various formal and family functions. But she is not associated with any of the social organizations or groups. Sometimes, she meets up with relatives and friends.

D) **Environmental Quality** – She used to feel insecure and caged while she was with her in-laws. Since she is with her parents now, she feels categorically safe and secure as her parents completely take care of her safety. She does not have to face any financial problems. She feels safe at her workplace too. She walks herself to her workplace and back home every day covering the distance

of 6 Kilometers all-round. They have planned well for her financial and social security and has a Mediclaim policy too. She slightly worries about the future life.

**E) Opportunities –**

She is somewhat aware of her rights and has always followed the words of her father. She avails all the facilities that are reserved for the disabled. She is free to take any technical or business education that she wishes for. She has the freedom to take decisions for her own but must rely on her parents. She does not feel helpless or insecure. She does not find it challenging to face the day-to-day life problems. Facing the religious or ethical values is not challenging for her. She does not have to face the decisions with their consequences all alone.

Seema is living in a completely secured environment, hence there are no social or financial challenges to face.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Here, domestic setting, nurturing and environment of both families and nurturing was different in its nature. Husband was brought up in very protective and wife in democratic nurturing. Though she was deaf mute, she was economically independent and confident. Wife was discriminated and tortured being a female, deaf mute and abnormal which she tolerated but then she found that nothing is positive and beneficial for her life. She came back where she had support and acceptance. in this case, role conflict is also observed as marriage is a ritual, formality for the society but if one lacks the ability to accept and fulfil the responsibilities with his or her role in the family then an individual may choose to opt out of the relationship.She was not satisfied at all with counseling done during process. Due to sound economic condition she has better quality of life after divorce in materialistic living condition, environmental quality, opportunities. Because of her hobbies, she easily coped up with the situation.

## Case Study - 4

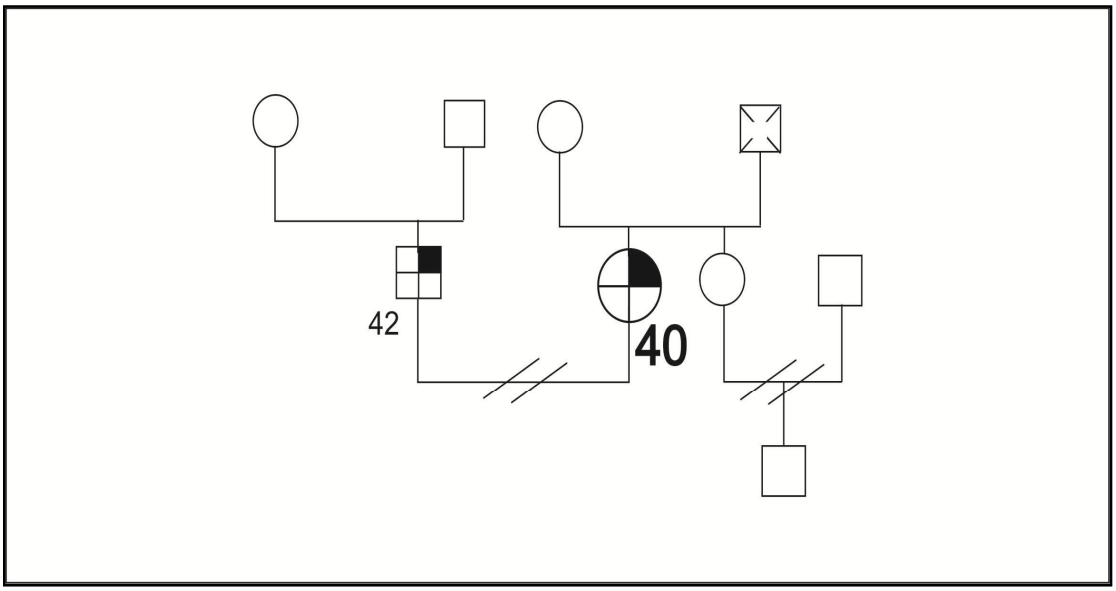



**Figure No. 4.4 : Case Study 4 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client Vaishali (name changed) is Buddhist by caste and lives in a sub-urban area. Being born and brought up in a middle-class family, her father was a government servant and her mother was a housewife. She has a younger sister. She is 40 years of age and has completed her education till graduation. Vaishali is handicapped i.e. she is speech and hearing impaired and loses her balance while walking too. Despite having 2 girls, Vaishali's father would always provide motivation, support and help in times of need when it came to education or job. He constantly struggled so that Vaishali could become independent. Though they were financially weak, he chose to go for Cochlear implant for Vaishali and provided guidance to her to appear for examinations necessary for a job in the Government sector. Owing to the constant efforts of her father, Vaishali got a job in the Military Engineering Services (MES) of the Central Government along with all the facilities that are provided to government servants.

While all was falling in the right place in her journey, she got a marriage proposal from a guy who was from Mumbai. According to Vaishali, this family residing in Mumbai cheated her. Her husband was a handicap too and often suffered from seizures. His family included her mother-in-law and father-in-law but her mother-in- law always held the upper hand in any matter. According to her, their focus was on her salary. She was forced to handover her entire salary each month to her mother-in-law. Her job and service details were constantly inspected including her

service book. Money was of utmost importance to them. In reality, after her marriage Vaishali was entitled to get a government residence for which she had also requested her husband to shift with her to Pune where she worked but her in-laws declined.

The most difficult part for Vaishali was to ask for a transfer to Mumbai as she would have to travel via a local train everyday but thinking of her marriage, she tried her best and got a transfer to Mumbai. A few days later she noticed that her husband would have no money at all and was completely dependent on his wife's money when it came to spending. He had no guts whatsoever to speak in front of his mother, had no opinion of his own and was constantly under the pressure of his mother. Her mother-in-law tried hard to see that client and her husband could not be together. One day, Vaishali noticed that her mother-in-law was mixing some powder in her son's food. When asked about it, her mother-in-law explained that it was his medication for his attack of Suffered from seizures,but she also seemed to be scared. Vaishali later on realized that it was because of that powder that her husband used to doze off early. It immensely angered Vaishali and her mother-in-law made it all look like a lie told by Vaishali or she would try to change her son's opinion about his wife.

According to Vaishali, there were not many problems as such between the couple, but her husband was under the influence of his mother. He conversed with her but just for the sake of it. It was not in his nature to trouble his wife, but he was helpless and lacked decision making ability. Vaishali requested her husband for living separately and reminded him about the Government residence that she would get. Initially her in-laws agreed to it, so she made efforts to avail that facility. Even Vaishali's family intervened and tried to explain it to her husband saying, "Do not get even a single thing with you, we will arrange for everything in the new house". But Vaishali's husband did not wish to stay there. Initially, he stayed there for 2-3 days but later he did not come to stay there.

Vaishali returned to her parent's house and took up her job as earlier. Going ahead, she filed a divorce case in the court. She tried a lot to reconcile with her husband but since there was no response from him, they got separated with mutual consent. In Vaishali's family, even her sister is a divorcee.

During the procedure of trials, Vaishali went for counseling but it did not prove to be helpful for Vaishali. She had not availed pre-marital counseling. She has no kids. However, she has the financial responsibility of her family.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

A) **Material Living Conditions** – The current residence that Vaishali stays as is owned by her family. All the material things that are needed are available to her. Vaishali owns some jewelry and has a few deposits in her name. Owing to the Government job, she has all the facilities and services available that are the perks of the job and all her needs are taken care of.

B) **Foundation of Well-being –** The resources of information and communication that are required for day-to-day life are available to Vaishali. These resources include, technology, family members and they are easily available to her. But communicating with others has limitations and is a bit difficult from her end.

C) **Health and Wellness** – As Vaishali is differently able, there is dependency to some extent. So, participating in different activities has limitations. Other health related issues can be taken care of when it comes to that. Post-divorce, she went through a lot of mental stress and she ended up feeling that all her efforts were in vain. Depression, emotional highs and lows often troubled her. Vaishali loves to read. She reads in her spare time. She seldom participates in family or formal functions. To keep herself entertained, she listens to music, reads books or tries out new recipes. She is not a member of any social organization or group. Due to lack of support from relatives, she does not go to meet her relatives.

D) **Environmental Quality** – Since Vaishali stays with her parents, she always feels safe and secure. She never has to face any financial challenges occurring unexpectedly. Despite being handicapped, she feels safe and secure at her workplace and she is treated well too. Financial planning for her future has been taken care off through her office. She is satisfied with her present living conditions to some extent.

E) **Opportunities** –Vaishali is aware of her rights but that is hardly put to any use. If she feels the need of it, she can pursue advanced or technical education.

Her parents are consulted while making any decisions about her future. Sometimes, there are limitations when it comes to fulfilling her wishes. She seldom feels helpless and insecure. Sometimes, she also finds it challenging to face the difficulties arising in day-to-day life. She finds it extremely difficult to live with religious and ethical values. Seldom she finds it difficult to face the consequences all alone for the decisions that have been made.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

Was he afraid of a being handicap and being dependent or did he have trust issues about his wife as his wife was handicap too but had immense confidence? Did he lack socializing skills or was it because of his mother's overpowering nature? It later on came to light that Vaishali's mother-in-law was in a business of lending money to people on interest. Vaishali was awaiting her husband's return for many days as she was hopeful but he never returned.

Marriage is the most important step in the lifetime of a human being and Vaishali took a lot of efforts to save her marriage like asking for a transfer, getting a transfer, shifting to a new place and getting Government residence, but it was all in vain.

While counseling a handicap person, an interpreter is required to be present there. There is no direct dialogue with the counselor which creates limitations.

Being in Military Services, she had good quality of life in the context of economic condition and all health care facilities and environmental safety too. Adverse effect was on mental health because she had capacity to bear family responsibility but was not able to experience it. Due to hobbies, she was able to cope the situation.

## Case Study - 5

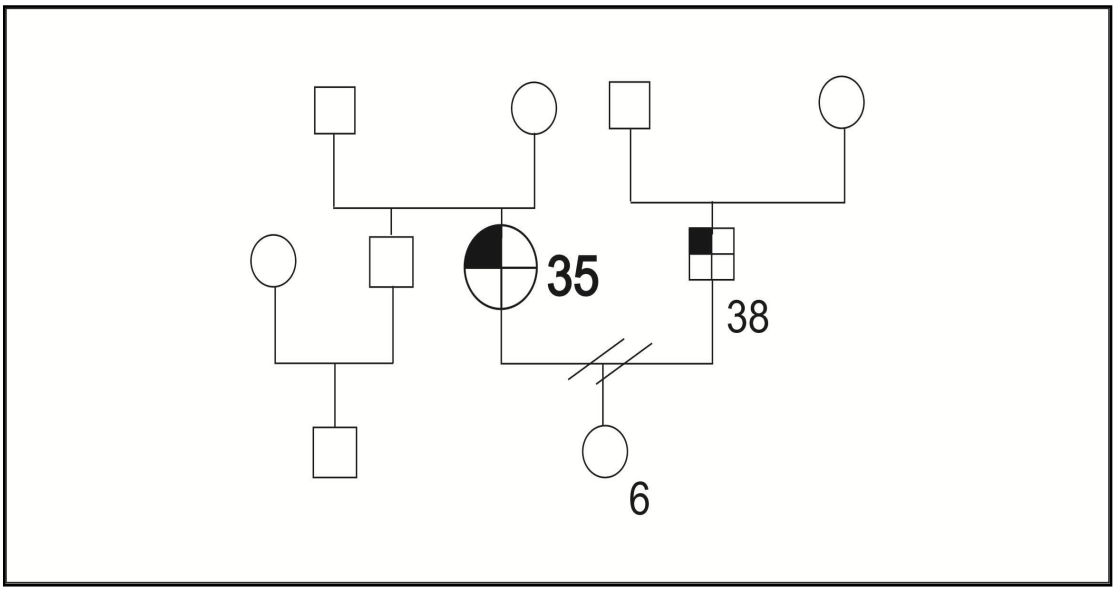



**Figure No. 4.5 : Case Study 5 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client Radhika (name changed) is 35 years of age and is impaired with speech and hearing i.e she can speak to some extent but only her family members can understand her. Radhika comes from a middle-class family and belongs to Hindu religion under open category. Her family consists of her mother, father, elder brother, his wife and their son. Owing to her father's job, they spent a few years living in an industrial estate in a rural area. Radhika's elder brother is completely normal but 2-3 years after Radhika's birth, her parents noticed her inability to hear and speak. Apart from these there were no other problems with Radhika. Since there were hardly any facilities for treatment in the rural area, they rushed back and shifted to urban area, but Radhika's father had to quit his Job. Once they shifted to the city, he took 2-3 part-time jobs at once so that he could earn a living for his family. His son grew up and became an engineer. He also tried to educate Radhika especially through a school for normal children with an intention to help her get adjusted within the society in future. She completed her education till $10^{th}$ standard and completed a few computer courses such as Graphic Design, DTP, etc. When she reached the age of marriage, they started looking for prospects. By then her brother had gotten married. Through one of their acquaintances, a prospective groom from another city was brought to their notice. The man was speech and hearing impaired just like Radhika. Both looked beautiful hence, thinking that they were a good match for each other, they were married away.

Radhika's husband's family consisted of his parents – his mother a housewife and his father worked in the State Bank. They lived in a house of their own. Her husband was not employed anywhere but took up a few computer jobs at home.

Despite being speech and hearing impaired, Radhika is bold by nature. She is confident and handles everything with great responsibility but is slightly aggressive. She gets angry easily.

**After their marriage, Radhika's mother tried talking to her in-laws to let her get a job, but they did not agree saying that "The world out there is not good. What if any problem arises?"** and never let her get a job. Whenever the couple went out in the evening, the husband's parents would call them repeatedly and ask them to get back home soon. In one incident, Radhika and her husband went out and were travelling by a shared auto. The man sitting next to Radhika placed his hand inappropriately on her thigh. Instead of taking a stand for her as her husband, he chose to ignore the fact, but Radhika spoke up and put that man back in his place. Hence, according to Radhika's mother, he lacked courage, decision making abilities, self-opinion and confidence. A few days later it came to Radhika's notice, when she went to her maternal home and decided to consult a doctor, that her husband had a problem with his retina and that his side vision was affected. They felt cheated due to all this.

When Radhika got pregnant, her platelet count started to reduce and her blood pressure was on the rise. Hence, she was prescribed complete bed rest. During this time, Radhika's in-laws took good care of her. Her mother too stayed with her for 3-4 months. But Radhika delivered a pre-mature baby in the $8^{th}$ month of her pregnancy which was dangerous for the health of herself and her baby. Due to pre-mature delivery, both had nearly avoided death. Radhika gave birth to a baby girl. The baby had to be taken and kept away separately for an entire month. While then, since both Radhika and her husband were speech and hearing impaired, Radhika's parents suggested her in-laws to get the baby tested in the audiometric center nearby the hospital, but her in-laws did not agree and seemed to be a lot of angry. Going ahead the quarrels grew between them and no attention was paid to the weak health of the baby. When Radhika customarily, went to live with her parents after delivery, her father said that the baby cried even when her hand was lightly held. Later, with doctor's consultation, the baby was given a proper oil massage for months to

strengthen her muscles. When Radhika's maternal grandmother expired, the baby's naming ceremony was held with only a small number of people.

A few days later when Radhika went back to her in-laws, Radhika noticed that her mother-in-law constantly spoke something or the other about her and it went on throughout the day. She couldn't control her anger as her husband was doing nothing about it. Hence, Radhika tried to cut off her vein. **Due to her aggressive stance, her husband left her at her parent's home saying that, "Your daughter is mentally ill and you have cheated us"** Radhika's in-laws were not ready to consider or understand any of these thoughts. They were dead set on getting the couple divorced**. "We won't take Radhika back with us", they said**. To this, Radhika's parents also suggested to let the couple live separately in the city that they lived in and they would try to settle the couple by seeking a job or starting a business but to no avail. Radhika's in-laws disagreed and the couple got separated with mutual consent, but Radhika's parents refused to accept the custody of Radhika's daughter **"They did it intentionally thinking that it would be an added responsibility to take care of the girl child", they said**. But they took it in writing that they would allow the daughter to be with her mother twice a year. Radhika's in-laws drop off the girl at the S.T. Bus Stand and Radhika's parents pick her up from there and drop her back there again and so it goes on. They feel that the girl likes being with them and she mixes up pretty well. But she is afraid to go out and mix up with the other kids. She prefers being at home.

Radhika and her parents feel that the girl is under immense pressure and she hardly cries. Her eyes well up with tears but she does not cry.

While the trials of the divorce were going on, the counselor tried to reconcile but it was in vain. Radhika had not availed pre-marital counseling. Presently, Radhika is living with her parents in their home. She has no responsibilities of her daughter. Since Radhika's in-laws have the custody of the girl, they take care of all her expenses. Radhika works in a shopping mall and takes care of her own expenses.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life** –

A) **Materialistic Living Conditions** – Radhika's parents own a house. They belong to middle class. The materialistic needs are available to cover the

needs. When it comes to ownership, she owns just some jewelry. With her earnings, she can take care of some of her needs.

B) **Foundation of Well-Being** – The information and communication resources that are necessary to cope up with day-today challenges are hardly available to her. Being handicapped, she must rely on her parents and friends. To some extent she can also get information using her mobile phone. Her necessity to gain information and communication is taken care of to some extent.

C) **Health and Wellness** – Radhika does not have any physical health related issues. Being speech and hearing impaired, there always are limitations to participating in any activities like any other normal person. In case any health-related issues arise, she can get the required treatment with the help of her parents.

When it comes to mental health, she goes through stress, depression, loneliness, insomnia and emotional ups and downs. When Radhika got divorced, her daughter was just two years old. She had to leave her daughter and let her live in a different city. She went through a lot of pain due to all of it.

Radhika's parents are repeatedly telling her to get married once again but she denies as her mind is deeply involved in her daughter. Post-divorce, when Radhika came back to her parent's house, her parents, brother and his wife and their son were all living together. **But seeing the strained relations between her brother and his wife and son, Radhika felt troubled. One day, she bluntly told her brother, "Go and live in the other flat that they owned. Do not live here".** Hearing her say this, there was a lot of tension in the home, but her brother and his wife took care of it and shifted to the other house to live. But they come together whenever there is a reason.

Radhika sometimes feels happy. Radhika has no hobbies as such. She mostly keeps herself busy with work or helps her mother in kitchen. She seldom feels that life is good. She does not attend any family functions nor does she meet any relatives. For creativity or entertainment, she watches television. She is not a member of any social organization or group.

D) **Environmental Quality** – Radhika feels safe and secure with her parents but since she is impaired, her parents must take extra measures to keep the

environment safe. Her parents cannot be out for long leaving Radhika alone at home. Instead of the sound of a doorbell, they have fitted a light by the door, so that Radhika knows when somebody arrives. While Radhika is home alone, they keep her informed and posted by sending her a message about their safety. When Radhika goes for shopping, a few shop keepers nearby know her and her condition, with their help it becomes easier for her to take care of shopping. She seldom has to face unexpected financial challenges. She also feels safe and secure at her workplace. She travels 10-12 kms everyday and must take 2 buses to reach her office. In such a scenario, she keeps her parents informed about her safety via a message. She has the guts and boldness and hence she readily does it. To some extent she has planned for her social and financial security for future. She had invested her money in LIC and some other places. She is not at all content about her present environment of life.

E) **Opportunities** – Radhika has no awareness about her rights. She has completed a few computer courses, but it proves to be beneficial only when they are put to use. In comparison to the courses that she has completed, she has not received any opportunities of work. Sometimes she has the freedom to take decisions for her future. There are lots of limitations when it comes to taking care of her needs. Sometimes, she feels insecure and helpless. Sometimes she finds it challenging to face the day-to-day challenges. But she always finds it challenging to live with the religious and ethical values. Bearing the consequences all alone for the decisions taken is always difficult for her.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Due to unawareness parents are not accepting disability of child and early diagnosis and treatment was not timely addressed. She does not express it by speaking it up, but one can easily make out by her facial expressions and body language. Such kinds of people have doubts that people are often talking about them behind their back and they get cranky. Parents had fixed mindset that husband should protect his wife if not then he might be lacking in it. Husband's parents also nurtured him in protective environment, instead of making him ready to face the situation and develop the courage.

It is of vital importance to see how a person socializes. Being handicapped or impaired is not a big issue but what matters a lot is to have practical knowledge while living in a society. Having self opinion and confidence, problem solving skills carry a lot of importance in a person's married life. Hence it is important that parents prepare their sons and daughters for their future married life.

Conflicts end up in such allegations and rebuttal. It feels as though the main reason of getting married is lost and the efforts that are required to stabilize the relation should be taken by all, including the elderly people in the home. The opinion of the couple about each other matters a lot, how much are they willing to adjust to be together? Instead of these vital things, we give more importance to personal interests and our ego. Are the parents emotionally insecure, why is getting detached from your son's married relations so difficult? More importance should be given to make him independent. Being differently able if parents did not allow nurturing their children, then there was influence of grandparents on children. Often kids are deeply affected in such quarrels and arguments and suffer a lot as they are unnecessarily dragged into the situation. They are treated as non-living things and are passed around taking turns.

Being a handicap, she must face a two-toned bias. On one hand being handicapped they are dependent on somebody else and being a woman, she must rely on her parents decision for not taking the custody, as they did not want the additional responsibility of the girl child and as Radhika is not financially secure and stable to take care of her daughter all by herself. But what about the emotional bond and involvement that she has with her daughter? Since handicap people have limitations to express themselves, they naturally get aggressive and cranky. When it comes to any ideas or relations, they have fixed ideologies and are not willing to accept any kind of changes.

### 4.1.2 Urban based Families with different cultural background

**Case Study - 6**

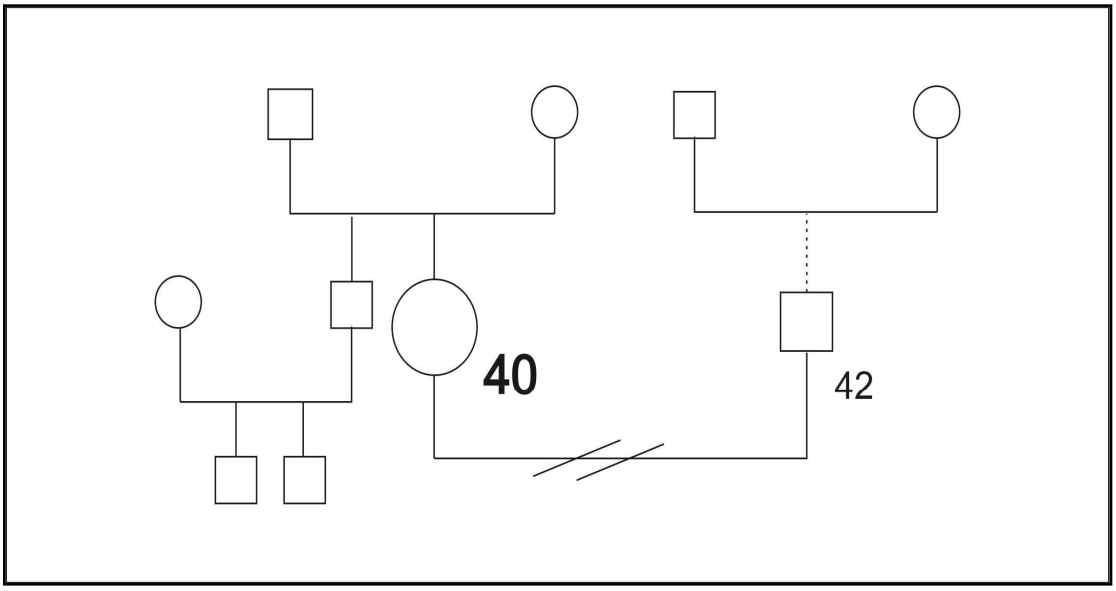



**Figure No. 4.6 : Case Study 6 - Family Genogram**

Manisha (name changed) is 40 years of age and has completed her post-graduation. She comes from Hindu religion and belongs to open category. Her maternal home was a joint family and the home of her in-laws too had extended family approach. Her father has expired last year and hence, she lives with her mother, brother, his wife and their children. According to the client, the financial condition of all the family members is quite good and they also are financially stable. She resides in an urban area.

Manisha's marriage was arranged. Since past 5 years, she has been working in Persistent Company as a counsellor. She has completed her education in Naturopathy. Her husband works with Cognizant as an engineer and was also familiar with German language and hence their financial condition was quite sound. Though it was an arranged marriage, yet she feels that they were hurried into fixing the marriage within a month by her in-laws and she and her husband never got a chance to know each other well before they got married.

At the time of their marriage, her husband had Chickenpox and this fact was hidden from her. Post marriage, they had to live in separation for an entire month. After that she felt that her husband’s behavior was slightly whimsical and erratic. He was very rude to his parents and she disliked it. Similarly, if any other man spoke to

her or if anybody stood next to her, he disliked it. She thought that he was suspicious and possessive, and she was bothered by that. It became difficult for her to maintain relations or keep in contact with anybody else. Owing to all this she decided to take a divorce. She feels that they hardly spent any time together.

After that, she filed a case in the court. They lived in separation for an entire year and got a divorce with mutual consent. During this span of time, she went for counselling and she feels that counselling is good. Her husband's family attempted to reconcile but she did not wish to be back with her husband due to his behaviour. She herself is a counsellor (fitness expert/ dietician) and hence knows the value of counselling. She had never availed pre-marital counselling. She thinks that pre-marital counselling is important and necessary as it helps to avoid divorce after marriage. Post-divorce, she lives with her parents. She has no kids and hence just has her personal responsibility to take care of.

- **Quality of Life Indicators**

A) **Material Living Condition** – The current abode of Manisha is the property of her parents. Due to good education and financial prosperity, all material things are available in abundance. She owns jewellery, vehicle fixed deposits and hence all her needs are very well taken care of.

B) **Foundation of wellbeing** – Various resources to gain information and knowledge about day -to- day challenges of life are available with her. This includes technical tools, family members and friends. In post-divorce life, information and communication are always accessible to the client.

C) **Health and Wellness** – Currently, Manisha has no physical ailments and hence she is involved in various activities. She has no addictions. Whenever required she can take care of her physical condition. After her divorce, client had stress, depression, restlessness and emotional highs and lows. But she consoled herself to get out of it and think positively. She knew she could do it and started working at once. She feels that she has attained normalcy with the help of yoga and meditation.

She has a lot of hobbies. She likes to paint and loves trees. She has also engaged herself in spirituality and has found a new way to look at life. She

participates in the activities within the family and some informal activities too. She is not a part of any social organization or group but still participates in any functions that she likes. The relatives of her parents have easily accepted her divorce and supported her; hence she meets them at regular intervals.

D) **Environmental Quality** –She feels safe and secure at her own residence with her maternal family members. She has no unexpected financial problems to face. She loves the work she does. The environment at her workplace too makes her feel secure. She has planned well for her future social and financial security. She has also invested in Mediclaim and other insurance and feels content about her life.

E) **Opportunity** - She is well aware about her own rights. She can also take advance education related to any business if she wishes to. She is free to take her own decisions for future. She can fulfil her own wishes. She does not feel that she is insecure or helpless. Being childless, she probably has less challenges to face when it comes to day-to-day life. Her family completely supports her and hence she does not find it difficult to abide with the religious or moral values but somewhere feels that parents can think only with a certain perspective and there are limitations to it. Marriage is inevitable they feel. There is a huge gap between the perspective of parents and their children. Even the girls have a lot of expectations these days.

She spoke with a lot of confidence. She couldn't give a lot of time over the phone. With the help of education, financial stability and the acceptance by her family, it is easy for her to handle the situation.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Considering the eligibility criteria for marriage only superficial aspects were focused in hurry. Economical condition and education was at almost same level, however compatibility differences shows in the context of values applying in daily life(respect to elders or spouse),way to express, unpredictable behaviour, interaction patterns in family lead to divorce. Economic independency and strong family support help to confirm decision irrespective of other party's opinion or consent. It is observed that marriage is imposed on either or couple in same way divorce is also imposed on any one of the partner. Generation gap is also found in marriage finalisation

Perception towards counselling depends upon mental support received from counselling for coping in future.

Divorce affected on emotional or mental health however due to hobbies the proper coping mechanisms takes place. Keeping contact with relatives depend upon the acceptance of status of divorcee. Environmental safety is there because proper shelter, support is available.

## Case Study - 7

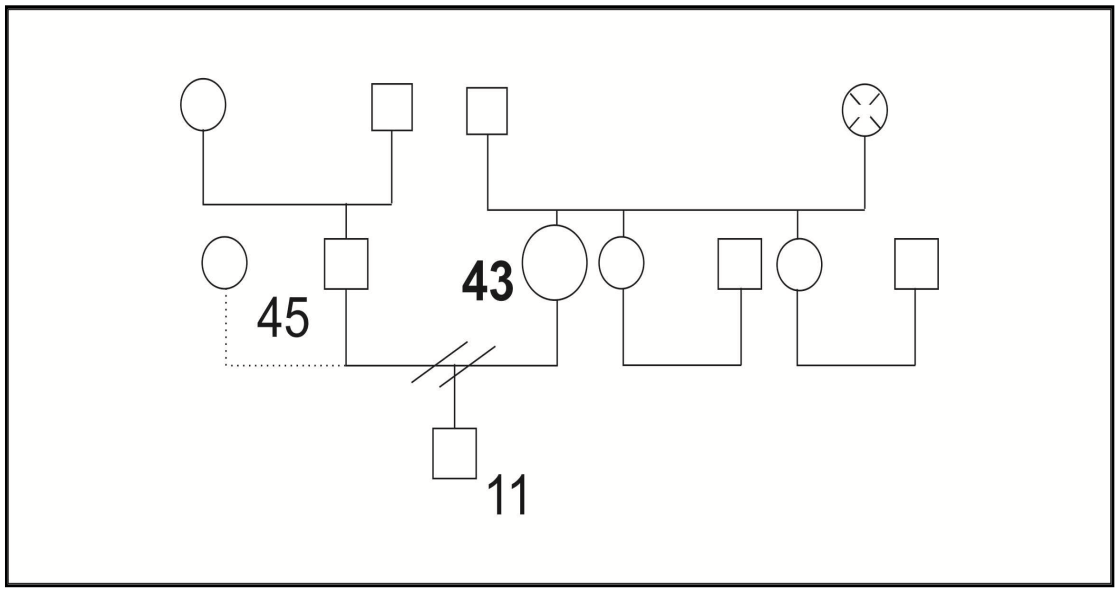



**Figure No. 4.7 : Case Study 7 - Family Genogram**

Sarika (name changed) is 43 years of age and has completed her education till M.Com. Presently, she is working in a bank on contract basis. Sarika comes from a middle-class family and lived in a community house (Wada) during her childhood. She has two sisters, and she is the youngest among the three sisters. Her father was in service and her mother was a housewife. Her mother expired when she was in 10th standard. After the marriage of both her sisters, her only family was her father and she bore the responsibility of both her father and their home.

Sarika progressed well academically, and she socialized well too. Being in a social and friendly environment, she gained maturity in her thoughts. Due to the premature death of her mother, she felt deprived of the motherly love and used to open up about her feelings in front of her friends.

**College Life -:** Since she had to take care of all the household work all by herself, her decision-making power had developed well. She chose the field of education to her liking and her hobbies included actively participating in elocution competition or writing. She cultivated her hobbies.

**Marriage -:** When she attained the proper age, Sarika's name was registered in a marriage bureau. Her family searched for suitable matches and when they came across the most suitable prospect, a formal meeting was held with the groom-to-be and his family. This prospect was then chosen for her. Her elder most sister made all the arrangements for Sarika's marriage.

Sarika's husband was the only child of his parents and they lived together. He was in service. All was well after few years of their marriage and they had a son. During this span of time, there used to be minor clashes between client and her mother-in-law.

**Problems that occurred in married life -**

- She left her job after the birth of their son. She got busy taking care of her baby.
- She disliked a few traits/ habits of her husband. A few of them being -

- He used to spend most of his time away from home.
- He often came home late at night.
- He used to give only a certain amount of his earnings at home.
- He used to be busy chatting on the mobile.
- He used to password protect his mobile.
- He carried his mobile everywhere and never left it lying anywhere.
- He never tried to keep any physical intimacy with his wife.
- He often slept in a separate room giving the reason of the baby crying late into the night making it difficult for him to sleep.
- He used to be aloof around her.
- Having arguments and fights with her.

Initially, she decided to let it all go and moved on but one day, she got a chance to read some messages in her husband's mobile. She realised that her husband had an affair with one of the colleagues from his office. Initially, she did not agree to

it but later on purposefully she kept an eye on him and gathered evidences and caught him red handed. Finally, he confessed about his affair and demanded a divorce.

Sarika's State of Mind - On one hand, her son was growing up. She ignored it all in the initial years as their son needed the love of both his parents. She asked her in-laws, her sisters to intervene. She wanted to forget it all and begin afresh. But her husband did not agree to any of it. Since his affair was out in the open, he freely started going out with the other woman.

Her state of mind had worsened by it all and she decided to go for counselling. She finally accepted that it would not work out and decide to get legally divorced. Once she filed the case, she noticed changes in her mother-in-law's behaviour. Her mother-in-law cursed her a lot and used to often instigate her son. However, her father-in-law always supported her and spoke for her.

Finally, in-laws left her to stay in a different place. Sarika's husband stopped paying her the amount on time as was decided by law. He stopped answering her phone calls and also stopped meeting their son.

As a solution, she took up a job. Her son used to go to a day care after his school. The child was affected due to such environment and suddenly started being quiet. Her son stopped speaking in school and used to be quiet. He never participated in anything, he never ate his tiffin, never completed his homework. She started getting complaints about her son from the school.

She took him to the counsellor and started to get him counselled too. But her mental state worsened furthermore. It also affected her physical health and she started suffering from insomnia and had acidity problems. She had to be present in the court on the prescribed dates. It took a toll on her physical health. But she had the support and help of her sisters.

For her it has been difficult to take care of herself and her son with their necessities, their financial problems, etc. She appeared in the court for many months. Finally, she decided to make adjustment to an offered amount and got divorced.

After her divorce, Sarika's income has been deeply affected. She belongs to Hindu religion and lives in a city. At the time of her marriage, she was 25 years of age. 5 years after her marriage, client filed a case for divorce in the court of law. They lived in separation for 7 months. The duration of trial in the court was about 5 months.

Sarika herself had filed the case for getting divorced. During the span of trial, Sarika went for counselling but she feels that counselling has proved useful only to a little extent. She is content about the work of the counsellor. Sarika had taken proper education before her marriage and feels that counselling can help to avoid a divorce to some extent but not much. Sarika's son is 11 years of age and she has the responsibilities of taking care of his education and finances.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life -**

A) **Material Living Conditions -** Sarika owns the house that she is living in now with her son. Material living things are available to them in their home. She owns some fixed assets and some jewellery. Sarika feels that her earnings are hardly enough at times to take care of all the necessities.

B) **Foundation of Well-being** - All the resources required to gain information and communications are available for Sarika and her son. These resources include mobile phone, family members. She opines that the utmost required information is always available to her.

C) **Health and Wellness** - Sarika often feels uncomfortable due to emotional turmoil. Sometimes she feels restricted while participating in certain activities. But all her health issues can be looked after. She feels happy at times and tries to live happily. Her current hobbies include writing and listening to music. These hobbies give her a hope that life is good. Sarika often spends the spare time that she gets in her daily routine, cultivating her hobbies. Sarika participates in family functions and formal activities. Similarly, she also participates in creative activities. Sarika has no membership of any social organizations or groups but she often meets her relatives.

D) **Environmental Quality -** Sarika feels safe and secure at her current residence and no extra efforts are taken to secure it. Since Sarika has responsibilities to take care of, she often comes across financial challenges. She also feels safe and secure at her workplace. She has planned well financially and socially for the sake of herself and her son. All-in-all Sarika is content with the quality of her present life.

E) **Opportunities** - Sarika is aware about her rights to some extent. She can avail technical or business education if it is required. She has all the rights to take

decisions for her future. She often feels that there are limitations to fulfilling her wishes. But she never feels insecure or helpless. She does not find it challenging to face the problems in her day-to-day life. She never finds it difficult to live with all the religious and moral values. But she finds it slightly difficult to face the consequences that come with the decisions taken all alone.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

This was middle class family. both the families were leading a simple and straight forward life. However may be when wife became mother her role changed and maybe she was not able to give attention towards her husband being wife and thus may be he was attracted towards alternative relations.

In husband's family due to patriarchy, gender differences were prominent and mother generally have emotional inclination with son that may not give justice to anybody else. It is the reality in family system.

Counseling was slightly useful but post divorce counselling was most needed for her.

Due to sudden trauma wife's quality of life affected, she had to forcefully involved in economy, more pressure and burden of life and responsibility of child. Her quality of life in the context of standard of living, foundation of wellbeing, health and wellness, environmental quality and opportunities got affected. It was betrayal and she became victim.

## Case Study - 8

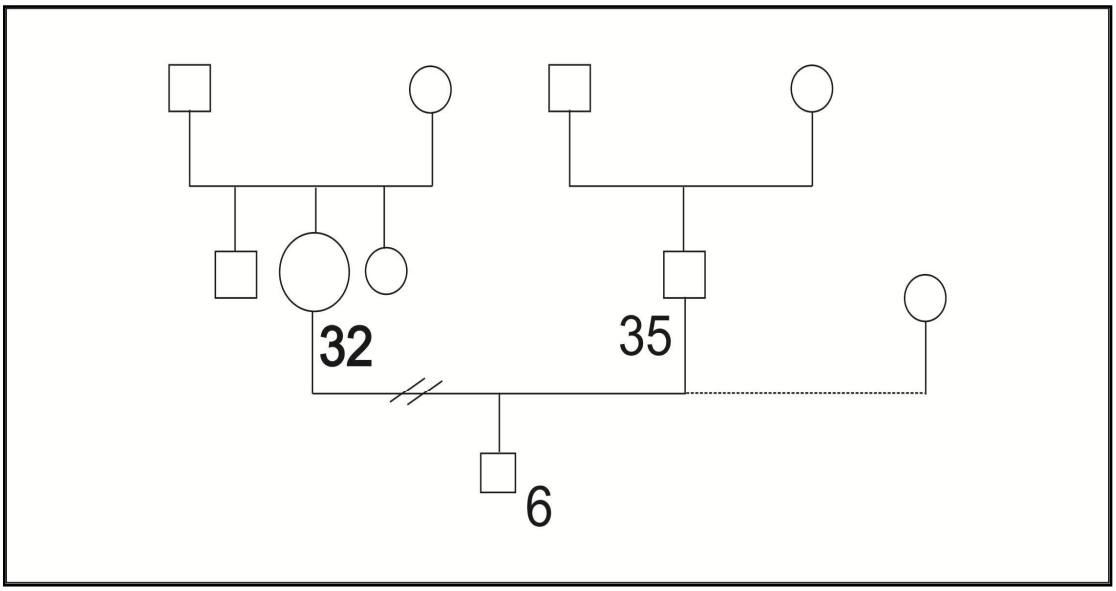



**Figure No. 4.8 : Case Study 8 - Family Genogram**

Mina (name changed) is the concerned female client who is 32 years of age. She has completed her education till post-graduation and is in the service of a private limited company. Frankly speaking, her earnings are better post-divorce as compared to earlier. She belongs to Hindu religion under Other Backward Class (OBC). She lives in urban area and was a part of a joint family prior to her marriage.

Mina was 22 years of age when she got married and it was a love marriage. Her in-laws had a joint family too. The divorce case was filed after 8 years of marriage. Many factors contributed to the divorce such as lack of readiness to reconcile, lack of communication, expectations were not met.

It was a love marriage but, Mina noticed that her husband had an extra marital affair. There was a huge difference in the level of education, their standard of living resulting in a difference in their thought process. At the same time, her in-laws had not given consent to their marriage and troubled her a lot which is why she left. Her husband was belligerent by nature. He had a lot of self-pride and highly conservative perception which led to the differences between them.

Speaking of Mina's background, when we tried to get to know about her, it took an in depth discussion which brought out that Mina has 2 sisters and a brother. Owing to their poor financial condition, Mina's father had sent her away to live with her maternal uncle. In their family, they had Mina's maternal uncle, aunt, 2 cousin brothers and a cousin sister. But right from early childhood Mina was sexually abused

by her younger cousin brother and it went on for days. Mina tried to bring it to the notice of the elders but they ignored it all. Since Mina's father and her maternal uncle were strict by nature, she could hardly voice out anything in front of them. This entire situation left an everlasting impact on Mina's young mind. Mina started to have feelings of disgust about all men in general. Later on, her marriage was fixed through a known acquaintance but owing to the fear of abuse that she underwent in her childhood, she disliked physical relations. Eventually, it was as if her pregnancy too was imposed upon her and she gave birth to a male child. This left her feeling as if the child was unwanted. **Owing to the fact, that she could not keep sexual relations with her husband, she got divorced. Her husband blamed her saying, "You have destroyed my life."** Since Mina did not want a male-child, she did not even breast feed her own son and tried to keep him away. Even now, she has decided to send him away to a residential military school.

Mina does not wish for any man to get close to her. Post-divorce, she now feels completely relaxed as she does not have to face the emotional ordeal anymore.

Due to all these reasons, they lived in separation for 2 years and it took over a year for the court proceedings. Mina herself filed a case in the court. She had not taken the advice of any of the elderly people in the society. She had suffered a lot through all the years of her married life and hence did not take any efforts to reconcile. The entire divorce decree took place with mutual consent. Prior to that, there were no divorces had happened in the family.

During the trials of the case, Mina did not go for counseling hence, she has no idea if it would prove to be useful. Since she had already decided to get divorced, she did not bother to go for counseling. Mina had not availed any pre-marital counseling and cannot say how effective it would be to avoid a divorce and is completely ignorant about it neither does she wish to say anything about it. After getting divorced, she stays independently and alone. Mina has a six-year-old boy, and she has the responsibility of his education.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Presently, Mina lives in a house that is a rental. All kinds of materialistic needs and comforts are available to her according to her. She owns a two-wheeler, jewelry, and some fixed deposits. As per her, her earnings are enough to care of all the needs and necessities of herself and her son.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

All the information required to take care of day-to-day necessities is available to her. The source of information is her family members. All the necessary knowledge and information is always available for her.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Currently Mina does not have any health issues and she faces no limitations health wise when it comes to participating in any activities. In case any health problems arise, she can take treatments when required. When it comes to mental health, she has no issues whatsoever. Owing to the troubles that she had to face in her married life, she feels happy after getting divorced.

Mina does not have spare time to cultivate her hobbies. She feels that life is good. She spends all her spare time with her son. She hardly takes part in any creative activities, entertainment related activities or family functions. She is a member of a social organization and a social group and actively participates in all the related activities. She says that she often meets her relatives. she has become an avid reader.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Mina feels completely safe and secure at the place she resides in. She never has to face any unexpected financial challenges. She also feels secure at her workplace. She had planned well keeping in mind his social, and financial security. Overall, she is content about her standard of living.

**E) Opportunities -**

Mina is aware of her rights and she puts them to use in her daily life. Whenever she finds it necessary, she can pursue any advance or technical education of her choice. Mina has complete freedom to take decisions for her own future however, she feels that there are limitations when it comes to fulfilling her wishes. Mina never feels insecure or helpless. Similarly, she never finds it to be challenging to face day-to-day challenges but sometimes

she finds it difficult to live with the religious and ethical values. She never finds it difficult to face alone the consequences of the decisions taken by her.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

This woman had abusive experiences in childhood. As a result she had negative image and repulsive feelings about any male person. It highly affected her personality and married life. She is the woman who is happy because of divorce. All these experiences affected her perception and decisions. It also shows that child was abused in own family and how other family members ignored it. Thus, we cannot ensure security of girls in their own family and girls are also losing the trust in relationship.

It seems that Mina is a strong woman financially and education wise. Looking at her social performance, she has easily handled the challenges of dealing with the society. It seems that financial independence strengthens women and also the social organization that she is associated with has helped her gain a lot of confidence and self-respect.

This shows that childhood trauma has far-reaching effects and the environmental factors around, are equally important for a marital relationship.

**Case Study - 9**

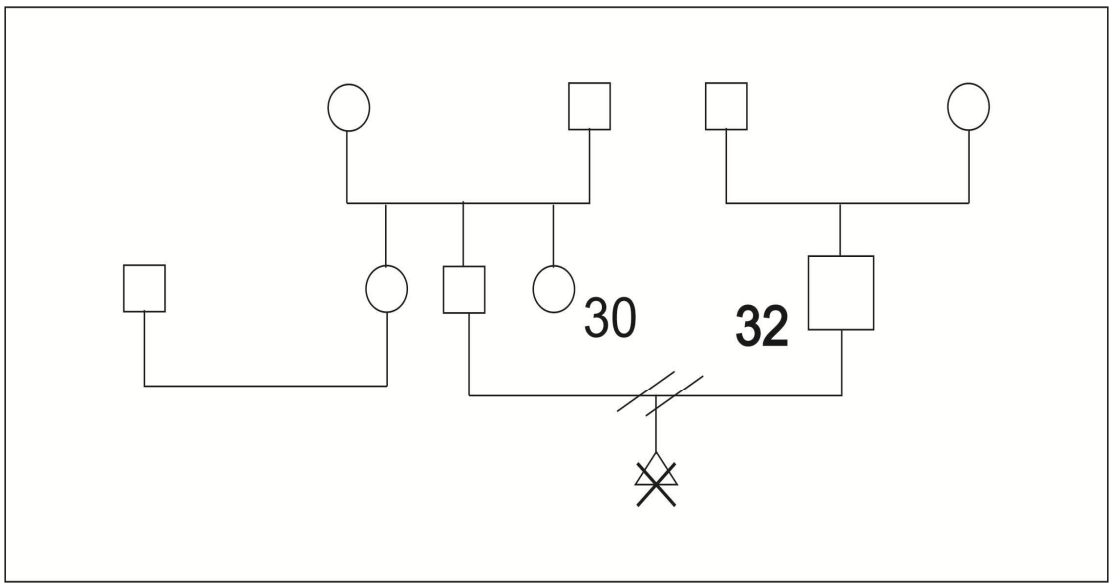



**Figure No. 4.9 : Case Study 9 - Family Genogram**

Lina (name changed) is the concerned female client. She is 30 years of age and lives in urban area. Lina's family belongs to Hindu religion and they are Marwari by caste. Her father was in the defense for service and mother a housewife. Her elder sister is married and her elder brother has completed his education and they have started looking for a good match for his marriage. Lina is the youngest of the siblings and has been pampered a lot while upbringing. She always had the freedom in her family for education and to express her views in the society.

Lina has completed her education till post-graduation and is working and designated as an Assistant Professor in a college on a contractual basis for the past 7 years. After completing her post-graduation when she started working, her father started looking for prospects for her marriage. Her marriage was arranged based on the decision taken by her family. Initially, they were told that the groom had completed his education till M.E. and earned Rs. 1,25,000/- monthly. His father was a headmaster in a private school and mother a homemaker. Considering all they found it compatible and the marriage was fixed. They owned two houses i.e., one was like a chawl and other a bungalow.

**"Just 2 months after the wedding, I got pregnant, but they made me abort the child saying that it was too early to have kids."** In the next 2-3 months it came to Lina's notice that she was cheated. Her husband was unemployed and was not in service anywhere. He had some addictions and had an extra marital affair. He chose to stay in the other house when Lina was in one of the two houses. Hence, they immediately took the decision of separation and divorce and filed a case. She had asked for one-time maintenance and in return he too had demanded for alimony from Lina as she had a job, but both their appeals were dismissed by the court. Lina's one time maintenance should have included her jewelry and the expenditure on the wedding as her right, but the court denied and the trials are still going on. **I had gone to the counselor but since I had already made up my mind and did not wish to be with him anymore and the counseling did not prove to be effective.** But she feels that pre-marital counseling will definitely prove to be helpful to avoid divorces. Since Lina had also faced domestic violence, the advocate had also added the charges under Domestic Violence Act on her husband.

While the trials were going on, it also came to notice that the school where Lina's father-in-law was working had dismissed him for eve teasing the girl students

in the school. Also, her husband's uncle was found to be misbehaving with women under the pretense of SPA treatments. They were performing illegal acts and hence she feels that the decision taken by her was absolute right. Owing to all this, they never ever tried to reconcile and charged each other with accusations.

Presently, Lina stays along with her parents and does not have much of responsibilities of family and she is independent owing to her employment. Her parents are her main support system.

- **Quality of Life Indicators –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Lina currently stays along with her parents in a house owned by them. All materialistic necessities are available to her. Speaking of things owned by Lina, she does not have much other than some small amount as fixed deposit and a two-wheeler. Lina does not earn much from her job and her earnings are not enough to take care of all her needs, all the time.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

Since Lina works as an Assistant Professor, she can efficiently procure all the necessary information and knowledge when required as she is aware of the available resources. Her resources are technology, family members and sometimes friends.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Lina does not have any health problems; hence she does not face any limitations while participating in any activities.

She had to face a lot of mental tension as her husband made a lot of wrong accusations such as Lina was bearing the child of someone else and that she was pregnant even at the time of their wedding. These accusations hurt her a lot. People of Marwari caste are loyal to their traditions and stick to their religious norms. In Lina's case, her mother-in-law would always insist her to speak in Marwari only or carry a veil on her head while in the house too. In Lina's upbringing such traditions and norms were not considered to be that necessary. Due to the accusations made by her husband, Lina had to face character assassination in the society. She often questions **herself as how did**

**she end up there? What exactly went wrong with her marriage? Why did it happen to her?** She used to cry a lot, often even for petty reasons. Finally, she opted for counseling. She started with Bach Flower Remedies which helped her gain control over her emotions and stop crying and helped her focus on her work. She was still afraid about the trials at court and didn't know how to deal with it.

In the present situation, Lina's father has turned to alcohol consumption due to the failure of her marriage and her brother is yet to be married. Lina insists that she would live independently, but her father does not allow it. Lina is caught in a state of helplessness and is frustrated mentally. She feels that her family has to suffer because of her. When she looks around and sees her friends leading stable lives and the instability in her own life, she gets the feeling of inferiority. She is not at all happy.

Lina's hobbies include listening music especially loves flute. In her spare time, she takes walks or finds peace when she is alone in the serenity of the nature. She does not meet any of her relatives and has stopped seeing them completely as they accuse her or pity her state and she dislikes it all. Lina is not associated with any social organizations or social groups.

**D) Environmental Quality** –

Lina feels absolutely safe and secure in the house that she lives in with her family members. Since the case is ongoing, Lina faces unexpected financial challenges every now and then. Due to the meager earnings that she has not had always, she has not planned well financially. She has no Mediclaim policy but has invested in LIC.

**E) Opportunities** –

Lina is aware of her rights but that is based on the guidance provided by her advocate. She can pursue any advanced or higher education as and when she requires but in the current scenario, she cannot concentrate on any of it. When it comes to taking any decision for herself, she takes her parents advice before acting upon it. Sometimes she feels very lonely and insecure. It becomes difficult for her to face the day-to-day challenges of life and she finds it

extremely difficult to live with religious and ethical values. It is always a challenge to bear the consequences of the decisions that she takes alone.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Post-divorce, the quality-of-life changes according to socioeconomic and cultural background of that person. Importance is given to rituals and customs instead of humanity. Lina, was wedded hurriedly and that if they had met for a few times prior to their marriage, she probably would have got some idea as to what would be in store for her. For her husband's family money is of 100% importance and their only goal. Hence she feels that it is extremely essential for a couple to get to know each other well before getting married.

**Case Study - 10**

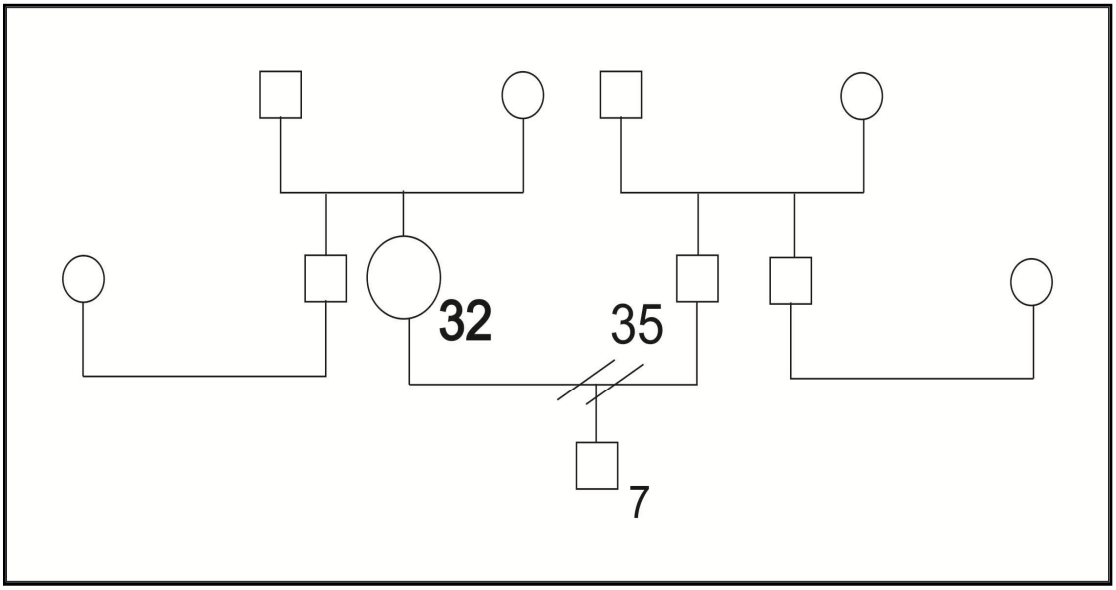



**Figure No. 4.10 : Case Study 10 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client Ginny (name changed) is 32 years of age who works as a teacher in a public school for Primary and High School section. She was unemployed earlier and earns well post-divorce. Ginny is Christian by religion and lives in an urban area. Before her marriage, she was a part of a joint family. At 24 years of her age, her parents had fixed her marriage. Post-marriage too, she lived in a Joint family.

One of the main reasons of getting divorced in her case is that her husband and in-laws did not even try to make any kind of adjustments to support her. communication in the family was almost non-existent. The expectations that she had from her marriage and Marital relationship were never fulfilled. Her in-laws interfered into everything for no reason and troubled her and hence she left them. Her in-laws meddled even into the most trivial matters and it often led to quarrels, fights. Her partner never helped or supported her in any way.

To get rid of all these tensions, Ginny decided to go separate ways. They lived six months in separation and two months later, the divorce case was filed in the court. Owing to the grave situation, Ginny had consulted the elderly people in the family before making her decision. It was simply impossible to be together and hence they did not even try to mend things or reconcile. Prior to that, there were no cases of divorce in Ginny's family.

Ginny did not avail counselling when the trials of the case were going on, neither did she opt for counselling prior to getting married. So, she does not know if counselling before or during the trials helps one to avoid a divorce or helps to face life post-divorce and cannot say anything about it. Ginny has a 7 year old son. In the current scenario, Ginny has many responsibilities such as financial, education and health of her son, his socialization and similar other family responsibilities.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Ginny presently lives with her parents in a rented house. Ginny said that all the materialistic items are available to her. When it comes to ownership of things, Ginny has some jewellery, fixed deposits and some amount. In her opinion, there are only a few times when her earnings can suffice for all her needs.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

Any basic knowledge such as how to face the challenges of day-to-day life or her current life-cycle is always available to her via various sources such as technology, family members, friends, training, etc. The information and communication that she needs is always available to her.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Presently, Ginny has a few health issues one of them being high blood pressure. It limits her from participating in some activities. However, in case of any health issues, she can always get the necessary treatment and medication.

Ginny has multiple mental issues and she is under a lot of stress. She is feeling very depressed. Similarly, she feels a lot of loneliness, guilt, lack of confidence, crankiness, and had sleep- related issues, uneasiness and lack of concentration. There are frequent emotional ups and downs.

Ginny has no hobbies or interests whatsoever. Looking at it all, she seldom feels happy or believes that life is beautiful. According to her, she often engages herself in some or the other work and has no spare time. She hardly attends any family functions or rarely attends formal functions. Also, she is seldom a part of any creative activities or entertainment based activities. She is not a member of any social group or organization. She hardly meets any of her relatives.

**D) Environmental Quality** –

Ginny feels completely safe and secure at her present residence. As an additional measure for safety, she does not disclose her present marital status to anybody. Since she has a lot of family responsibilities to take care of, she often faces financial challenges. She feels completely secure at her workplace. She has not at all planned financially and socially for her future. Ginny is not at all happy about her present living environment or standard of living.

**E) Opportunities –**

Ginny is well aware of her rights. She has opportunities available for her if she wishes to pursue advanced or business education. She sometimes has the freedom to take decisions for her own and it mostly depends on her parents and it also limits her wishes from being fulfilled. Sometimes she also feels that she is helpless and insecure. It is challenging for her to face the day-to-day challenges and situations. It becomes tough for her to live with all the religious and ethical values. It is always tough for her to face the consequences of decisions that she has taken alone.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

In most cases women find it difficult to deal with such situations as they have deeper emotional attachments and it gets difficult to face situations post-divorce. Woman has to keep her marital status confidential and detach herself from relatives. Burden of financial challenges kept her from planning her social security. She did not pursue any hobbies hence finds difficult to cope with situations. A divorce mostly affects the psyche of a person to a huge extent.

## Case Study - 11

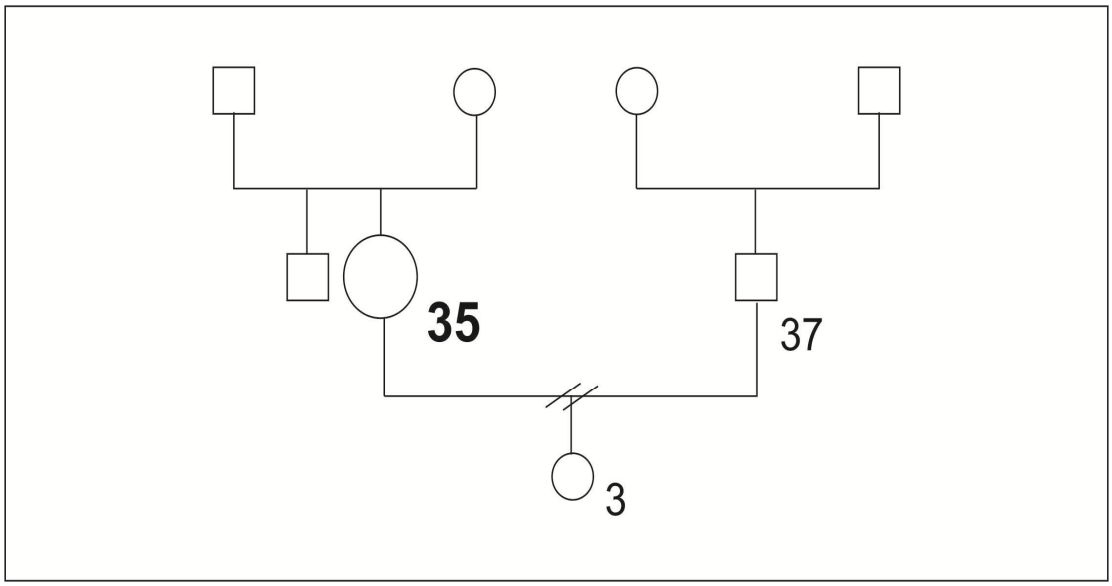



**Figure No. 4.11 : Case Study 11 - Family Genogram**

Savita (name changed) is the concerned female client and 35 years of age and has completed her education till B.Ed. She used to work as a teacher in a government school. She belongs to Hindu religion and schedule caste. Savita used to live in urban area.

Before her marriage, Savita was part of a joint family. At the time of marriage Savita was 27 years of age. It was an inter-caste marriage and after her marriage, Savita had a nuclear family. The divorce case was filed 4 years after the marriage.

Looking at the reasons of separation, a few important ones noticed are as follows – Educational disparity, psychological issues of her partner, overall incompatibility of partner in many ways as it was expected. Owing to these reasons, they lived in separation for almost 3 years. The duration for filing a case in the court

is 6 months. Savita took initiative and filed a case in the court. She did not consult the elderly in the society before taking the decision of divorce. She did not even try to reconcile or mend things with her husband. Hence they got divorced with mutual consent. There are no cases of divorce in Savitas' family before her. She did not avail counselling while the trials for the divorce case were going on hence, she has no idea about how helpful counselling might prove in such scenarios. Savita had availed pre-marital counselling but according to her, pre-marital counselling does not really help to avoid divorce.

Post – divorce Savita stays with her parents. Savita has a two and half year old daughter. Savita has a number of responsibilities to take care of such as financial, daughter's education, health socializing, etc.

- **Quality of life Indicators –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Savita presently, stays with her parents in a house owned by them. All the materialistic necessary items are available to her. When it comes to ownership, Savita owns a two-wheeler and some amount as fixed deposit. Her current earnings hardly suffice to take care of all her needs.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

According to Savita, the information and knowledge required to face day-to-day challenges or for the family life is always available to her. Her resource for gaining this knowledge and information is her family members. The communication required post-divorce is also always available to her.

**C) Health and Wellness** –

Currently, Savita does not have any health issues. But she faces limitations while participating in some activities owing to her health. She can get medical treatment as and when is required.

As per Savita, her psychological state was not affected in any ways. Savita always feels happy and life is good. Savita loves to read books and cook a variety of dishes and often reads or cooks whenever she has spare time. She always participates in creative and entertainment driven activities. Similarly, she also meets her relatives on regular basis. She also participates in activities related to social organizations and groups.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

The current place where Savita lives with her parents, always makes her feel safe and secure, Hence, there is no need to take extra measures. Sometimes, she has to face unexpected financial challenges. Savita also feels secure at the school which is her workplace. She has planned for the financial and social security of herself and her daughter. All-in-all, she is content about her present living environment.

**E) Opportunities –**

Savita is well aware of her rights. She has opportunities lying ahead of her when it comes to pursuing advanced and business education. She also has the freedom of taking decisions for herself. She never faces any limitations when it comes to fulfilling her wishes. She never feels insecure or helpless. She seldom finds it challenging to face the day-to-day challenges and situations. She sometimes finds it difficult to live her life with religious and ethical values. She never finds it tough to face the consequences of the decisions taken alone.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

In love marriage, initially couples are just under the influence of each other and find everything attractive. But once they enter into the family life, original personality traits are revealed. Then couples realized the short comings of each other. Then journey starts with complaints to endless criticism. Even today, inter caste marriages are frowned upon. The traditional, rigid attitude of society affects the married couple substantially.Then all these factors push couples to terminate the relationship. It is observed that one person wants to take divorce for so many reasons and it may be the fault of his or her partner. Thus, consent of both couples was not considered in this process.

Decision of divorce was taken by her so she has not taken counseling. As a result quality of life was affected in economic, religious and cultural context.

## Case Study - 12

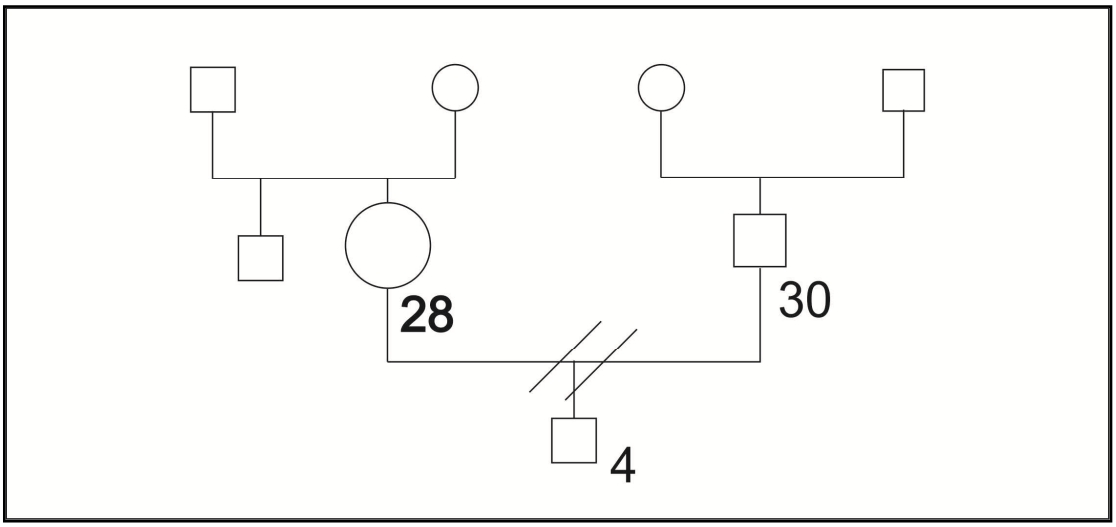



**Figure No. 4.12 : Case Study 12 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client, Ashwini, (name changed) is 28 years of age and has completed her education till Higher Secondary School. She is a homemaker and has no source of earnings whatsoever. Ashwini is Hindu by religion and lives in the heart of a city.

Speaking of Ashwini's past married life, she was 20 years of age when she got married. Prior to her marriage, she was a part of a nuclear family. Ashwini's marriage was arranged by the consent of all her family members. 4 years after the marriage, the divorce case was filed.

There were several reasons for the divorce. For one, the expectations out of the marriage were never met with. Her husband had left her and there was no communication were the prominent reasons. Earlier, Ashwini's husband quarreled, fought with her and left her. At the same time, Ashwini's in-laws too troubled her a lot and would cause fights for the most trivial reasons. They had conservative attitude and Ashwini's husband had severe addiction. Hence, it was highly impossible to compromise in any ways. They lived in separation for 2 years and got separated completing the procedure.

Ashwini's husband took the initiative to file a case in the court. Before filing the case, he had consulted all the elderly people. They also tried a lot to reconcile. The court order was further processed by court trials. There were no cases of divorce in Ashwini's family earlier.

While the trials were going on, Ashwini had availed counseling. According to her, counseling help only to some extent. She is content about the efforts taken by the counselor. But according to her, counseling did not help to face the challenges of life post-divorce. She thinks that counseling is illogical and futile for those people who have already made their decision to get divorced. Ashwini had not availed pre-marital counseling and she feels that such a counseling cannot prevent any divorces. Post-divorce, Ashwini lives with her parents and she has a 4-year-old son.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Presently, Ashwini lives in a house owned by one of her relatives. To some extent materialistic tools are available to her. When it comes to ownership, Ashwini merely owns some jewelry. The meagre earnings of the family members can hardly suffice their needs.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

Ashwini gets all the necessary information that is required to face the challenges of day-to-day life. Such information is sourced through the parent meetings that are arranged in her son's school. Rest of the information or communication that she needs, is seldom available to her through any sources.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Currently, Ashwini has blood pressure and mental instability, which results in limitations while participating in certain activities. For the health-related issues and medical treatments that she requires, depend on the financial conditions in the family.

Ashwini is under tremendous stress now. She has a deep feeling of depression and failure. She faces loneliness, guilt and lacks confidence. She feels angry, gets cranky over things, there are emotional ups and downs and she has insomnia. Therefore, she hardly feels any happiness or satisfaction about life.

Ashwini likes to stitch clothes; hence she hardly has any spare time. Ashwini never participates in any entertainment based, family functions, social functions or meets any relatives. She seldom participates in any such functions.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Ashwini feels completely safe and secure at the place where she stays at present. However, she comes across unexpected financial challenges at times. For future, Ashwini has not planned for her son's financial and social security; it is not possible for her as she hardly earns anything. But she is not content about the present environment that she is living in.

**E) Opportunities –**

Ashwini is not at all aware about her rights. She feels that she can pursue higher education if she feels the need to do so. She does not have the complete freedom to take decisions for her future, but it depends on the situation and she can sometimes decide for herself. Her wishes are fulfilled a few times. At times she feels helpless and insecure. It is difficult for her to live with day-to-day challenges and situations or live with the religious and ethical values or face the consequences of decisions taken alone.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

In case of women, dependency is the most difficult challenge. Life is difficult without financial support or without the support of society. They often have to stay away from the mainstream of the society due to social stigma. This case was more vulnerable in the context of standard of living, freedom of decision, helplessness, insecurity. Her emotional and mental state is also suffered. Psycho somatic disorder like BP is also detected. She was very young to face all these challenges.

### 4.1.3 Sub urban based Families with different cultural background

**Case Study - 13**

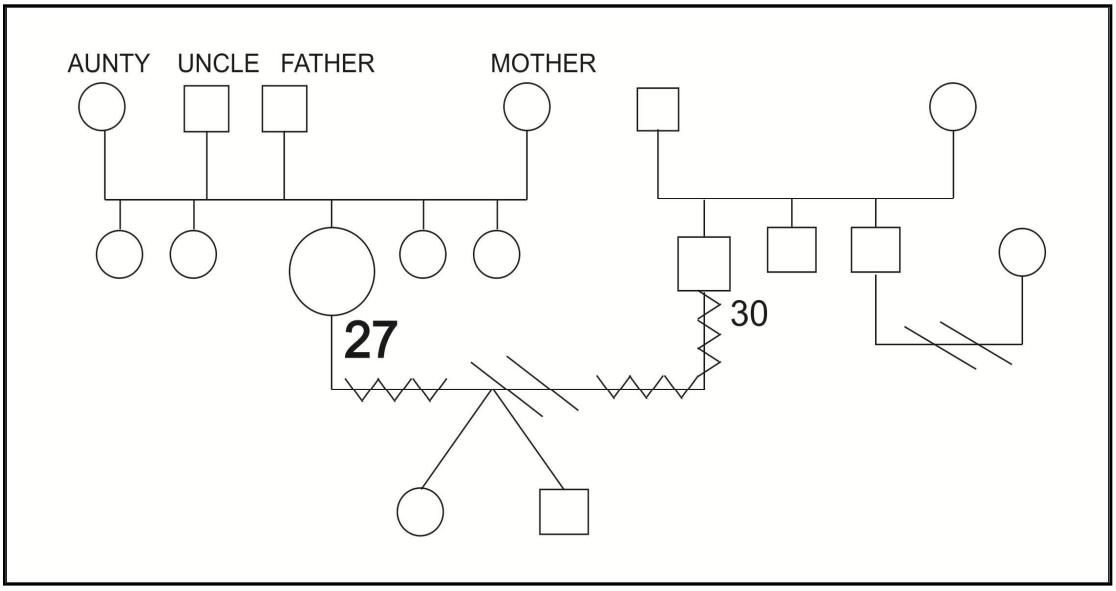



**Figure No. 4.13 : Case Study 13 - Family Genogram**

Deepa (name changed) is 27 years old and has completed her education till F.Y.B.A. At present, she is working in a private limited company earning a meager salary. Her income before the divorce is not known, however, post-divorce her alimony amount and salary from the present job together amounts to Rs. 15000/- per month.

She comes from a Hindu family in an open social category. She lives in big city. She was part of a joint family before and after marriage. Deepa grew up in a secured environment. Being a joint family, they were two real sisters and two cousin sisters. These four sisters were always together and hence had very less or rather no other friends. Studying in a girl's school and a girl's college, she had no contact whatsoever with any of the male counterparts. Her father is an auto rickshaw driver and till $10^{th}$ standard he used to pick-up and drop her to school. So, she hardly had any contact with the outside world. It is her opinion that parents are free of a huge responsibility once they get their daughters married.

Deepa's age at the time of her marriage was 19 years and it was an arranged marriage. She was married in her family itself and her husband was her aunt's nephew. The maternal property of her mother was quite huge. The property was distributed with the consent of her grandfather; however, her aunt was unhappy and left. She has feeling that her aunt took revenge by getting her married. The mother-in-

law of the client wished for a daughter-in-law that came for her maternal side and hence, the client was not accepted by the family. “I was married early against my will. I wanted to make a career in food science. I and my husband had not even seen each other. The family members coerced me a lot. I did not have an affair elsewhere. It is the first proposal, do not say no, they said to pressurize me. I had to agree to it.”

Deepa's marriage was arranged. An amount of Rs. 7 lakhs in cash and about 40-50 grams of gold was given, and she was married. Despite getting married in the family, she was betrayed. They were told that he owns fabrication business, but later on they realized that he was an employee there. He had created a huge debt and used to gamble. They all hoped that he would change once he was married and had kids, but that did not happen. Her husband’s educational qualification was ITI. Deepa's husband had 3 brothers. The eldest of them had left them and he too was divorced. She had to spend her days locked up in the house. She was not allowed to use her phone or open the door or windows. Once her husband left the house, she had to lock the door and open it only when he came back. The physical relations were extreme, non-consensual and forced upon her. She was forced even during her menstruation cycle.

Her mother-in-law would ask her to get money all the time. According to Deepa, her mother-in-law contributed to 60% of the mistakes, as it is the ladies of the household who support the wrong doings due to their ego. Whenever there was any kind of argument in the house, her mother-in-law would be unhappy and leave for her maternal house and complained about the family members. Due to the constant arguments at home, they also tried to live separately for some days in a rented house, but the situation never changed. “Basically, my mother-in-law never liked me, hence the relations never improved.” Deepa further said, “I strongly believe that men always look women with lust; they can make her happy 90% physically and 10% emotionally. They never ask about what the women wish for. I feel utterly disgraced by all this.”

Deepa has two children i.e. a boy and a girl. They are twins but her husband was suspicious and always said that he was the father of the boy but not the girl. She tolerated all this till the family feuds were limited to her. Her husband blamed her for his indebtedness and used to beat her up. She hid it all from her own family members,

but when her husband strangled the 8-months-old boy, she informed her parents about the same and her husband hit them too. Since ,then she returned to her maternal home.

Initially Deepa filed a case in the court. Before filing the case, she had also discussed the matter with elders in the society and her relatives. She had also tried a lot to mend things up. Eventually, they were divorced with mutual consent. During the process of getting divorced, she also went for counseling. Counseling can be helpful but what is important is one's mindset. If one's mind is full of negativity, then even counseling does not help. According to the Deepa, the counselor tried the best to mend things but to no avail, due to her husband's mindset. She feels that counseling would be helpful to deal with her life post-divorce. She never went for any counseling before her marriage, but she feels that pre- marriage counseling is important. After her divorce, she is currently living with her parents.

She not only has financial responsibilities but also the responsibility of her children.

- **Quality of Life Indicators**

**A) Material living conditions**

Post-divorce, she is living with her parents who own the house. It's a joint family and the number of earners is less; hence the necessities of life are scantily available. In the current situation she only owns her jewelry and the lump sum amount from the alimony saved as deposit. Her current income proves it difficult to take care of the necessities.

**B) Foundation of well-being**

She has no knowledge about tackling the problems that come up in day to day life or family life. Her only source of gaining this knowledge is through mobile phone or television or from the members of the family. Due to lack of contact with the outside world, there is sometimes lack of information and communication.

**C) Health and wellness**

Deepa has a heart problem. Being born a premature, it hurts when she cries too much. She feels a pressure on her heart and does not participate in stressful activities. She takes medication in sickness and as and when it is required.

Post-divorce, she has experienced tremendous stress and has hardly been able to sleep in 1-1.5 years. She feels that she has not been able to experience the joyous moments in life but feels hopeful looking at her children.

Client said she has no hobbies. She never feels that life is good. She rarely attends any family functions. Due to lack of hobbies, she is hardly a part of any creative activity. She is not a member of any social organization or group. She never meets up with her relatives.

**D) Environmental quality**

Currently she is living with her parents and feels safe and secure. She has great emotional support from her family. But she still faces unexpected financial problems. She opines that she feels secure at her current workplace too. Due to her scanty income she has not planned for her social or financial security. She does not feel satisfied due to the constant challenges that she has to face.

**E) Opportunities**

She is not aware about her own rights. Presently, raising her twin children, educating them is of utmost importance to her. Hence her own education is kept aside. She is free to take her own decisions but under the guidance of the elderly in the family, especially her father. Her father is incredibly supportive but in the present situation there are limitations to fulfilling her wishes. Sometimes, she feels helpless due to facing the frequent tough occurring situations or incidences. She finds it difficult to survive due to the societal and cultural structure, religious values and moral principles.

- **Interpretation by researcher :**

While talking over the phone Deepa described it all in a flow of communication. It was found that Deepa became a victim in the process of marriage and family. Due to getting married at young age, less education, no income security and multiple responsibilities she has to face a lot of challenges in future life. She became a victim of complicated family matters, exploited by in- laws and family members, pressurized by maternal family members to accept marriage proposal. This shows that family itself is not conducive for any individual.

Divorce has strong impact on emotional as well as mental health. Factors like nurturing, education, socio economic condition, support system affect quality of life. also Nurturing also affects on It also takes away the ability of decision making in future life. More focus was given on formalities than consent Consent of bride and groom and eligibility for marriage.

**Case Study - 14**

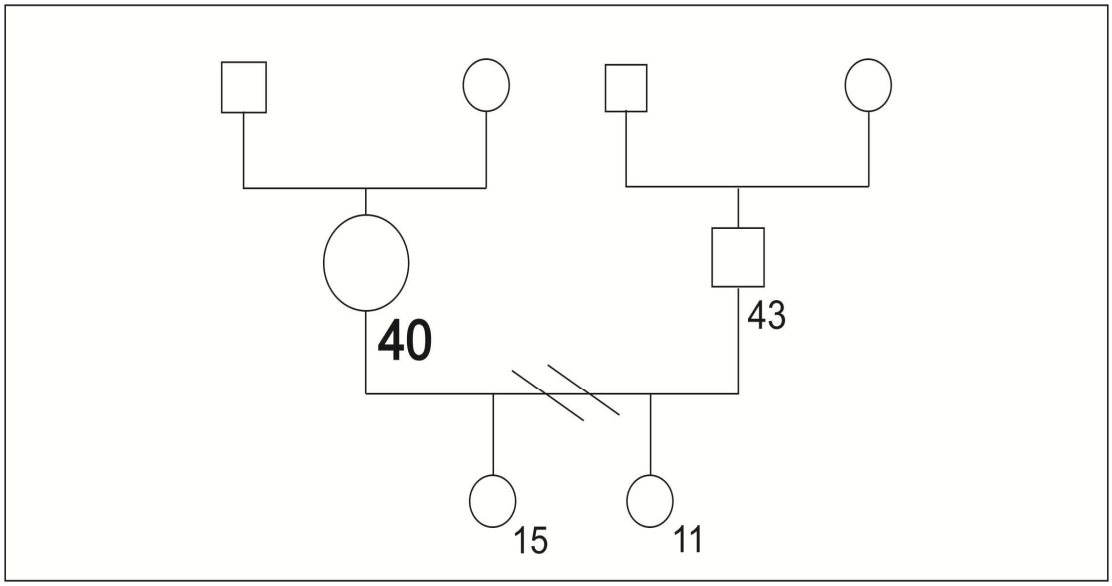



**Figure No. 4.14 : Case Study 14 - Family Genogram**

Ganga (name changed) is 40 years old and has graduate degree holder. She owns an aquarium shop where she also does additional work of DTP and Typing. The client is Hindu and belongs to schedule caste category. She lives in an urban area. After divorce, she is the sole bread-winner of the house and works relentlessly. As a result, her income is now better than before the divorce.

She had been a member of a nuclear family before and after her wedding. She did love-marriage at the age of 25 years. She filed for divorce after 15 years of marriage. She became aware of her husband's extra marital affair, 4-5 years prior to divorce. Initially, she was alerted by her well-wishers about the affair. She fell apart completely when she herself witnessed the affair. She has two daughters. Her elder daughter was in $10^{th}$ std and younger daughter was in $5^{th}$ std at that time. It was extremely agonizing for her to divulge their father's illicit relationship to the girls. The endless mental anguish was intolerable but for the sake of girls, husband and wife tried hard to put on the show of normal relationship. Hence, the girls were oblivious

to the reality for 3-4 years. But the husband was not in favour of reconciliation and was adamant on divorce. To put an end to all this, the circumstances were discussed openly. Her in-laws never approved of their son's conduct and supported her emotionally. Her husband also owned an aquarium shop. Though, emotional bond between Ganga and her daughters was rock solid, the husband was not willing to stay with the family. Communication was unequivocally non-existent. Consequently, after a few days, husband separated from his wife.

Later on, it was decided to file for divorce on some specific conditions. After separation period of six months, a petition for divorce was filed in the court. Before approaching the court, the she had not only consulted with senior members of society but also had initiated efforts to reconcile. In view of this fact, divorce was mutual. No one in the family has obtained divorce in this manner. Ganaga did not avail counselling during divorce proceedings. Counselling may prove beneficial for life post-divorce. But it is not helpful for the people with premeditated decisions. She had also not opted for premarital counselling which may help to prevent future divorce.

After divorce, she lives independently in a house which was transferred to her name by her husband. Now she is shouldering all the responsibilities like education of her daughters, ensuring sound income etc.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**B) Material living conditions/ Standard of Living**

Ganga stays in her own house and has all the facilities available. She has immovable asset in the form of a house, some jewellery, and a vehicle. According to her, the needs are fulfilled sometimes with her income.

**C) Foundations of well being**

Avenues to obtain knowledge and information are accessed through electronic gadgets like mobile and television. From time to time she also learns a lot from her conversation with friends. Channels of communication are always at her disposal as and when needed.

**D) Health and wellness**

Physically being hale and hearty, she leads an active social life. In case of an illness, treatment is easily affordable. But psychologically she has to endure

great many problems like stress, depression, loneliness, lack of self-confidence, rage, insomnia, loss of mental acuity, agitation, bursting into tears. She doesn't have any hobbies. Owing to domestic and professional accountability, she seldom finds time to participate in family events, creative ventures or entertainment activities. She says,'' I am in touch with the relatives who have accepted the current circumstances.''

**E) Environmental Quality**

Ganga feels safe and secure in her current house as well as at her workplace. At times, she has to endure unforeseen financial issues. She has made financial provisions for her secure future, as a result she is satisfied with the quality of life.

**F) Opportunities**

She is well aware of her rights. She can avail current professional education if and when needed. She takes her decisions independently and is responsible for her future. Sometimes she can't fulfil her desires. She never feels helpless as both the families support her. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. Life with religious values, moral values and principles never feels tricky or burdensome. She is comfortable with her own decisions regardless of the consequences.

She had become sentimental every time we met. Her lifestyle is modern now. She revealed,'' Though 'we' are divorced, the girls and their father share same bond. He takes them for outing, dinner. The girls have accepted the reality now.''

A while ago she called me. Her friends are insisting her for second marriage. They argue that it would be tough and awful to live life alone after the girls get married. She is in dilemma as her teenage daughters might not approve of her second marriage.

- **Interpretation by researcher :**

It is the failure of love marriage and it creates inferiority complex in wife and she changes her life style, appearance because husband has chosen alternative

relationship. The pattern of communication with children and maturity of the children made it easy for them to accept the separation of parents. Here it shows that bifurcation and understanding of relations in its context may gives feeling of security.

Extra marital or alternative relationship is not much accepted in Indian culture hence support has been provided to wife by family members. Counselling in the court was not effective for reconciliation. Financial support and self reliance gave satisfaction and improved quality of life in the context of materialistic living condition. However here it adversely affects mental health and wellbeing. Still society (peoples in the environment) is pushing individual to remarry for the fear of loneliness which puts her in dilemma and conflict.

## Case Study - 15

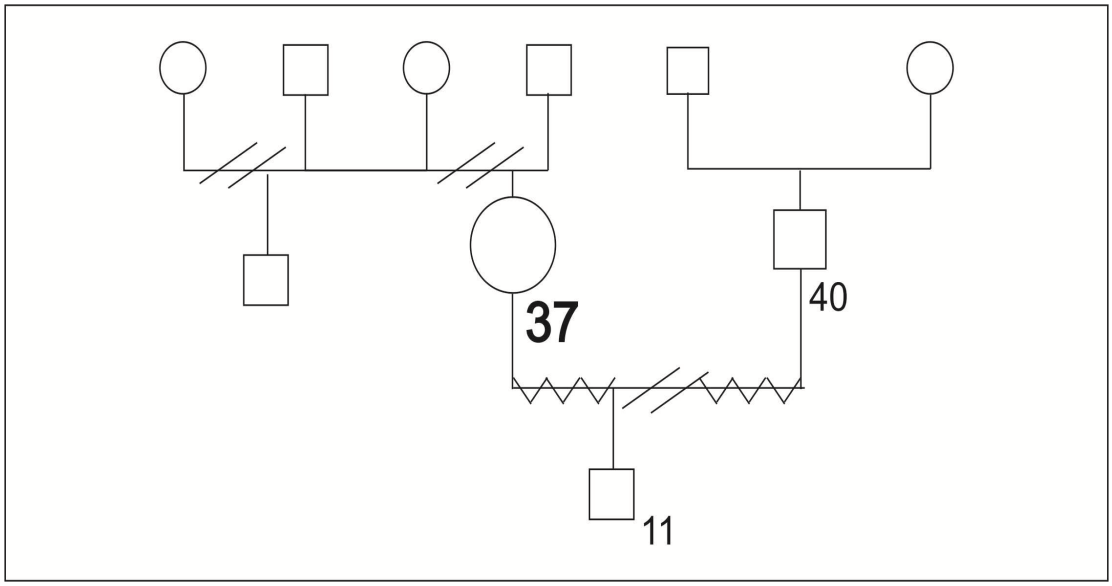



**Figure No. 4.15 : Case Study 15 - Family Genogram**

Neeta (name changed) is 37 years old and has done her graduation. She works in private sector. Before her divorce, she used to earn Rs. 10000 whereas after divorce, her income is about Rs. 27000. She is Hindu and belongs to open category. She lives in suburban area. She lived in a nuclear family pre as well as post marriage. She married at the age of 23. Her marriage was arranged by the mutual consent of bride and groom. She filed for divorce after 7 years of marriage.

Neeta feels that she was cheated in this marriage. The truth about her husband's job, behaviour, condition of family etc. was kept from her on purpose. She

opted for divorce as conciliation was absolutely impossible. There was a little communication between them. Whatever her expectations from the marriage were, those were never fulfilled. Husband had an extra marital affair. There was disparity in their education as husband had completed high school only. He was an orthodox and conservative who never gave her attention and time. Her husband abused her physically as a result she came to her parents' house and stayed for a year and half. 6 months after that, she was granted divorce. She filed divorce case. She had no discussion with anyone before applying for divorce. She didn't even consider an option of reconciliation due to her husband's behaviour. She wanted divorce as soon as possible. She tried so with the help of her lawyers and got divorce on mutual consent. Her parents had also gone through the divorce phase in their respective first marriage. Neeta was born prior her mother's divorce. Her step father had a son from his first marriage. According to her mother, after the second marriage, they were living together with their respective children and their interpersonal relations are cordial.

She did avail counselling during divorce proceedings. Though she is appreciative of the efforts taken by the counsellors, she did not find counselling beneficial. For those who are preoccupied with the idea of divorce, counselling is meaningless. She had not opted for premarital counselling but feels that premarital counselling would certainly help to prevent divorce in future.

Post-divorce, Neeta lives with her parents along with her 11 year old son. Now, she takes care of financial, educational needs, health issues and well-being of her son.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material living conditions/ Standard of living**

For now, she lives with her parents in their home. She has the material possessions to some extent. She owns a vehicle but doesn't have jewellery, house or cash. She feels that her income is sufficient to fulfil her needs.

**B) Foundation of well being**

For varied information and knowledge, she depends on her family members, television and other technical devices like mobile phone, computer etc. Essential information and channels of communication are always within easy reach.

**C) Health and wellness**

She is healthy and is seldom restricted to participate in activities due to health issues. At the same time, she can easily avail appropriate treatment in case of illness. Considering her mental condition, she experiences too much stress, loneliness, guilt and lack of confidence. Frequently, she feels depressed and enraged. She is unable to concentrate and faces insomnia and instability.

At times she feels cheerful. Handicraft is her hobby and she is very creative. She doesn't get much free time and tries to keep herself busy all the time. She always attends family events and also participates in entertainment activities. But she doesn't meet her relatives regularly. She is not a member of any social organization or group.

**D) Environmental Quality**

She feels safe and sound at home as she lives with her parents. But sometimes, she has to endure unforeseen financial issues. At her workplace also she feels secure. Neeta has done future planning in form of Mediclaim policy and other financial investment. But she is not satisfied about the quality of current life.

**E) Opportunities**

She is not much aware of her rights, as a result, she doesn't make use of them in her day-to- day life. She is able to take advance professional training. Once in a while, she has the freedom to take decisions of her future life. Sometimes she faces limitations while fulfilling her desires and also feels insecure, helpless. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. Life with religious values, moral values and principles is rarely difficult for her. She finds it tough to accept decisions along with their consequences.

This particular case highlights the issues of male chauvinism, ego and inferior status of women. Her family accepted her divorce effortlessly as her mother

herself is married twice. Her son has also accepted it, feels the family. Sound financial status and strong educational background lead to positive mind set. Family provides unconditional support to Neeta without blaming her and encourages her from time to time. It is evident that she was deceived and tricked in this marriage. For her husband, mother is more important than wife. The mother-in-law was too dominant.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

Divorce history was in the family. In the process of finalizing marriage (love and arrange) superficial aspects were focused and three lives were ruined. Husband is under parental influence (particularly mother) is much more that person is unable to give importance to different relations. Total dissatisfaction in relationship felt by wife.

Counselling does not work when decision of divorce was already finalised. Need of pre marital counselling was expressed by wife to secure the marriage.

All divorce process was painful as she was emotionally involved but expectations were not fulfilled. Thus it affects mental health such as stress, loneliness, guilt and lack of confidence. Frequently, she feels depressed and enraged. She is unable to concentrate and faces insomnia and instability. Such things are quite difficult while facing life challenges. However, her hobbies or creativity help her to cope up the situation.

Family was educated and open minded hence provided support to daughter at all levels. Economic independency and support from parents decrease the level of stress in shouldering responsibility of child.

## Case Study - 16

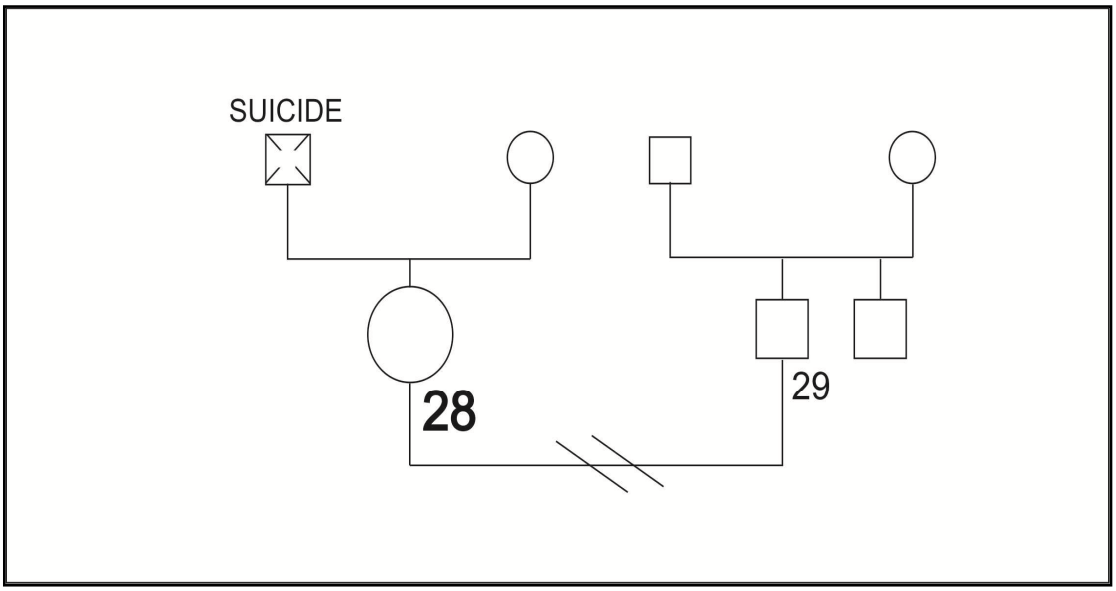



**Figure No. 4.16 : Case Study 16 - Family Genogram**

Medha (name changed) is a twenty eight years old woman, living in sub urban area, from Hindu-open category. She had completed her graduation and now working in an insurance company. She thinks her present income is more than her pre-divorce income. Now her mother is the only member of her family and Medha is the only child of her mother.

Medha's father was a government servant but he was an addict. She experienced no love or understanding in her parents relation. Her father evaded all the responsibilities regarding the family. Her mother was always beaten by her father and struggling and quarrelling was going on. In this circumstance, when she was just fifteen years old, her father committed suicide in front of her eyes. Considering her age, it was a great jolt to her. Thus, she never had father's affection. She was brought up by her mother only.

Medha was 24 years old when she married. It was inter-caste love marriage. Both of them were working in the same place and they fell in love. Medha proposed him for marriage. She was taking all the initiative. For three years they were in relationship, but he neither withdrew from relation nor was ready to marry. Forcefully convinced him to marry. This marriage was not accepted by his family. It was court marriage and nobody attended it from his family.

The family of Medha's husband has his father, mother and a younger brother. Their financial position was very modest. They had a small farm near Pune. His family was living in a very small flat so Medha and her husband started living in a separate rented flat. Her in-laws totally refused to accept her and they never allowed her to participate in family affairs. His father got no respect in the family and had no voice or control over it. Her mother-in-law solely hold the family. It's the fact that the family had a strong financial and moral support from mother's home naturally the father had no value and no power to express his opinion. After their marriage, her mother-in-law demanded money for marriage reception. Medha refused to pay and the in-laws had to bear it. Their greed for money and for all other material things was clearly seen through every gesture.

Gradually, she started realizing the great difference in her husband's pre-marriage and post-marriage behaviour. She had to do night-duty. Her husband was paying the rent and that was all. He was reluctant to take any responsibility of the house. He never took initiative even in sexual relation. She sensed that he had become quite indifferent and dry. Her mother-in-law, being strongly against their marriage, started to win him over.

Unfortunately, by that time the husband had a small accident and taking the advantage of the opportunity his mother took him to her house. Giving him an excuse of having limited space she was asked to go back to her mother's house to stay. She told that during that period the mother-in-law influenced him by telling many wrong things about her and created great misunderstanding.

She was getting dejected especially due to her husband's changed behaviour. Her condition worsened when she heard from their common friends about his extra-marital affairs. Once she was ill and had to stay at her mother's place. He was so insensitive that he took no notice of it, least enquiring her well-being. In short, that was the indication of the meaninglessness of their relation.

At last, both agreed upon getting mutual-consent-divorce and a common advocate was appointed for it. Her mother took every effort to save that marriage through compromise but failed. The husband and his family tried to prove her liar. Eventually they got divorced with mutual understanding.

She knew his financial condition was not sound so did not claim alimony. Of course, during the process of divorce they were sent for counselling. 'Do you agree?' was the only question asked and within five minutes they came out of that office. There was nothing like counselling. Before their marriage she had heard about pre-marriage counselling and insisted on going for it, but he refused the idea and did not attend it. Now she understands how and why such pre-marriage counselling is very important and useful also.

**She has no child. In fact, she deliberately avoided conception. Currently she has responsibility of her mother and herself. Her mother gets family pension.**

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material Living Conditions**

Medha lives in the house owned by her mother. That house contains all the required conveniences. She possesses her own vehicle and fix deposits. Thus, the income of her family is sufficient to cater their needs.

**B) Foundation of wellbeing**

She receives general information of the subject, 'family-life and related issues' through mobile, social media, parents and friends. A well-known marriage bureau provides this type of guidance. Her mother's friend heads such bureau so the information is easily available to her.

**C) Health and wellness**

Currently Medha is suffering from some skin-diseases as well as hair-fall for which she is taking medical treatment. But because of these anguishes her mental health is absolutely disturbed. She is suffering from continuous stress, depression, loneliness, mood-swings and emotional ups and downs, sleeplessness and such severe problems.

She thinks, 'My mother is thinking about my remarriage but because of the jolt of betrayal now I don't have such desire. I tried flower-therapy, attended counselling sessions but got only temporary relief. **My mind returns to the same dejected state. Especially in this period of lockdown I am mentally torn. Watching the wonderful status of friends, I ask Myself why I cannot enjoy such happy life.** I really want to be happy. I strived hard to sustain the

relation with him but failed. I may think about second marriage when I really like a person, and the bond of attachment will be created; then only it is worth thinking. At present I feel that my feelings are dead. I am always in dilemma. After all, how many years can I pull on this life all alone, doing the job? I really need a strong support. I am searching for stability.'

She has hobbies of drawing and mountaineering. She spends her spare time in drawing, participating some family-events or entertainment programmers, and meeting relatives. At present she is not connected to any social organization or group but she would like to work with them.

**D) Environmental Quality:**

She feels safe at her present accommodation. Sometimes she has to face unexpected financial problems. No doubt, she feels safe at the place of her job but the job is uninteresting and she is doing it against her will. By doing financial planning she had secured her future, especially investing in Mediclaim and other investment plans. Her office has provided health-insurance.

In spite of all this, she is completely dissatisfied. She repents for taking wrong direction of education. She could not afford the education she loved most and had to accept the line which she did not find interesting. In addition to this, her job and her education have no connection.

**E) Opportunities**

She is aware of her rights particularly rights of alimony. But her friend warned her, 'when alimony is demanded the in-laws accuse the woman doing mean allegations in court. She has to hear them helplessly. She loses courage to use her rights because she is shattered by this castration. So better not demand alimony.'

In present circumstances, Medha can take advance education or vocational training. She desires to start domestic business. Actually, she is capable of taking decisions for her future. Her income is sufficient to fulfil her needs. The problem is; she has stopped expecting anything of life.

She often feels support less because she is challenged by her fate putting forth difficult situations to deal with. It is very difficult to bear the judgemental eyes of society. Society's religious and moral frames now do not allow her to fit in. Thus, it has proved very hard to digest the consequences of the decision she had taken.

The discussions with her revealed her frustration very clearly. She tried to describe everything elaborately and calmly and finally expressed her wish to come out of the present state so she needs support.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

In family life cycle every stage is very important. The roles and responsibilities related to it matter a lot. In this case study childhood experiences, family environment has maximum impact on perception of an individual. Love, affection are basic needs of human being which are missing in this case. Absence of 'Male' figure, attachment to him was missing in her life. So, more efforts were taken to get the same in marriage life. Experiences in maternal family life were so worst that it became her need to get out from her family and tried to enter into new family life forcefully. But when there is force applied anywhere then there are chances to get the same treatment in return in same manner.

Counselling was just kind of formality she experienced, nothing useful. Using rights was also difficult by thinking of social environment. As her economic condition was good In comparison with other indicators, more adverse impact is on health and wellness. Feeling of total failure in life as being unable to take education of choice, being unable to get the job of choice and failure of love marriage created more frustration and least interest in life. She tried medicine and other forms to cope. Post-divorce support was necessary for her.

## Case Study - 17

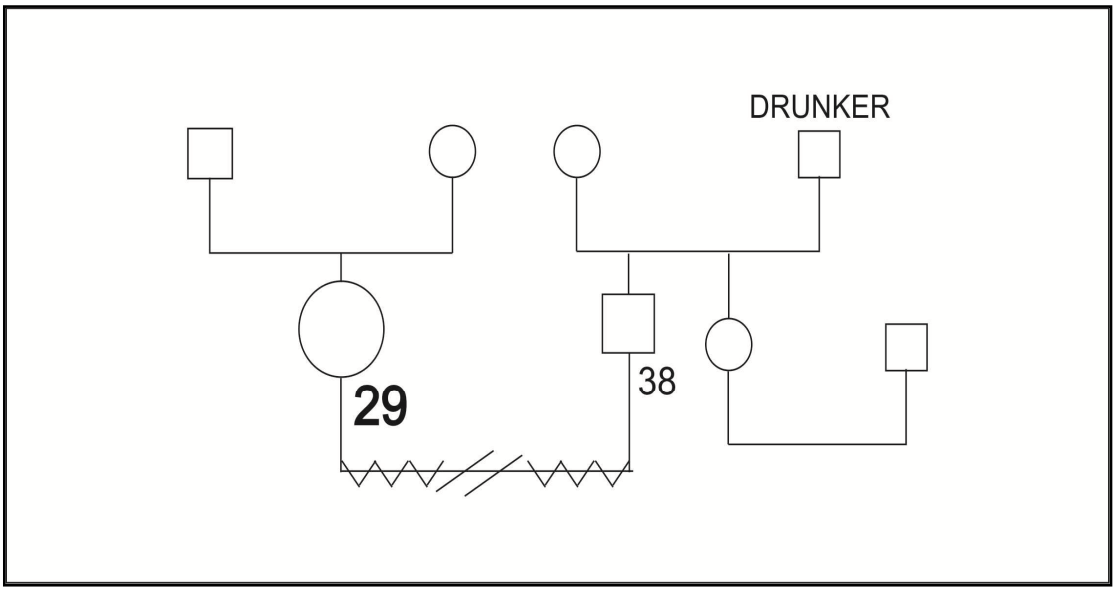



**Figure No. 4.17 : Case Study 17 - Family Genogram**

Shweta (name changed) is 29 years of age and lives in a sub-urban area. She is Hindu by religion and belongs to scheduled caste. She has completed her post-graduation in M.Tech. and currently trying for PhD. A few days back, she had a job, but she left her job to pursue PhD either in India or someplace out of India. She lives in a nuclear family with her parents and brother. Since both of her parents are earning well, they are financially sound and can bear the expenses of her advanced studies.

Shweta got married four years ago and the marriage proposal came via a matrimonial institution where her family had registered her name. The marriage was arranged with the mutual consent of both their families. Her husband was 9 years elder to her and her family had rejected the thought of alliance when the prospect was brought to notice initially. A few days later when the prospect came to their notice again, she thought that the guy looked younger than his age and she agreed to get married. They were told that the groom-to-be had completed his B.E. and was working in the field of marketing. The groom's family consisted of his parents (mother was a retired teacher), his married sister (US) and her husband.

The groom lived in USA and his sister was settled there too. Shweta was betrayed with a lot of misinformation. For the initial 6 months after her marriage, she lived with her mother and father-in-law. She was mentally tortured right from the second day of her marriage. **They always told her, "Don't sit on that chair, you**

**should sit only here and do not move from here until you are told to do so".** Her father-in-law used to verbally abuse her in a drunken state, hence she would often spend her entire day sitting in her room. Her mother-in-law started spoiling her daughter-in-law's image in front of relatives. While talking to the relatives over the phone, the mother-in-law would act as though she was unwell. She would lie on the bed when relatives came to visit and get up as soon as they went away. She used the walking stick in front of others and go for a walk without the stick when they were not around. It was being depicted that they cared a lot for their daughter-in-law, but they were suffering because of her. She was frequently told to get a job and the in-laws indirectly expected her to give them the money. When she finally found a job, they denied and said that it was time to go to the USA.

Shweta feels that the marriage was hurriedly fixed. When her sister-in-law came to visit India, the in-laws were continuously pestering to get married within 15 days. But Shweta asked for 2 months instead. Within this time span, Shweta and her husband-to-be met each other twice or thrice and it came to her notice that her husband hardly spoke. She still gave him the benefit of doubt thinking that few people do not like to talk much. After the marriage when she was in India for 6 months, her husband never took an initiative to call her by himself. When she informed him about the treatment that she was getting at his home, he would ignore it. His mother had influenced him deeply. He never thought much of what she told him about his father's misbehavior. **She said that, "probably he was forcefully married. He sounded normal when he spoke but showed no interest in anything. Even while getting intimate, I was the one who took initiative and there was no response from him."**

Six months after her marriage when she was sent away to the USA, she found that her husband was staying at his sister's home. She was told that he had a job, but he never seemed to be busy with any work. It was doubtful whether he had a job or not. A few days later, her husband found a job and he left for Austin. Once again, they were separated for about 2 and a half months. Even before her husband left for Austin, they were not allowed to sleep together, and her husband slept in a different room. She felt deeply hurt as her sister-in-law treated her like a servant in her home. "One day they had guests and they asked the sister-in-law; how come she stays here? That's when she decided to send me to my husband. But not before fighting and arguing a lot with me.

No sooner had she reached Austin than she was followed by her mother and father-in-law. Frequently they said, “Why do you live here? Leave from here.” She was never even taken to a doctor when she fell ill and it grew worse. They never gave her any money. When it came to getting wheat flour grinded, they would give her a meager amount of Rs. 5/-. Shweta's mother would transfer some money in her account. After treating her so badly, she was sent back to India. When she came back, she went to live with her parents. She tried hard to maintain the relation with her husband, but it was in vain. While she was in Austin, she got the feeling that she was unwanted and they were trying to get them divorced. She brushed of the feeling thinking that it was her misunderstanding.

When she came back to India, she was served the divorce notice from their end. With the consultation of an advocate, they filed a case of Domestic Violence. Many people even suggested to file a complaint with the police but one of her neighbors was D.Y.S.P. and he advised not to do so. When the case stood in the court, the husband’s family was charged with a huge alimony of about Rs. 8 Lakhs. This led them to come and ask for compromise. “We were not going to ask for money, but they had imposed wrong allegations in their case. They mentioned that her mother stole all the jewelry and ran away with it so the alimony amount should be reduced. Later, that jewelry was found with them. They returned all the jewelry to Shweta's family and both got separated with mutual consent. During this time span, they hardly went for any counseling. Whatever counseling was attended by the husband’s family, they were not in state of mind to listen about anything. Even when the case was filed, there was no response from their end; neither did they come to the court on time. Hence, the counseling was not fruitful.

However, she feels that pre-marital counseling is important. She has no children, hence no responsibility to take care of.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

A) **Material Living Conditions -** The financial condition at Shweta's maternal home is very sound, so all material facilities are well taken care of. She owns jewelry, properties, vehicles and deposits. All her necessities are looked after well.

B) **Foundation of Wellbeing** – The communication and information required by Shweta for her day-to-day life is readily available. She opines that mobile phone and social media are the best resources to get all this information.

C) **Health and Wellnes**s – During the time of separation, she had a few health issues. But her health is better now. Good care was taken when she came back to India. It helped in her recovery.

Regarding her mental health, she faces problems such as stress, depression, loneliness, sleep related issues and emotional high and lows. Most of all fear had consumed her mind**. "What would the society think?" Her heart would palpitate thinking that people would make fun of her. "It's not my fault, I didn't do anything wrong, then why did this happen to me?" she feels.**

**"I did not take sleeping pills even though I was unable to sleep. I did not leave the house for about a month. In the second month, I gradually started going out. I watched many videos/ lectures on YouTube. I always listen to the lectures of a specially abled female Pakistani artist about how she suffered at the hands of her husband and how she overcame it. It helps me to get out of depression. Often bad thoughts of suicide came to my mind, but I tried to divert my mind by watching videos of little kids.**

My mother then sent me to the library in Pune University. I spent days and days reading and studying in there as I liked the environment. Nobody asked me any personal questions and only speak about education related matter. That's how I completed my MTech education. It helped me to become helpful and gave me positive attitude."

She likes to paint and does that in her spare time. Her relatives were shocked when they heard it initially. Possibly this shock and sickness led to the demise of her grandparents. It left her feeling guilty. Now, she attends and participates in family functions and entertainment programs and meets her relatives.

D) **Environmental Quality** – She feels safe and sound in her present abode. With no responsibilities to take care of, she does not find it difficult to face challenges. She has the full support of her parents. They have planned well for her social and financial security. She is not associated to any social organization or group.

E) **Opportunities** – She is not aware of her rights. She is afraid of police and court case. She feels, "We end up getting troubled/hurt if we try to make use

of the rights we have. We end up regretting it as people say. It was too stressful when the case of Domestic Violence was filed."

She was pursuing advanced and technical education. All her wishes can be fulfilled. Sometimes, she feels insecure and there are constant challenges such as ethical values, religious values and traditions. She gets confused about how to behave or how to express herself. She takes her own decisions.

While speaking with her, she was not able to converse openly as she seemed to be afraid. She did not wish to reveal more than she should and hence she asked the case study writer to ask questions that she could answer. Probably her family members were listening to the phone call too**. She said, 'Will my name be revealed anywhere?"**

After ensuring her about it all, she spoke more freely. Though she is well educated, she seemed to lack confidence while she spoke. She asked for the contact number of the social organization she would like to work with to keep herself busy and occupied. The researcher felt that she was striving really hard to get herself out of her problems. She is making good use of positive coping mechanisms. Her parents are completely supportive of her.

- **Interpretation by the researcher:**

Two different family cultures were found in this case. This marriage was imposed on both husband and wife. It may be to fulfill the immediate need of money. Religious, social environment have influence individual. Due to this case she has strong fear of stigma. However, she became victim of this process which was out of her control. It has affected her mental health. Positive use of social media helps her to cope with situation, trauma. Marital status is very important in society and it is expected from women to bound it. Interactions and treatment given by family members made her feel neglected and rejected. She has strong support system by maternal family thus has futuristic opportunities. If women are using their rights then that attitude creates further torture and trouble for them in the family. Though she was educated she lost her confidence due to phenomena.

## Case Study - 18

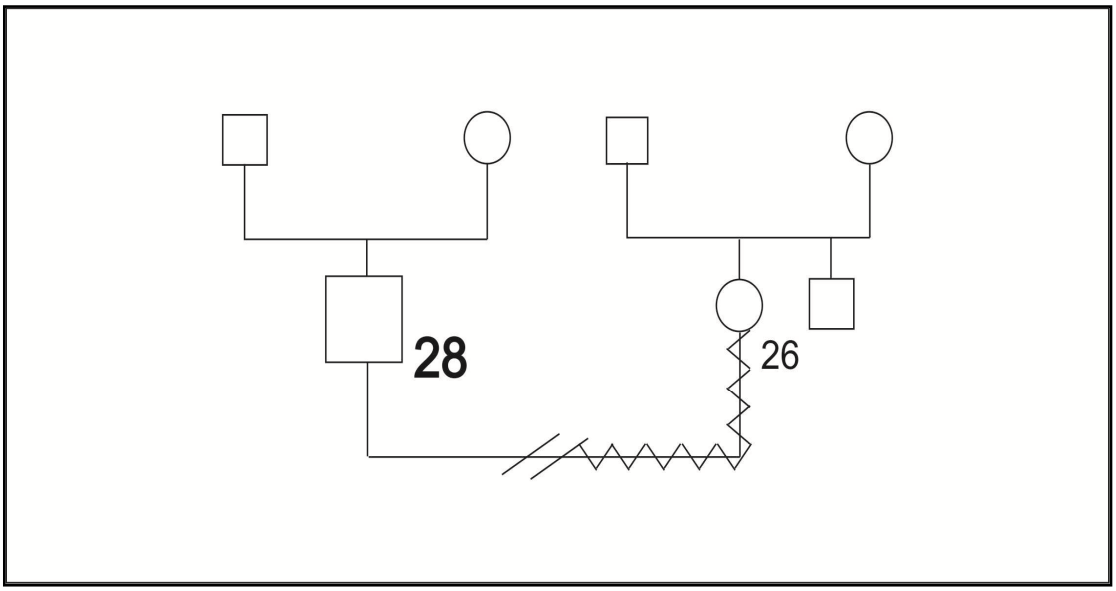



**Figure No. 4.18 : Case Study 18 - Family Genogram**

Mohan (name changed) was 28 years of age and had completed his education in BE (Mechanical). He was a Merchant Navy officer. He was the only child of his parents who are highly educated and are rich. His father was highly designated in the field of computers and his mother is a teacher by profession in a well reputed school in Pune. He grew up enjoying the luxuries of life and has been loved a lot by his parents, grandparents, aunts and cousins. Owing to a good social life, he has ample friends and he also has a pet dog.

Since his childhood, client has travelled the country and abroad and likes to enjoy picnics. He likes to actively participate in festivals such as *Ganesh Utsav* at home, *Krushna Ashtami* etc. It wouldn't be wrong to say that he is born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He spent his childhood in a secure, happy, peaceful and comfortable manner. When it came to his school and higher education, he was a student at the same school where his mother worked in. Hence, he was a favorite of the other teachers too and had a large friends circle. By character, he used to be an active participant in the social events in school and college, has leadership qualities and respects others. Since his cousins are in Merchant Navy, he too wished to join Merchant Navy from his childhood. With his intelligence, he made a career in Merchant Navy and has bagged the rank of an officer after clearing numerous examinations.

He likes sports since his childhood. As he grew up, he developed a liking for Gym, Trekking and Badminton. Due to regular exercise, he is absolutely fit and has a good personality.

The girl who later became his wife was junior to him in school and they were drawn to each other right from then. They met each other in a Gym a few years later and their friendship grew and eventually fell in love. The girl is an Engineer by profession and had grown up in a highly educated family. Both of them belonged to the same caste too. Both their families did not oppose to their marriage and their wedding was beautiful and an expensive affair as per the traditions. The events of the wedding lasted for nearly eight days.

An immediate experience that he shortly had after the marriage was when they went for their honeymoon. His wife did not find the color and design of the washbasin in a hotel matching to the one shown in the photograph of the honeymoon package. She made him cancel the booking of that hotel. They had their first argument at that instant. He agreed to do it just because he could afford to do so and booked a room in another hotel of her choice. In another instance, during their honeymoon, they went for shopping and client said to her, "Buy any dress you like, don't ask me as, I hardly have any knowledge about the dresses." She got extremely angry by this and as soon as they came back to the hotel, she tore off the new dress. According to her, he had insulted her in front of the shopkeeper.

Seeing this, they had a fight again. Once, they were back home, the elders in the family explained a few good things and it helped for a few days but there were constant skirmishes due to following reasons:

1. Constant interference of the wife's father.
2. His father-in-law called his daughter about 6-8 times daily.
3. In her upbringing, his wife was taught, "You are never wrong. You are uniquely intelligent and beautiful and everybody else should pamper you as your parents do."
4. At 2:00 a.m. in the night she would demand her husband to take her to Khadakwasla. When client did not agree and tried to talk her out of it, she argued with him.Her father took her to Khadakwasla at 2:00 a.m. in the night.

Such instances made her think that her father still loved her and her husband did not.

5. She used to argue over petty reasons, hurt herself or threw things around when she was angry and it became a routine.
6. Her anger started growing gradually.
7. Once while she was driving the car, they argued over something. In her anger, she increased the speed of the car and hit a scooter.
8. Looking at the extremities of her anger, he spoke to her family members and her brother informed that it happened earlier too. She had no control over her anger and hurts herself and others too when she is angry.

- **Client's Mental State –**

Being brought up in a loving, happy and peaceful family, Mohan tried a lot to understand her. She had good relations with the other members of his family, but he got upset due to her constant fights with him. He used to feel afraid of her due to her constant arguments, changing temperament and anger. He avoided going out alone with her or stopped spending time with her due to her unpredictable behavior.

- ❖ He suffered from insomnia because of her erratic behavior.
- ❖ He started getting health issues and suffered due to acidity.
- ❖ To change it all, he started spending time with his friends or used to go away to work on a ship for more and more months.

- **Efforts taken by Mohan –**

To improve his relationship with his wife and to bring change in her behavior, he would regularly communicate with her parents. But they never found any faults in her behavior.

Mohan then tried to get help through counseling and regularly completed the homework given to him. However, there was no change seen in her behavior. The counselor advised him to see a psychiatrist.

He attended many sessions with the psychiatrist and convinced his wife too to come for the sessions. She attended a few of them but stopped doing so in between. She was diagnosed to be having a Personality Disorder and they both got a divorce with mutual consent.

While going through all this, he suffered from emotional turmoil. He faced a lot of negative thoughts owing to grief, helplessness, depression and loss of confidence. Finally, client accepted that divorce was the only way out and he took the decision.

Post-divorce, client went through depression for a brief span of time. He stayed at his workplace for nearly a year and was not in contact with anybody other than his mother.

Firstly, client filed a case in the court. Before filing the case, he took advice of the elders and had also taken efforts for reconciliation. The divorce was then taken with mutual consent. Nobody in his family had been divorced prior to this. During the divorce proceedings, he had attended counseling sessions and it proved to be helpful to some extent. He is satisfied with the efforts taken by the counselor. Counseling proves to be helpful to live life post-divorce. He had not taken any counseling prior to his marriage but pre-marital counseling can help to avoid divorce. After the divorce, he lives with his parents. He has no children. Being from a well-to-do family, he has no responsibilities to take care of.

- **Quality of Life Indicators –**

A) **Materialistic Living Conditions** –He owns a house and all kinds of materialistic living things and items of necessity and luxury are available to him in abundance. He also owns jewelry, fixed deposits and vehicles. Necessities are well taken care of.

B) **Foundation of Well-being –** The information and communication tools required to face the daily challenges of life are easily available to Mohan. Resources include technical tools, family members, friends circle etc.

C) **Health and Wellness** – Mohan's mental health has been disturbed. He seldom faces limitations while participating in activities due to his health. He has no addictions whatsoever. He can take treatment for health-related issues easily. He seldom feels happy post-divorce.

His hobbies include going for walks, trekking and it makes him feel that life is good. Most of his spare time is spent with friends. He attends all the family functions. He also participates in all creative and entertainment related activities. He was not associated with any of the social organizations or social groups. However, he is regularly in touch with his relatives.

D) **Environmental Quality** –He feels safe and secure in his home. He does not have to face any of the financial challenges arising unexpectedly. He feels secure at his workplace too. He had planned well for his future socially and financially. He is content about the overall quality of his life.

E) **Opportunities -**He was very much aware of his rights. For the sake of his future, he can take any business or technical education if he wishes to. He had the freedom to take his own decisions, but it has some limitations too. He never feels that he is helpless or insecure. He never finds it challenging to face the day-to-day challenges or incidents. He never finds it difficult to live with religious and ethical values. However, sometimes he finds it difficult to accept the decisions along with his family members.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

Parenting is very important in shaping the personality of an individual. Socialization is the process in which an individual can acquire knowledge, develop attitude towards any relation, skills in maintaining relations, role clarity etc. If the purpose of socialization does not succeed, then personality may not properly develop. While raising only child, parents may be so focused on the child that they might become oblivious to short comings of the child. In this case wife had some personality disorder which was not diagnosed earlier. It shows the ignorance of family towards mental health. Though both of them were together since school but did not have better

or accurate perception of each other's nature, personality, ambitions etc. It created a lot of trouble in married life. Maximum interference by maternal parents was found. Wife's ego or arrogance was cherished from childhood and she had some unrealistic concepts of relationship. She was so stubborn and believed that whatever she wanted she could snatch the same from others.

During the divorce process counselling was useful in some extent. He had never opted pre marriage counselling.

Being male and with sound economic condition, there was no effect on indicators of quality of life such as standard of living, foundation of wellbeing, environmental quality and opportunities. However, It had such a deep impact on health and wellness that he had to take support from family members and experts to cope with the situation.

## Case Study - 19

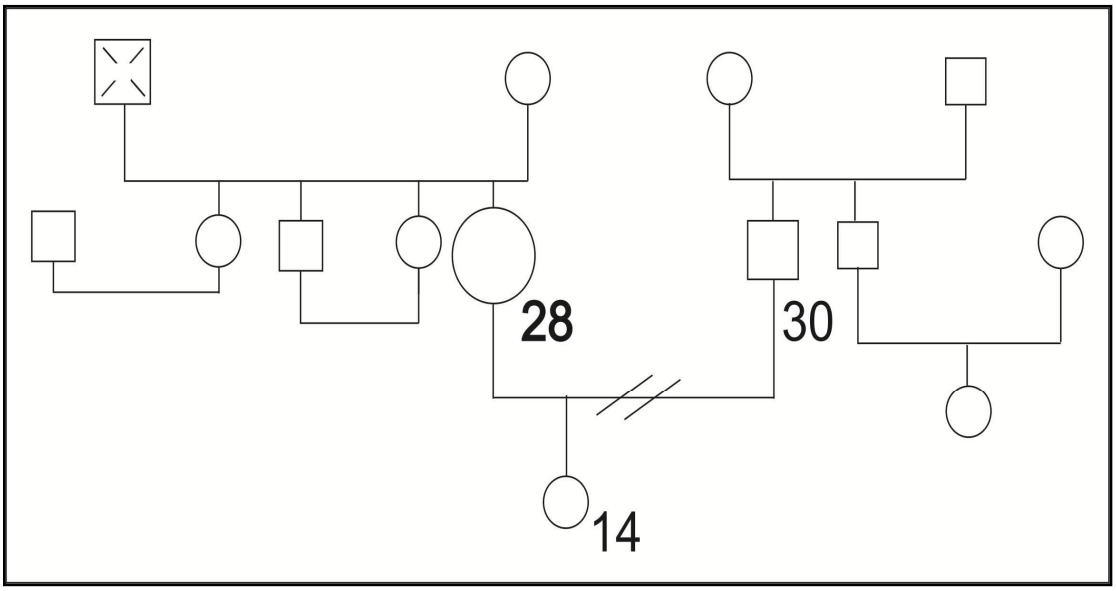



**Figure No. 4.19 : Case Study 19 - Family Genogram**

Vanita (changed name) comes from middle class family. Her father is a retired class one officer and mother is a home maker. Vanita is the eldest of the three daughters. All three of them are post graduate degree holders. Her father married at a later age and was not free from his responsibilities at the time of his retirement. Vanita and her sisters got married after their father's retirement.

Vanita got married at the age of 24. At the time of marriage, she was working as ‘Shikshan Sevak‘ in Zilla Parishad school and was earning Rs.3000 per month. She is a Marwadi Rajput and used to live with her family in suburbs. Her marriage was arranged by her parents. Vanita lived in a nuclear family before her marriage whereas her husband had a joint family. Vanita was told that her husband had completed diploma after his junior college and was working in a company. But after her marriage, she found out that he was a mere worker there. He could not even complete his 12th standard, in spite of trying for 4 years. Being a worker, he would often lose salary for leave of absence.

Vanita’s brother-in-law had completed diploma after 12th and had a job with Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. He had dominance over the family. He earned well and used to take care of household expenses. Naturally, he was revered in the family. His social circle differed significantly from his domestic environment. He would never let his reputation get affected by family circumstances. His wife was a homemaker. They had a daughter. Brother –in-law’s family was not a part of Vanita’s joint family. Her sister-in-law’s family was well off. They frequently used to send gifts to the in-laws.

After marriage, Vanita realised that money was the primary reason for her marriage. Her in-laws thought that Vanita must be earning handsomely as she had a government job. Thus, they agreed for the marriage. Vanita’s friends told her that her husband was not as happy and excited at the time of marriage as she was. Her friends felt that he was forced into the marriage. Vanita said, "I woke up to the reality pretty late. Every month, I was forced to give entire salary to mother-in-law. When in-laws came to know that my salary was Rs.3000, they got the confirmation of the amount through RTI. When in-laws figured out that my salary was not as per their expectation, arguments started. Mother-in-law always told me that handing over salary to in-laws was a way to respect husband. My parents also had the same value system so I always made efforts to put up with that.’’ Initially, Vanita did not engage in the altercations but her in-laws took disadvantage of that. Demands for money, jewellery and other things were put to her parents. On festivals, they treated her well only when they were to get gifts from her parents. Her mother-in-law had a crèche at home and expected Vanita to take tuitions of those children after her day job. An institution was conducting a night school in the vicinity of her house. Her father-in-

law gave her resume to the school without asking Vanita's permission. He expected her to accept the job of teaching between 9 pm to 1.30 pm and told that he would accompany her for the period. Vanita did not approve of this and asked her father to meet her in-laws.

Her husband never treated her with love and care. He was a good for nothing loafer. After 12th he was an utter reckless, fickle man who was hooked on gambling, smoking and alcohol. He was a womanizer and habitual absentee at his workplace. His behaviour became the reason of her frequent despair.

After a while, Vanita's pregnancy was detected. It added fuel to the fire and in-laws started harassing her even more for additional responsibility. She was often told by in-laws that for first five years of marriage, her parents were expected to take all the responsibility. Her sister-in-law would also support them by adding that her parents did take all the responsibility. Her in-laws never ever did anything for Vanita. During her pregnancy, Vanita was diagnosed with low B.P. She was suffering from vomiting and bleeding. Her parents took her home for a while. Doctor had prescribed a minor surgery which needed Rs. 30000. In-laws wanted her parents to bear expenses but Vanita was aware of their financial position as her sisters were yet to get married. She was in a tough spot. Her husband came to pick her up from her parents' house. But immediately after that, he called a family meeting to discuss Vanita's future. Doctor had advised her bed rest for 9 months. She was incapable of working for the duration. On the same day, in-laws abused and kicked her out of the house. Her parents registered a complaint in a police station. They wanted to lodge the complaint under section 498A but were also hopeful that things might change for better. When Vanita delivered a baby girl, her in-laws never considered bringing her back home. All those years, her husband did not visit his daughter even once. His behaviour was bizarre. When Vanita was under treatment at the maternity home, he instructed doctors not to treat his wife and threatened to file a case for sex determination test against them if they refuse to comply. As a result, doctors refused to treat Vanita. Husband threatened Vanita that he would create nuisance in her sisters' marriage. When Vanita started questioning in-laws' responsibility towards her, the harassment and physical abuse worsened. As a consequence, she filed a divorce case immediately after her daughter was born.

She hoped and waited for considerable amount of time in hope of reconciliation. But it didn't work out. Divorce was mutual. She went for counselling after applying for divorce. The counselling proved useful to gain the right perspective. She realized that her in-laws and husband would never change. Counselling helped her to tackle life post-divorce. She also recognized the need for pre-marriage counselling. Post-divorce, Vanita lives with her mother. Her sisters are married. In last 8 months, she lost her father. Vanita's daughter studies in 8th standard. Currently, Vanita looks after the family.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material Living Standards/Standard of Living**

She owns the house where she stays currently. She has enough material possessions available. She has some jewellery, a house, a vehicle and some cash. Her income is sufficient to fulfil her needs.

**B) Foundation of Well being**

Vanita, being a teacher, knowledge is easily accessible to her. She acquires information with the help of technology, training and from her colleagues.

**C) Health and Wellness**

There are no major health issues at the moment. She had to deal with a lot of stress. She suffered from insomnia. Time and again, she would think, 'why should I suffer when I haven't done anything wrong?'

Vanita likes to travel and explore new places. She does trek, plays guitar and loves to read. She spends quality time with her daughter. She makes it a point to take a vacation in foreign countries with her daughter, once a year. Vanita has erased relatives from her life. It's been more than 14 years, she has not participated in any family events. She believes that society hasn't grown tolerant of these kinds of situations. Invariably women are blamed irrespective of the fault. (This shows her positive attitude while tackling the issue.)

**D) Environmental Quality**

Vanita feels safe and secure at her current home and workplace as well. She has done planning for her secure future. Being in a better shape financially, she is contented.

**E) Opportunities**

Vanita is well aware of her rights. She did B.Ed. and was a ranking student. She writes fiction and poems in newspapers and You tube. She engages herself actively in curriculum development, training programmes etc. She has the freedom to take decisions of her future. She wanted to obtain a caste certificate for her daughter so she begged her husband many times to act on it. Due to lack of response from her husband, she is considering giving her maiden surname to her daughter. Sometimes she feels insecure and helpless. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. At times life with religious values, moral values and principles is difficult for her. She regains her composure when she comes across many women like her.

Her in-laws had put up a real good show about their family. She was married in the short span of three months. Her father had got her a mobile phone to connect with her future husband. But he did not call her even once.

The relatives, society always look for weaknesses, flaws and try to impede the progress. This often results into dejection. Men are mentally weak. They can't live alone. Vanita's husband married the girl with whom he had an affair.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

The marriage was based on deceit. Is marriage an alliance between two individuals and their families or just a social need? Vanita's marriage might have been a way out for her father to get rid of his responsibilities. Considering future of sisters and the fact that there was no one else to support, Vanita also could have considered marriage as an option. As a result, the marriage took place without any further scrutiny.

Marriage is somewhat confined to monetary benefits, material comforts as well as wheeling and dealing. Healthy and strengthened relationship is altogether

overlooked. The one who rules the family is important for family members. Money was so important that in laws had taken disadvantage of her temperament. Then how we can say that marriage degenerating human values? Simple and straightforward relationships are makes complicated unnecessarily.

Each family or caste class system has its own value system, which is imbibed from childhood. But if it is not found in relationship from both sides then it lapses or deviates from duties. Gender discrimination was found in the family with domination of patriarchy. It shows that marriage is kind of Contract and not emotional bonding of two individuals.

During this process, counseling was useful for futuristic perspectives. There was no such effect on quality of life of standard of living post-divorce. As she was working, she had sound economic background to take responsibility of her mother and daughter. Being teacher, she had learned about life situations from various trainings. She had hobbies hence positively coped up with situation and made her life beautiful. Considering the stigma related to divorce she kept herself away from all relatives. It shows that though she did not make any mistake, she has to exclude herself to enjoy cultural life.

Due to her profession she was able to keep environment safe socially and financially too. She was putting lot of efforts to improve her career as well.

## Case Study - 20

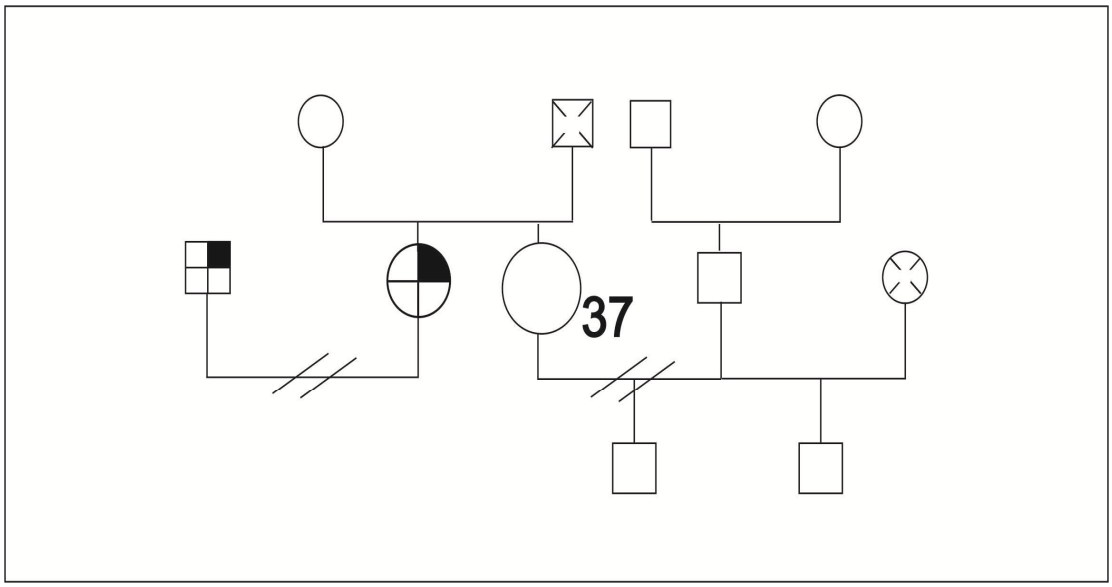



**Figure No. 4.20 : Case Study 20 - Family Genogram**

Rani (name changed) is 37 years old Buddha woman. She lives in a suburb. At present she lives with her mother and a differently able elder sister. Her father was a government employee and mother was a home maker. A year ago, her father passed away. She has done her graduation and works in a private company. After Rani's sister got married, her mother went all out to fix Rani's marriage as there wasn't any male member to shoulder the responsibility. Rani was 30 years old when her marriage was fixed by her mother. This was second marriage for her husband. His first wife had passed away and he had a son. Rani was compassionate towards the child. She agreed to the marriage as she was aware of the compromise she had to accept considering her own age. After the marriage, she became part of a joint family. Her husband had passed higher secondary and was earning meagre salary with his private sector job.

Rani accepted the marriage. Initially everything was fine. She would often be submissive as she had accepted the compromise. Gradually she began to realize that marriage was done only for money. Her in-laws expected money from her parents as well as from her sister who had a government job. Every now and then, in-laws would demand money from her parents on different pretexts.

During Rani's pregnancy, in-laws and her husband did not even care for her. They wanted Rani's parents to bear the expenses for Rani's medical care and delivery. Their demands were increasing day by day. In addition to this, Rani came to know

about her husband's extra marital affair. As a result, post-delivery, she chose to stay with her parents. She filed a divorce case and the court ruled in her favour. At present, Rani stays with her mother and differently able sister. Rani didn't try much for reconciliation as there were no relatives or friends to stand by her. Instead she opted for mutual divorce.

Rani's sister also got divorce. Rani took help of counselling after she filed for divorce. Counselling did not prove much of a help to her as she was unwilling to continue her relationship. Rani did not receive any pre marriage counselling. Now she feels that pre marriage counselling might prevent divorce in the future. Currently, she supports her son financially, looks after his education and wellbeing.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material Living Standards/ Standard of Living**

Presently Rani stays with her mother and sister. Rani's mother owns the house. All three of them are mutually supportive to each other. All the material means are available for Rani. She owns a vehicle and some jewellery. Combined income of Rani and her sister fulfils their needs.

**B) Foundation of Wellbeing**

Sources are available to Rani to acquire information about the daily issues. She gains information from her friends as well as with the help of technology. At times, either she searches essential information or seeks advice from an expert.

**C) Health and Wellness**

Rani's mental health issues are significant. She shoulders full responsibility of her aged mother, differently able sister and her own son. Being solely responsible for these three, she feels constant pressure and stress. Her failed marriage makes the situation more tense as she is scrutinized at all times. She can hardly follow her hobbies as her son is merely 3 years old and she wants to spend more time with him. She is not much connected to the relatives due to her family issues. She avoids meeting them or participating in family events.

Her relatives also rarely call on her. Rani is not a member of any social organization or group.

**D) Environmental Quality**

Rani feels really safe at her current home. At times, she has to deal with unforeseen financial issues. She finds herself secure and protected at her workplace. She has planned for her social and financial future to some extent. She is not very pleased with her life.

**E) Opportunities**

Rani is well informed as well as aware of her rights. Rani can take up to date training if need be but planning for her child's education is more important to her. She consults her mother while making future decisions. Often she is unable to fulfil her aspirations.

Rani is financially and emotionally responsible for rest of the family but she doesn't have the luxury of having a shoulder to cry on. This lack of emotional reliance makes her feel insecure and vulnerable. At times, dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. Life with religious values, moral values and principles is really hard for her. To accept decisions with the consequences is particularly difficult for her.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Marriage is regarded as a crucial personal and social necessity. This sense of compulsion might lead to decisions based on emotions. Some might even consider marriage as a means of acquiring money.

Societal pressure to get married forces a woman to compromise at any level. It was observed that social standing of a family depends on number of members in the family, presence of successful male members, socio-economic position etc. Society, usually despises divorcees and their families. Consequently these families are directly or indirectly cast aside which leads to loneliness and helplessness.

Counselling was not much useful as she had decided not to continue with this relationship. An individual's physical and mental state determines intensity of

challenges. Society invariably expects a 'normal' person to adapt to several conditions.

It was observed that in post-divorce life, due to responsibility of child and other family members, quality of life was affected in the context of standard of living, health and wellness, environmental safety and opportunities too. As relatives never accepted her marital status she kept herself excluded from that environment.

**Case Study - 21**

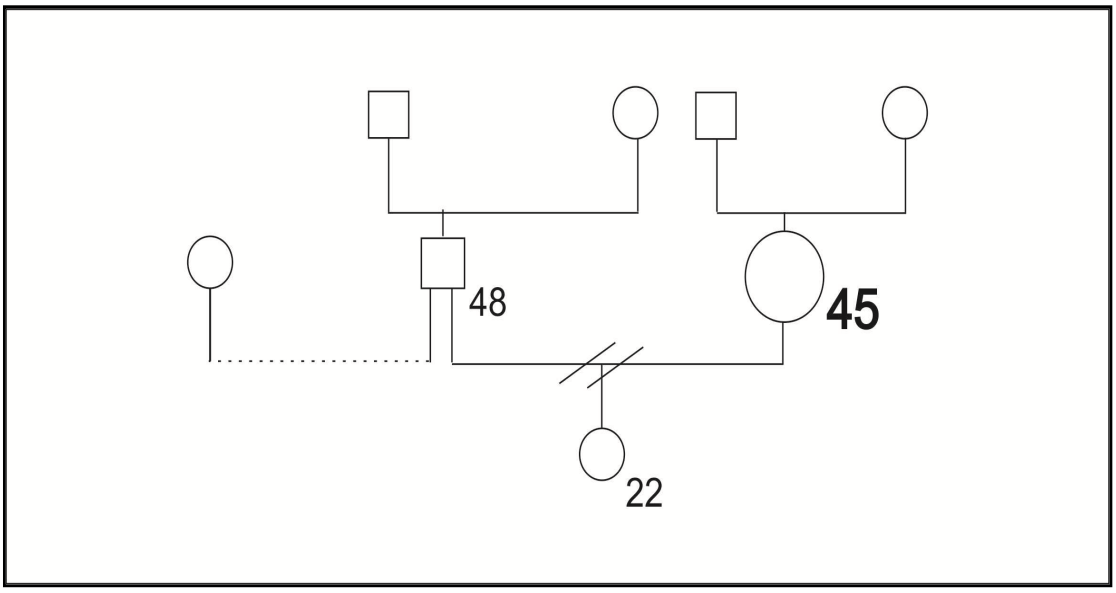



**Figure No. 4.21 : Case Study 21 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client is named Jyoti (name changed). She belongs to a Hindu family under open category and lives in urban area. She is a graduate and is working in a private company since many years and earns well too. In fact, her salary improved for better after her divorce as compared to what she was earning while she was married. Jyoti's maternal family is a nuclear family. She was living in a well to do middle class family. Hence, her marriage was arranged as soon as she had completed her education till graduation. She was 22 years of age at the time of her marriage. When Jyoti got married, her in-laws lived as a joint family. Her parents, like all other parent's had thought of getting their daughter married in a good family and went ahead with the marriage. After getting married, Jyoti tried hard to mix-up well with all the family members. All went well in the initial years of marriage. Her husband was a Postgraduate and he was working in a reputed company. To some

extent, she had the help and support of her father-in-law and mother-in-law. Immediately after a year of their marriage, they had a daughter. Jyoti lost track of time raising her daughter. The best part of it all was that Jyoti had developed good relations with her father-in-law and mother-in-law and there were no issues at among these three. Jyoti continued with her job even after the birth of her daughter and her in-laws would happily take good care of her daughter making her free from worries. A few years later it came to Jyoti's notice that her husband was having an extra marital affair. Gradually, the communication between them reduced to nothing. Her expectations from her husband and her hopes about the improvement in situation faded away eventually. They were not compatible education wise and other wise too.

Due to her husband's conservative way of thinking there was a huge difference in their way of living, perspectives, education, jobs and behavior too, which was a complete contrast. Jyoti felt trapped as on one hand, her husband was having an extra marital affair and her daughter was growing up on the other hand. But the bond between the father and daughter was quite strong and her daughter wanted her father to be with them. Jyoti's husband had confessed about his affair in front of his family as well. Her in-laws too had tried to talk him out of the affair siding with their daughter-in-law, but her husband was not ready to make any kind of adjustments. Thinking about the mindset, emotions and development of her daughter, Jyoti continued to live with the sufferings for many years. 21 years after the marriage when Jyoti could tolerate it no more, she filed for a divorce. They lived in separation for one year during the formalities of divorce with mutual consent.

There were no such cases of divorce in either of Jyoti's families. The process of counseling was excluded from the proceedings of divorce and hence, she has no experience about counseling and is completely ignorant about it. Prior to her marriage, she never went for pre-marital counseling.

Post-divorce, Jyoti lives separately with her daughter in a house of her own. Presently, she has the responsibility of her daughter's education. Though the couple has divorced, Jyoti's daughter's relationship with her father has remained unaffected and they still meet each other, celebrate birthdays together.

- **Quality of Life Indicators –**

A) **Materialistic Living Conditions** - Jyoti has bought a home of own. All the materialistic resources are available to them. She owns jewelry and fixed properties. Their necessities are well taken care of from Jyoti's earnings.

B) **Foundation of Well-Being** – Client can easily acquire the information and knowledge required to face day-to-day or family related challenges. To gain information, some of the available resources include technology, friends, training if any required, etc. Wherever communication and information are required, resources are always available.

C) **Health and Wellness** – Stress is an important health issue that developed post-divorce, but that seldom limits her from participating in any kind of activities. As and when needed she can take treatment for her physical ailments. Post-divorce she faces problems relating to loneliness, insomnia, emotional up-downs, feeling like crying. Due to that she feels happy only sometimes. As per Jyoti, all her hobbies are gone away now. In her spare time, she watches television or cooks different recipes. She seldom attends family functions or participates in creative activities. She is not a member of any social group or organization. She rarely meets up with relatives. Jyoti feels that she lacks the support and acceptance by society.

D) **Environmental Quality** – Jyoti feels completely secure in her present home. Sometimes she has to face few unexpected financial challenges. She also feels secure at her workplace. She has planned well for her future both financially and socially. She is content in her current residence.

E) **Opportunities** – Jyoti is aware of her rights and has put them to use as and when required. She can pursue advanced or technical education when she feels the need. She does not have to rely on anyone to take the decisions for her life and she can decide for herself.

However, at times, there are limitations to fulfilling her wishes. She always feels helpless and insecure. She seldom finds it difficult to face the day-to-day challenges and incidents. She does not find it difficult to live with the religious and ethical values. Seldom, she finds it difficult to face the consequences alone for the decisions made by her.

- **Interpretation by researcher :**

In married life sometime couple become like street light like they were staying together but never meet each other or creating strong bonds between them. This happened in this case. In the process of fulfilling the family responsibilities, role of the wife may get affected. Building of image in family was quiet difficult for woman. Getting divorced 21 years after the marriage is against the norms of society."If she tolerated it all for such a long span of time why separate now?", is the question that people usually ask.

Counseling was totally skipped as it was mutually decided. Acceptance of separation of parents by children depends on maturity level of child and the way of conveying the decision. However some issues and differences with the partner lead to separation and divorce but in the process one loses the partner's entire family as well.

Quality of life in the context of mental health affected a lot but no other areas.

## Case Study - 22

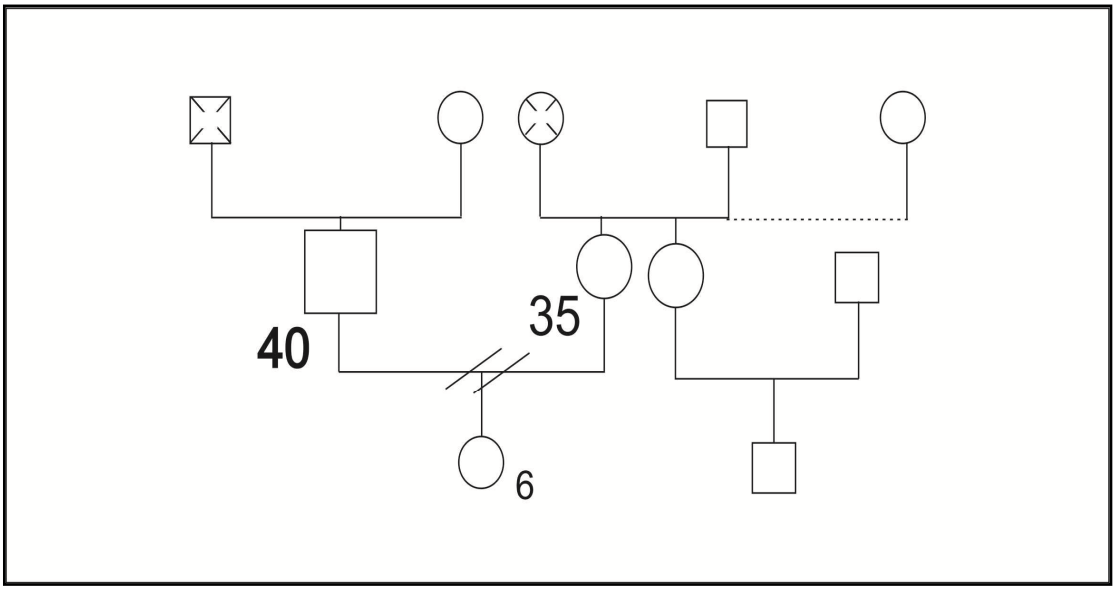



**Figure No. 4.22 : Case Study 22 - Family Genogram**

Mahesh (name changed) is a highly qualified 40 yrs old individual who resides in a suburb. He is an only child and comes from a well-off middle-class family. He is Hindu and belongs to open category. Being a bright child, his parents were careful to provide proper education to him, as a result, he became an engineer. Mahesh and his parents were admired by all as they were affable, sociable and courteous towards

family and friends. His father had a decent government job and mother was a homemaker. It was a small happy family. His parents doted on Mahesh as he was born after many years of their marriage. They didn't have any conditions or demands for his marriage regarding job or education of the bride. Their only expectation was to find a life partner for their son. Being economically sound, they didn't expect or want their daughter in law to earn; but they also had no objection if she was willing to work.

When Mahesh settled down, the search for befitting bride started with the help of matrimonial agencies. An acquaintance knew the girl's uncle and brought the proposal to Mahesh's parents. She had completed her graduation and was working in a private company. She had father and a married, elder sister in her family. Her mother had passed away many years ago. Her elder sister was staying with her husband and that was a love marriage. The younger sister's marriage was fixed to Mahesh hastily. As this marriage proposal was initiated by an acquaintance, there wasn't much detailed discussion or scrutiny regarding the girl and her family. Bride's father wanted his daughter to marry Mahesh as soon as possible as he had accepted a marriage proposal for himself and wanted to marry immediately.

According to Mahesh, "Though we were married, my wife wouldn't talk much. She wasn't open about her feelings. I felt that she might be reserved and quiet by nature.''

After the marriage, she always wanted to visit her father and would stay there frequently. Mahesh had to travel within and out of India for his work. On such occasions, she would stay at her father's house than her own. She didn't have much responsibility at home. But everyone took notice of her silent, reserved nature. Later on, she became pregnant and stayed at her father's house only. Mahesh said, "We stayed together for 190 days only. For a very short period.''

Everybody tried to reason with her. She kept Mahesh at a distance and was aloof. She behaved as if her father had forced her into this marriage. It was a kind of deception. Her father made her to enter the relationship against her wish. She might be dealing with some issues. She wasn't much of a thinker and had no opinion of her own. She didn't socialize much with relatives, friends. Mahesh tried to encourage and support her. After the birth of their daughter, she was not willing to return to

Mahesh's home. Her father used to fabricate lies and tried to create a rift between the husband and wife. As a result, she became more reticent. When their daughter was a year old, she sent divorce notice to Mahesh. During the period, they were already separated. Mahesh was emotionally attached to the baby and would repeatedly try to meet her. The baby had developed a bond with her father. All the steps taken by Mahesh and his parents to prevent the divorce were futile. She did not respond to the counselling sessions as well. The divorce was mutual. No one in Mahesh's family is a divorcee. Mahesh found counselling useful but it proved useless for his wife.

Mahesh was deeply attached to his daughter. He tried hard to clear the misunderstandings between him and his wife but his wife didn't respond at all. During the concluding divorce proceedings, Mahesh appealed to his wife for conciliation. But his wife refused his request downright. During initial period, Mahesh was allowed to meet his daughter for six hours, twice a week. He used to spend this time with her at his home. There, both of them together crafted a doll's house. She loved that a lot. She was warned not to disclose this to her friends. Initially when Mahesh used to meet his daughter in a park, his mother would also travel 20 km with him to meet her granddaughter. Mahesh's wife and father-in-law told the girl to call Mahesh as 'uncle'. But Mahesh gradually tried to convince her that he was her father. He said,'' the journey from an uncle to father was extremely agonizing.''

After a while, meeting his daughter became an uphill task for Mahesh as his wife and especially father in law would make up any reason to avoid their meeting. In spite of the court order, they would not let Mahesh meet his daughter. A father yearns to spend some time with his daughter. For last 7 years, he is fighting in court for custody of his daughter. His father-in- law keeps finding reasons to harass Mahesh like postponing court sessions, demanding payment of electricity bills as Mahesh's daughter stays with him etc. He told Mahesh to buy a mobile for his daughter if he wants to talk with her.

Mahesh feels that lawyers play a vital role. Some lawyers provoke the client and play with their emotions to make the case strong. But at certain moments in life, one certainly feels that one more try might have changed the scenario.

During lockdown he could not even meet the girl. On the phone, his daughter is able to say hello and her name only. He feels that she is under a lot of stress.

According to Mahesh, if a parent with full custody of a child treats the child unfairly then the child might misjudge the opposite sex at a later stage in life. These parents may exploit the children for their own benefit. Children always suffer from their parents' conflicts. They mature ahead of their age.

Mahesh did not opt for premarital counselling. It is observed that lawyers influence clients more than counsellors. Currently, Mahesh stays with his mother and looks after her. He is also shouldering economic responsibility for his daughter. He wants to secure his ex-wife financially as she doesn't have any economic support after her father's death.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material Living Standards/ Standard of Living**

Professionally Mahesh is well placed. He owns his house and other essential material means like a vehicle, bank deposits, investments etc. His income is adequate to tend to the few family responsibilities and his needs.

**B) Foundation of Well Being**

Being highly educated, he is never short of avenues to gain knowledge. To deal with family and daily issues, Mahesh takes support of experts and technology. Essential resources to avail information and communication are always available for him.

**C) Health and Wellness**

Mahesh doesn't have any health issues and has no restrictions for any activities. He is free from any addiction.( He hasn't revealed any information if he has any addiction.) For any health issues, he can obtain treatment effortlessly. Unwanted divorce affected his mental health to an extent that he had to go through extreme stress and depression. He faces loneliness, insomnia, emotional ups and downs. He gets furious at his father in law and his ex-wife. (He is mad at her for lacking conviction and perspective.) He is unable to witness the agony his daughter suffers as a result of their conflict.

He is thrilled in the company of his daughter. He likes to read a bit. He loves to take his daughter to the park and play with her. He participates in family

celebrations and casual activities as and when his work permits. He enjoys creative and productive activities with his daughter. Together they make a variety of items for her doll's house. He spends time with his extended family as and when needed.

**D) Environmental Quality**

He feels very safe at his house and believes that his daughter also would be safe and secure in his house. He is fighting an expensive custody battle for past 7 years; consequently, he has to face some unforeseen financial problems. The Court often adjourns the matter and posts it for later date. His ex-wife doesn't respond at all. He feels secure at his workplace. He has invested not only to secure his future but also to safeguard his daughter and ex-wife, in spite of her detrimental behaviour. Being fully aware of lack of financial support for his wife in future, he wants to shelter her from economic hardships. He doesn't find his life gratifying at all.

**E) Opportunities**

Mahesh is well aware of his rights and uses it to his advantage. He can easily avail modern, up to date education according to his needs. He has the freedom of decision. He can't quite fulfil his desires as there are restrictions on the time he wants spend with his daughter. He doesn't care much about anything else. He never feels insecure or helpless. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for him. He is waiting for this struggle to get over. Life with religious values, moral values and principles is really hard for him. Though divorce was not his choice, he had to suffer a great deal. Life with such decisions is particularly difficult.

- **Interpretation by researcher:**

Here it shows one side of the story only and cannot predict if it was the reality. Whether her frequent visits to her father's house stemmed from her unwillingness towards her father's second marriage or due to the treatment she received at her husband's house, is not clear. She might not have been able to express her feelings due to her father's dominant nature.

When counselling is successful for one and not for another; then conciliation is a remote possibility. Court proceedings and staying away from loved ones might make one to reconsider the decision. But ego and the fear of the partner's as well as relatives' response, to the reconciliation, keeps husband and wife away from each other.

Society awards complete freedom to a man and Mahesh is also not an exception. He had poor quality of life in the context of mental health to perform his role as father. He makes use of this freedom. At the same time it should be noted that Mahesh is an active father as oppose to the usual passive role of father. He doesn't even want to think of second marriage. He is waiting for his wife to return home. At present, he wants to focus his attention on his professional progress.

### 4.1.4 Case Studies from Rural Area:

**Case Study - 23**

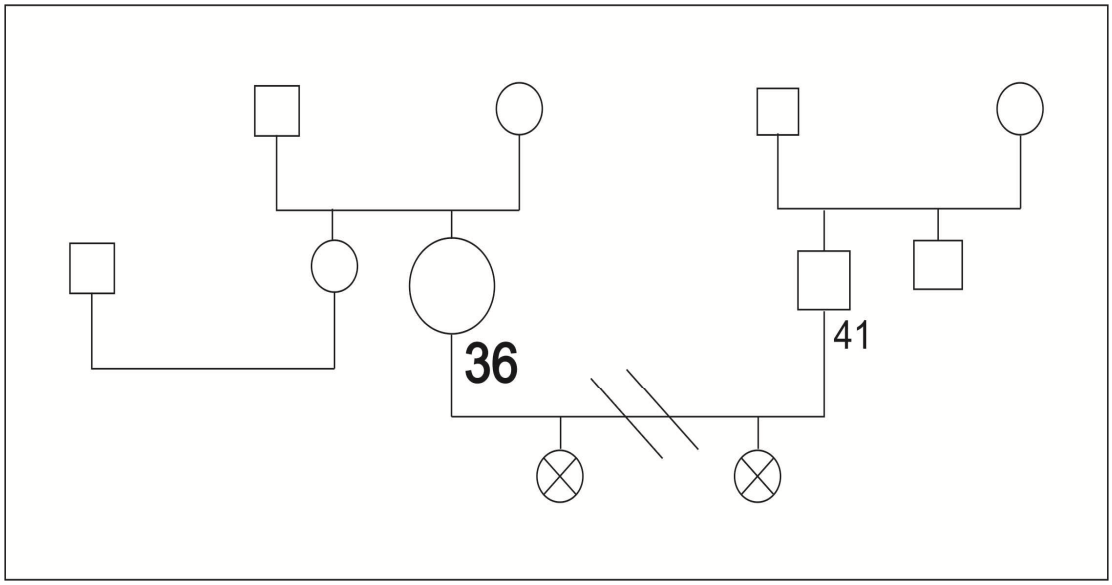



**Figure No. 4.23 : Case Study 23 - Family Genogram**

Hema (name changed) is 36 years old, post-graduate degree holder. She lives in rural area and has two girls who suffer from genetic disorder. After divorce, she stays with her two mentally challenged daughters. Her parents help and support her as and when needed. She has set up her own institution for mentally challenged children which is a source of income for her, in addition to the alimony she gets after her divorce.

- **Personal and Socioeconomic background:**

Hema is Hindu and belongs to schedule caste category. Before marriage she was living in a nuclear family in a city but after marriage she had a joint family in rural area. She was 17 years old at the time of marriage and was the first year graduate student. She was black belt karate champion.

- **Description about married life:**

Her groom had passed $10^{th}$ standard and used to live in rural area. The groom was related to her being part of extended family, as a result, Hema and her family felt that she would be allowed to continue her education. The in- laws agreed initially but didn't keep their word afterwards. Hema and her sister were married at the same time. The in-laws demanded Rs.1 lakh, furniture and 100 grams of gold in dowry but her father opposed dowry and marriage took place without dowry. Both the families had political background.

Hema's in-laws treated her in typical rural manner. Daughter-in- law was expected to do all domestic chores and more e.g. getting water from the well, harnessing bulls etc. Her in-laws were irked and angry due to dowry issue. Being very young she was not mature enough to face them. When she became pregnant, her in-laws and husband used to abuse her physically. The land line phone connection in the house was disconnected preventing her from disclosing this to her parents. The pregnancy itself was not detected early. The pregnancy was detected in second trimester when sonography was done due to abdominal pain. During pregnancy also, there was no leniency in household work like cooking on wood fired stove, looking after poultry etc. Her in-laws used to argue and abuse her frequently and one day they forced her out of the house in the middle of the night. They kept all her jewellery and valuables. Then she went to parents' house and delivered a baby girl and was at her parents' place for five months. Her in-laws were trying to fix her husband's second marriage but the village head acted as a mediator and she was allowed back to her in-laws house. In-laws tried hard to make sure that there was no reconciliation between husband and wife. Her in-laws bought a hotel for their son in Pune and didn't allow him to return home for six months. When the first daughter was a year and half old, second pregnancy was detected. The client said, "Families are controlled by patriarchs. There are numerous examples where daughters-in-law have committed

suicide. After a while I realised that my daughter was abnormal. I met doctor and told him to abort the second child. In-laws did the gender determination test and found out that it was girl. They were against the abortion and my husband compelled me to go through the second pregnancy. No one was happy. After the birth of the second girl, I couldn't juggle between the domestic chores and well-being of my daughters.'' The girls were malnourished so one girl was sent to her mother. Hema was sent to work in the farm and faced frequent physical abuse. She was once again forced out of the house.

The client lodged a complaint at the police station. She stayed at her parent's house for a month. She also registered a complaint with Women's Vigilance Committee. They were advised to leave in-laws' house and make a home of their own in the same village. But the husband did not have money and could not provide decent accommodation. The eldest daughter was taken to KEM Hospital in Pune for check-up and was diagnosed with genetic disorder. She was enrolled in the school at a district place. The client used to travel to and fro by bus with her daughter. Her husband neither loved the daughters nor spent time with them.

At the same time, the client decided to pursue her education. She enrolled in a coaching class and studied for UPSC. She completed MSCIT course and took admission for SYBA. Her eldest daughter was 6 years old by then. All of a sudden she stopped talking. She used to cry for hours together and became aggressive. Under the circumstances, the owner of house asked them to evict the house. After that, the eldest daughter was enrolled into the school for mentally challenged children, in the city. The second daughter also had similar symptoms of genetic disorder. Hema did up and down for 20-30 kilometre, every day during the period while pursuing her own education. By the time, her husband was inclined towards second marriage. The client loved her husband very much and was not prepared to divorce him. But her in-laws pushed her around a lot. She told her husband to provide her with her own house. By then, daily travel with two mentally challenged girls had become infeasible so the client started her own institution for mentally challenged children.

The condition at home was getting worse day by day. She was trying really hard to stop her husband from second marriage. Her in-laws misled villagers to believe that Hema wanted divorce from her husband. All this took a heavy toll on her mental health. She had to seek help of a therapist but she succumbed to acute

depression. In a fit of depression, she attempted suicide with her daughters by taking 100 sleeping pills. But they were treated in time. When she ran out of options, she opted for divorce and demanded a certain amount monthly as alimony.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life**

**A) Material living conditions/** Standard of living

Hema has her own house at a district place and leads independent life. The income from her institution in addition to financial support from her parents fulfils daily needs adequately. She owns immovable asset in the form of a house, fixed deposits in the bank, some jewellery and a vehicle. Her income is sufficient to lead good life.

**B) Foundation of well being**

Later on, Hema did complete post-graduation degree which opened many avenues for seeking knowledge. Technology, subject experts and training always provide crucial information and communication.

**C) Health and wellness**

After the divorce, she had to face minor accidents and mental health issues. She fell victim to severe depression. Initially she confined herself in home but gradually she started to socialize. The fact that she didn't have any addiction helped her come out of her depression. For other health issues treatment was available. She had to take a sleeping pill every night. She was also trying to attempt suicide by taking 100 sleeping pills with her two daughters. She was on an emotional roller coaster with anger, loneliness and depression fused together. Then she had taken help of counsellor to come out of it. Post-divorce, she has no time for her hobbies.

After divorce, life is not gratifying for her anymore. She doesn't participate in family functions at all. She seldom engages in recreational activities. She is in contact with only those relatives who are affectionate towards her. Being a social worker, she is a member of social organization or a group.

**D) Environmental quality**

She is particularly worried about safety of herself and her daughters but feels safe at her home. She has appointed attendants. She has to deal with unforeseen financial troubles because of her as well as her daughters' health issues. She feels secure at work place as she owns the organization. Expert doctors are of the opinion that her daughters' life-span is short. Hence, she has taken only a few steps towards securing the future. She has health insurance policy but does not have a pension plan. She is not satisfied with the current quality of life.

**E) Opportunities**

Being a social worker, she is well aware of her rights. She has the ability to acquire information. In future, if required, she is prepared to take up-to-date professional training. She can take future decisions independently. Sometimes she has to curb her aspirations as she unable to fulfil them and there is no one else to support. Dealing with daily challenges proves to be an uphill task for her. Life with religious values, moral values and principles feels arduous. Decisions with consequences are strenuous to accept.

- **Interpretation by researcher:**

In this case study, it was found that rural environment is more patriarchal in nature and here both families have additional political status. Economic condition and dowry played major role in this case because it was not paid in marriage and hence she became victim of violence. Society and family did not accept Hema as she was not able to contribute in family extension and produce heir. Though she was judo champion she was entangled and suppressed by traditional views, rituals, and role conflicts. Husband is under influence of his parents which teaches in socialization of gender roles. In this case divorce was imposed on Hema and due to genetic disorders of her daughters she was excluded from experiencing family life.

She has good support from her maternal family hence have good quality of life in the context of standard of living, environmental safety, opportunities but very low quality in emotional and mental health.

## Case Study - 24

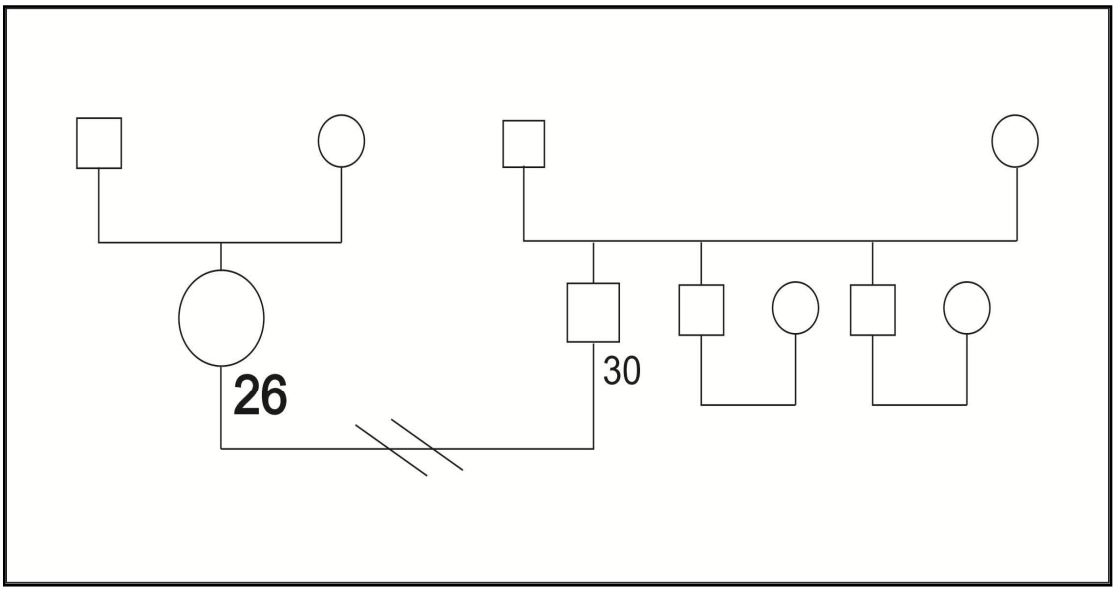



**Figure No. 4.24 : Case Study 24 - Family Genogram**

Rupali (name changed) is 26 years of age, has completed her graduation and is unemployed. She comes from a Hindu family and belongs to other backward class (OBC).She lives in a rural area. Prior to and post her marriage she has lived in a joint family. She was married at the age of 22 and her parents had arranged the marriage.

Approximately after 1.5 to 2 years of the marriage, the family members of the client applied for the divorce. According to the Rupali, her husband had 2 brothers, and both were married and settled in the urban area. Her husband too was a graduate and looked after the accounting work in a company. Her husband always felt that his siblings never looked after their parents and therefore it was his sole responsibility to do so. He considered his mother's words as final and would never go against her will and would not live independently without his parents. He informed Rupali about the same.

Often there used to be clashes between the client and her mother-in-law, but her husband never took a firm stand or voice out a fair opinion for both and always proved the her wrong. These arguments continued to grow and one day resulted in a terrible physical abuse towards Rupali, hence she returned to her maternal home. Client had lost her hopes as the violence was too much for her. Her husband proved to be weak when it came to taking a stand for her and asked her to always bow down, nor would he live separately leaving his parents and hence she did not wish to go back to be with them. So, she went ahead and filed a case. They lived separately for a year

and got divorced with mutual consent. Both the families were financially strong and had spent quite a lot for the marriage. She got an unconditional divorce with her jewelry and a lump sum amount as an alimony.

One of the relatives of the Rupali was her attorney and opted out of the procedure of counseling and she was never taken to any of the sessions. According to Ruapli, the society does not think it to be well if the girls from rural areas must come to urban areas to attend the courts. Her attorney felt that counseling did not prove to be useful and hence they completely opted out of it. Now she is neither aware of the counseling procedure or any of its benefits nor can she say anything about it. She had not availed any pre-marital counseling. Post-divorce, she lives in her maternal home with a joint family. She has no kids and hence no family responsibilities.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life -**

A) **Material living conditions** - Rupali comes from a very well-to-do family hence, there is no scarcity of any of the material things. Her needs and wishes are very well taken care of.

B) **Foundations of wellbeing** - Information and communication is easily available for her from various resources such as family members, mobile phone, television, friends and other resources.

C) **Health and wellness -**She said that she had no health problems whatsoever. In case she has any health issues she gets the required medical aid under the care of her family members. She is now happily spending her life with her family members. In her spare time, she learns to cook recipes from YouTube. She has no interest in learning anything else or has no other hobbies. She hardly visits any of the relatives or friends. She is not a member of any social organizations or groups. If she wishes to go out, she is accompanied to and fro by one of the elderly members of the family.

D) **Environmental quality** -

She feels completely safe in her maternal home. Being a secured environment, she has neither financial nor any other challenges to face. Her family members have planned well from their perspective for her security.

**E) Opportunities -**

She has no awareness of her rights. The decisions taken by the elderly members are followed in household. She is free to pursue any further education if she wishes to do so. She does not have much freedom when it comes to deciding for herself and she was asked just once before her divorce, "Do you wish to go back and live with them again?" She said, "No". She does not have many limitations when it comes to getting her wishes fulfilled. She never feels insecure or like she has no support. She was not able to say much when she was asked to, over the phone. With the intervention of her attorney who is also her relative, she was able to open up to reveal her story. The attorney said that they had also imposed section 498 but later they compromised on it. According to the attorney, the couple was not able to bond emotionally with each other. She seemed to have no confidence at all when she spoke.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Being the youngest daughter in the family she is brought up indulgently thus quite stubborn in nature. On contrary her husband was the youngest brother and under the emotional influence of parents. Further expectations of traditional roles in rural context created conflicts in the family. Every member wants to control other member in the family and if it is not working then tool of violence was used. Marriage was held in ostentation to maintain the status in village. Lot of money spent on it. However, the purpose of marriage was not achieved because bonds between husband and wife not created. After understanding the excluded status in the family through interactions by in -laws and support available from maternal family push her take decision of divorce.

Case was depending on the attorney, thus his attitude towards the process of divorce was influenced. Thus, counselling process was skipped. Good economic condition of maternal family gave good quality of life in the context of materialistic living condition, foundation of wellbeing, environmental quality and no emotional bonds created thus did not affect mental health.

## Case Study - 25

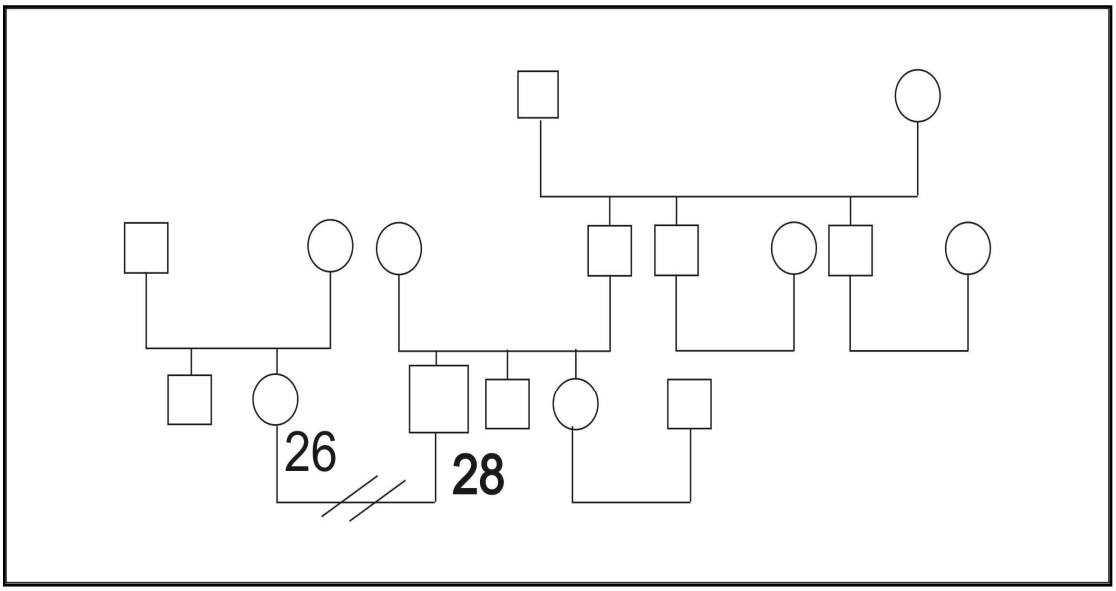



**Figure No. 4.25 : Case Study 25 - Family Genogram**

Sunil's (name changed) family is from rural area. They own about 7-8 acres of land for horticulture and a textile business. It's a joint family. Sunil's father has 3 brothers. Owing to horticulture and textile business, they have a good reputation in the society. Sunil's family belongs to Hindu religion and Maratha caste. Sunil is a graduate. He has a younger brother and sister. Sunil used to look after the entire horticulture and business. Presently, Sunil is 28 years of age and had got married two years before.

It was an arranged marriage and his wife lived in urban area. His wife's family consisted of her parents and a younger brother. She was brought up in nuclear family in an urban area. She was a graduate. Due to the difference in their way of living, minor clashes began within a month or two after their marriage. His wife could not get along well together with the other women in the family (especially Sunil's mother). The contradiction between urban and rural way of living started getting apparent. Hence, there were arguments between the couple. His wife's only wish was to leave it all and shift to the urban area and start a business there or get a job which seemed to be impossible for Sunil. He felt responsible for his own family. The wife's parents too were pestering to shift to urban area, but it was not possible for him. He tried to talk his wife out of it, but she then started blackmailing him emotionally. She decided that she would not bear children unless they moved to an urban area. Sunil

decided to get a divorce as he did not feel it was right to live in such a situation. According to Sunil, even family members are not ready to make any adjustments. Women in rural area are perceived to have less worth and value. Girls are hardly taken into consideration and it should change. It's a male dominant society and it should necessarily be reduced.

In the next few months (8 months), Sunil filed a case for divorce as his wife had gone back to stay with her parents. She was refusing to come back, hence they showed a separation of 6 months and proceeded with the divorce case. There were hardly any efforts to reconcile, they were never made. With mutual consent they got divorced. During the process of getting a divorce he never went for counseling, as his lawyer told him so. Counseling is of no help to those who have already made the decision to get divorced. Sunil had not taken pre-marital counseling. He feels that pre-marital counseling might help to avoid divorce.

Currently, Sunil lives with his family. As he has no children, he has no responsibilities to take care of.

- **Life Quality Indicators –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Sunil is financially stable and sound. Hence materialistic facilities, properties, fixed deposits are abundant. All his needs and necessities are well taken care of. No effect has been seen on Sunil's quality of life, being a male with no children of his own, financially stable and no emotional involvement in his married life.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

The resources for gaining information and communication are well available for Sunil.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Sunil has no health issues whatsoever. His mental health was slightly affected but not much. He used to feel inferior in the society or when with friends.

Since he is completely engaged in his business, he hardly has any spare time. He does not have any specific hobbies. For entertainment, he uses his mobile or watches television or else goes out with friends. He is not a member of any

social group or organization. He participates a few family functions to meet relatives.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Sunil feels completely secure in his home. He has not unexpected challenges to face. He has the support of the elderly members in his family. Financially he is quite stable.

**E) Opportunities –**

There are no limitations when it comes to opportunities. He can get any education or knowledge that he wishes for. He has no freedom to decide for himself and the elders in the family decide for him. He never feels insecure or helpless. Being in a rural area he has to live his life with all the religious and moral values.

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

When the elders in the family arrange the marriages of their children, why do they not look for prospects that are willing to adjust? Is pride and reputation more important than relations? Attempts are made to maintain their reputation in the society by spending 5-10 lakhs for marriage but then why don't they search for a golden mean by mutual consent to save the marriages of their children? The question is, are customs and traditions made for man or is man made for customs and traditions?

Counselling was not useful because decision of divorce was already taken, but felt that may be premarital guidance might help to avoid divorce. Quality of life was not much affected because of economically well settled family. Also, they spent less time together thus did not affect mental health. But societal image was disturbed. He had ample opportunities to develop himself. Being male he did not face discrimination in the family or relatives.

## Case Study - 26

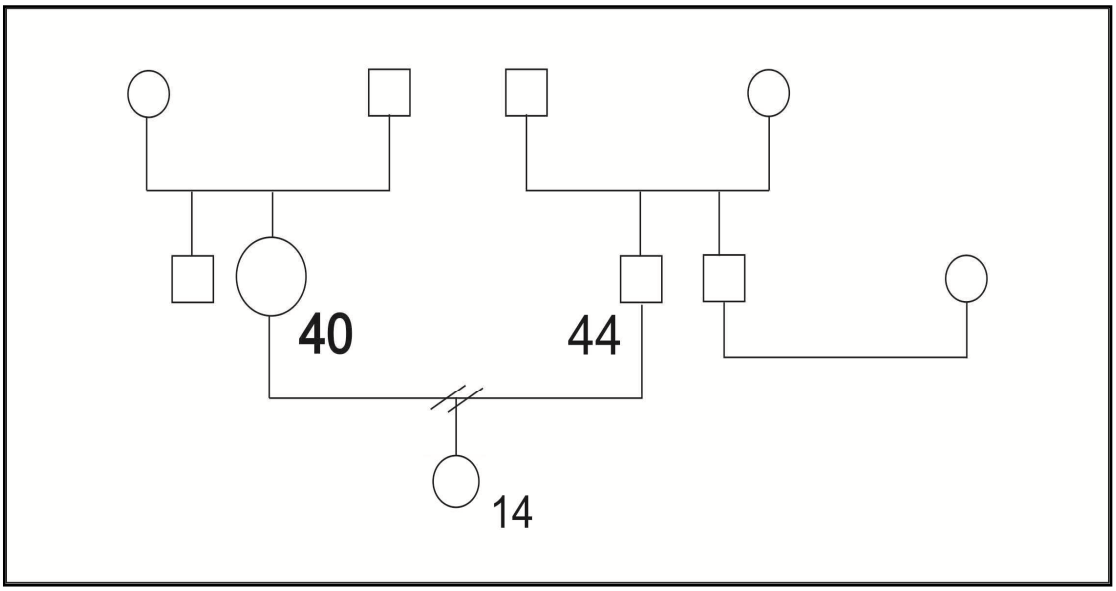



**Figure No. 4.26 : Case Study 26 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client Madhuri (name changed) comes from rural area and belongs to higher middle class. Her maternal family consists of her parents and two younger brothers and their source of survival was based on the meager piece of land used for farming. Madhuri's parents started looking out for her marriage once she had completed her education till H.S.C. and her siblings were kids yet. A prospect from nearby village who was affluent, was chosen for Madhuri. The groom's father was a teacher by profession and owned a lot of ancestral land. Considering all this, Madhuri's parents thought it as suitable and her marriage was fixed.

Her husband was the only child of his parents and lived with them in a joint family. Client's husband had not completed his education and had attempted and failed his S.S.C. He was engaged in farming. Right from the initial days Madhuri had differences with her in-laws and every now and then there were minor feuds between them. After she gave birth to a baby girl, it came to her notice that her husband was an adulterer. This resulted in a lot of quarrels between them and he sent her back to her parents for her concluding state of pregnancy and then never took her back. When her daughter was 2 years of age, Madhuri's husband filed for divorce in the court and he had also married another woman even before their divorce. The other woman had a son and a daughter.

According to Madhuri, her mother-in-law always feared that her daughter-in-law would take her son away from her and would dominate him. Hence, she never let them speak or be together and tried to keep them apart. “It’s been 5 years and I am still fighting the case in the court. I am dealing with 3 separate cases in 3 different courts hitting rounds frequently. In one court, for my divorce, in the second one for the custody of my daughter through another village and a third case for property through one more village. My husband and in-laws would never have thought that I would defend or even give such a tough fight for my own rights.”The fight for alimony is on and she is asking for an amount equivalent to 60 lakhs which they might get for a piece of land that is owned by her in-laws, but they disagree. Keeping in mind, the upbringing and education of her daughter she is fighting for alimony. She intends to educate her daughter and then get her married. Her in-laws often call her and ask her to go back to live with them.

Presently, Madhuri is residing independently in a rental flat at Taluka place. Her husband provides her with a monthly maintenance which suffices for the rent of the flat and her daughter’s education. Her daughter is in $10^{th}$ standard now. Madhuri’s husband tries to stay in contact with their daughter and tries to establish communication with her as he intends to get the custody of their daughter, but the daughter has no love or affection for her father. He never loved their daughter and she outright refuses to go and live with him. Initially when she got separated, Madhuri used to work in a company but with the increasing frequency of court hearings she must rush and move around a lot. To add up to it all, the fees of the advocate are too high. For the dates of trials, she has to rush to the city area and spend her entire day there and return home at night. This tedious routine consumes her all energy and she has no strength left to do anything for her own benefit.

As both of her brothers are now married, she does not live with her parents and lives independently. However, her parents pay her monthly grocery bills to support her in some way. Madhuri did not avail counseling during the court trials as she had already made up her mind to get divorced. Hence, she has no experience whatsoever about counseling or how helpful it might prove to be.

- **Quality of Life Indicators –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Presently, Madhuri lives in a rental flat. All the materialistic things that are necessary for herself and her daughter are available to her. She does not own much except some amount of money, a few deposits and some jewelry. Since she has the support of her parents, her earnings are sufficient to take care of their needs.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

Madhuri is ignorant about the fact that one should have knowledge and information to face the day-to-day challenges. As of now, she has no clue about how to deal with all the struggle that she faces or how to get out of the nitty-gritty of the court matters and is engrossed with all such thoughts. Any information that is available to her, comes from the rural organizations or the ladies in the organization, friends and parents. Sometimes, she is clueless about whom to turn up to for information when it is needed.

**C) Health and Wellness** –

Currently, Madhuri has no health-related issues. Hence, she does not face any limitations when it comes to participating in any activities. She can take the necessary treatment and medication from the nearby Taluka in case it is required for her or her daughter. She faces psychological troubles when it comes to dealing with the court matters, her ultimate efforts to the last mile are tiresome and wear her out and since she is all alone in the fight, she keeps on moving round a lot.

She has hardly thought much for herself and has no interests or hobbies. All her times is spent in the household chores. Her mind is all the time occupied with the thoughts of the court cases and she has difficulties in concentration. If ever she finds some time to spare, she watches Television or chats with her daughter. Madhuri has no membership of any social group or organization. She often meets her relatives and participates in family functions. She feels “I have shown my relatives that stand strong and face the ordeal even though I am absolutely not at fault.My persistence has changed the perception of my relatives and they accept me and my daughter completely.”

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Madhuri feels completely secure at her current residence. "There's nothing much to be afraid of and I am a fighter. Owing to the court trials and hearings, I come across many financial challenges," she quotes. Presently she has no job and her daughter is studying in $10^{th}$ standard. She is busy helping and supporting her daughter, looks after her tuition schedule and studies. She takes complete care so as to make her daughter feel secure. As yet, she has not planned financially or socially for their future except for the only LIC policy. Keeping it all in mind, she is striving hard to get a good amount as alimony. She is not too happy when it comes to her present standard of living.

**E) Opportunities –**

Owing to the guidance of advocates, she is now aware of her rights. She does not intend to get any technical or advanced education, but she wishes to educate her daughter and make her independent. Madhuri usually takes any decision after consulting her parents. Sometimes, she faces limitations when it comes to fulfilling her own wishes. She has to take care of everything all alone and it makes her feel helpless and insecure. She finds it difficult to live with the ethical and religious values. It is always a challenge for her to face the consequences alone for the decisions taken by her.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

In rural areas, a person's financial status, credibility, reputation and political importance has a lot of influence on all the relations in one's married life.

Women are mostly the victims of their situations. They are often dragged into the situations even when they are not at fault. When it comes to gender equality, in rural areas, women are still treated as secondary. Marriages too are not free of competition and every single person tries to strive for their existence. In rural areas, adultery of men is considered to be normal and obvious (depending on his political or societal reputation).

It shows the struggle of woman with the courage. Politics among the family members makes relations manipulative.They are manipulative in relations and consider money of greater importance than anything else. Her quality of life is

affected as she depends on support from parents and alimony from husband, information and communication from local women organizations. Her energy and daily routine depend on the court dates. She is living her life to fight at all levels to get her rights.

### 4.1.5 Case studies from Residential Institute:

**Case Study - 27**

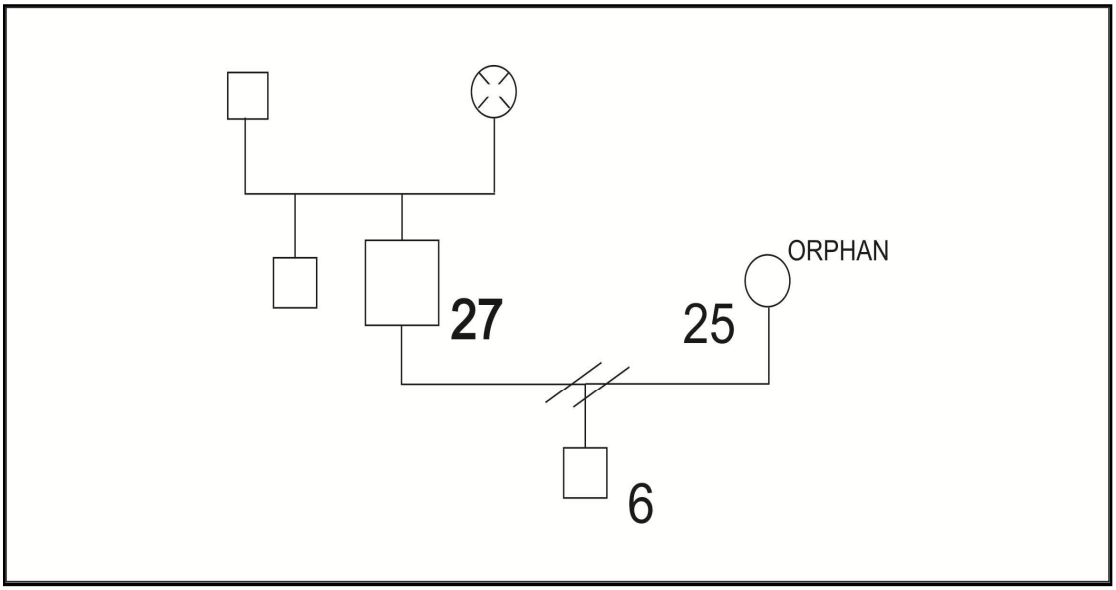



**Figure No. 4.27 : Case Study 27 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client Rohini (name changed) is 25 years of age and belongs to Hindu religion. She has completed her education till high school and lives in a residential institution for destitute women. Prior to her divorce, her monthly income was about Rs. 12000/- but now makes her living on the charity of the institution. She was a part of a joint family before marriage and after marriage lived in a nuclear family in a rural area. She was 19 years of age at the time of marriage and her marriage was arranged. When the divorce case was filed, her age was 23 years. Reasons for the divorce Were absence of communication and abandonment by her partner. Rohini tried to live in the same conditions for 2 years.

Speaking of Rohini's background, it came to notice that Rohini was an orphan and grew up in an institution. While she was pursuing her education, Rohini fell in love with a guy. When the institution performed a background check on the guy, it came to view that there were 3 members in his family, the guy himself, his father and

his brother and his mother had committed suicide earlier. Hence, the institution thought the family to be inappropriate for Rohini to live in. She disliked it and thought the institutions' decision to be unjust. She decided to marry him only; the institution had no choice and agreed to it. Her marriage was fixed and she was married. Going ahead, Rohini found herself facing weird situations.

Rohini's father-in-law and her brother-in-law would molest her and abuse her indecently. They would peep while she would take bath or try to get close to her for no reason. When Rohini informed her husband about it, her husband denied that and never took a firm stand for her. When she informed the institution about the same, they counselled her and suggested her to live independently with her husband. But her husband dismissed the advice and found nothing wrong with the behaviour of his father and brother. Rohini's father-in-law and brother-in-law indulged in alcohol abuse and often quarrelled and fought at home which troubled her and her son too. He had begun to become timid. Owing to the fact that Rohini's husband did not take a firm stand, she had no choice but to get divorced.

The court case was filed by Rohini's husband 3 years earlier. After filing the case, they had also consulted with the elders in the family and even tried to mend things or reconcile. The court order was processed by trials in the court. Prior to this there were no cases of divorce in Rohini's family. Rohini had availed counselling while the divorce procedure was going on but the counselling proved to be helpful on to a small extent as in spite of the efforts of the counsellor to convince Rohini's husband, he was not willing to understand anything. Rohini is content about the efforts taken by the counsellor. Counselling has proved to be helpful to live life post-divorce. Rohini does not feel that counselling is of no use for those who have already decided to get divorced. She had not availed any pre-marital counselling. Even if she had, she feels that it can hardly avoid the divorces from happening. Post-divorce, Rohini now lives on her own with the support of the institution. She has a 5-year- old son hence; she has an added financial responsibility. The responsibility of the child's education has been taken over by the institution. When it comes to the responsibility of Rohini's health, she has to rely on others for support.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions** –

Presently, Rohini lives in an abode provided by the residential institution for destitute women and she does not own a house. Her life depends on the materialistic resources that are made available to her by the institution. When it comes to ownership, she just owns some amount and some deposits. Her income can hardly suffice for her necessities.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being** –

Rohini has no resources to gain knowledge and information. Whatever information she gets is from her friends and sympathizers and has to rely on them. So, it is very difficult for her to get the necessary knowledge, information and communication.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

At present, Rohini has no health related issues hence; there are no limitations to her participating in any activities. In case she requires medical help, she has the support of the institution. Owing to her divorce, she has to undergo a lot of depression and stress. She seldom feels that life is good. Her hobby is listening to music and does that whenever she finds spare time. She barely participates in activities that are entertainment based. The institution that she lives in is a social institution and she is a member too. Rohini hardly meets her relatives.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Rohini feels completely safe and secure at her current abode provided to her by the institution. She often has to face unexpected financial challenges. She works for the institution informally, and she feels completely safe and secure at her workplace. Owing to the financial condition, she has not planned for her social and financial security in future. She is content about the overall environment in the institution.

**E) Opportunities –**

Every now and then, Rohini is made aware of her rights through the institution and they also provide her the necessary help to put her rights to use. Rohini cannot pursue any advanced or business education. She can seldom take decisions independently hence; there are limitations when it comes to getting her wishes fulfilled. Sometimes she feels insecure and helpless and it becomes difficult for her to face the challenges of day-to-day life. She finds it difficult

to live with the religious and ethical values. Sometimes, it is also difficult for her to face the repercussions of her decisions.

As there was no happiness in her married life, she decided to get divorced. [Life after divorce hugely depends on the education, social status and the support system. A divorcee's decisions are highly affected by the image created by the people around and their self-image]

- **Interpretation by Researcher :**

Being orphan and destitute Rohini does not have any experience of family life and also roles' in family. Representatives of residential institute were quite doubtful about nature of relationship where there was incidence of suicidal death of mother. Absence of women figure in the family may create insecurity for another woman. There was sexual exploitation in the family and it shows how women are vulnerable at every point of life. Initially she was an orphan or destitute and after divorce became divorcee. This could create adjustment issues and feeling of guilt. Life after divorce hugely depends on the education, social status and the support system. A divorcee's decisions are highly affected by the image created by the people around and their self-image. For destitute women residential institute is big support.

In fact, there were no issues between the couple, but the behaviour of other family members caused the couple to be divorced

## Case Study - 28

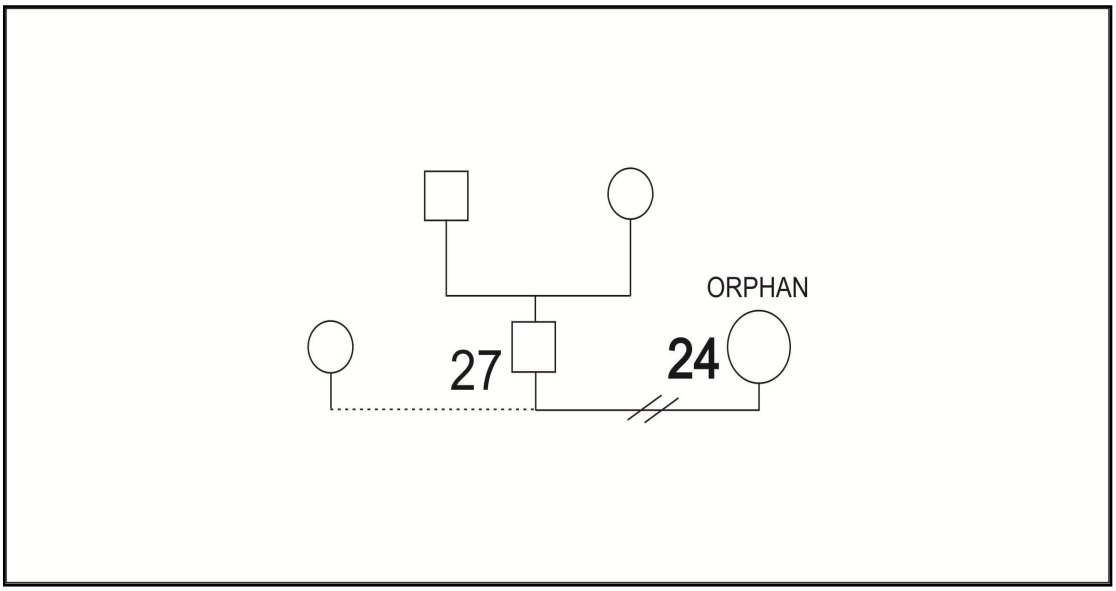



**Figure No. 4.28 : Case Study 28 - Family Genogram**

The concerned female client Manda (name changed) is 24 years of age and lives in a rural area. She has completed her education till high school. She owned a business prior to her divorce and used to earn around 15000/- per month. Manda belongs to Hindu religion and her marriage was fixed and she was married when she was 14 years of age. She was a part of a nuclear family before and after her marriage. Eight years after her marriage Manda got a divorce due to reasons such as unfulfilled expectations, extra marital affair of her husband and troubles caused by her in-laws. According to Manda, her husband was very egoistic. They lived in separation for a year and the period of trial was about a year too. Her husband took the initiative and filed for divorce. He had consented with the elderly people in the family. Efforts were made to reconcile their relationship. The proceedings of the court continued with the trials. There has been one more case of divorce in Manda's family.

During the trials, Manda availed counseling. She feels that it proved to be useful only to some extent. According to her, the counselor did not spare enough time to listen to her patiently and that the counselor was too busy. Hence, she is not satisfied with the counseling given by the counselor. She feels that the counseling provided by the residential organization has proven to be helpful to face the challenges of life post-divorce. According to her, counseling proves to be of help to

those people who have already made the decision to get divorced. Manda had not availed pre-marital counseling.

Presently, Manda lives with her parents and does not have children. She has her own financial responsibilities to take care of. Rest of the matters are sorted with the help of the residential organization.

- **Indicators of Quality of life –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

The current house that Manda lives in is a rental. She feels that all the materialistic necessities are available to her. She merely owns some amount of money and fixed deposits. According to her, the earnings are hardly enough to take care of her needs.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

The information required to face day-today challenges is available to some extent. Her source of information is her friends. The necessary communication and information are available to her only sometimes.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Manda does not have any health issues and hence she does not face any limitations when it comes to performing any activities. In case if any health-related problems arise, she can take help of the residential organization. When it comes to her mental health, she feels lonely and suffers from severe depression. There are a very few times when she feels happy or satisfied. Manda likes to watch television and often watches T.V. in her spare time. She seldom attends family functions or visits relatives. The residential organization holds several social activities in which Manda can be a part of.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Manda always feels safe and secure at her current residence. At times, she faces some unexpected financial challenges. She also feels secure at her workplace. She has not at all planned for her future financially or socially. She is somewhat satisfied with her current standard of living.

**E) Opportunities** – Manda is aware of her rights and she tries to put it to use. As and if the need arises, she can get advanced and business education. She has the freedom to take decisions for her future. At times, she faces limitations

when it comes to fulfilling her wishes. Sometimes, she feels insecure or helpless which makes it difficult to face the day-to-day challenges. It is challenging for her live with all the religious and ethical values. She also finds it difficult to face the repercussions of the decisions that she has taken all by herself.

The decision of divorce was taken as she felt that there was no happiness in married life.

- **Interpretation by researcher:**

In this case she got total support from residential institute. Being destitute woman, she has to adjust in the society. Due to this social situation her quality of life was affected. She had poor quality of standard of living, sometimes necessary information is available for her. She had to face unexpected financial expenses and no social security plan.

### 4.1.6 Case Studies of People Living with HIV /AIDS

**Case Study - 29**

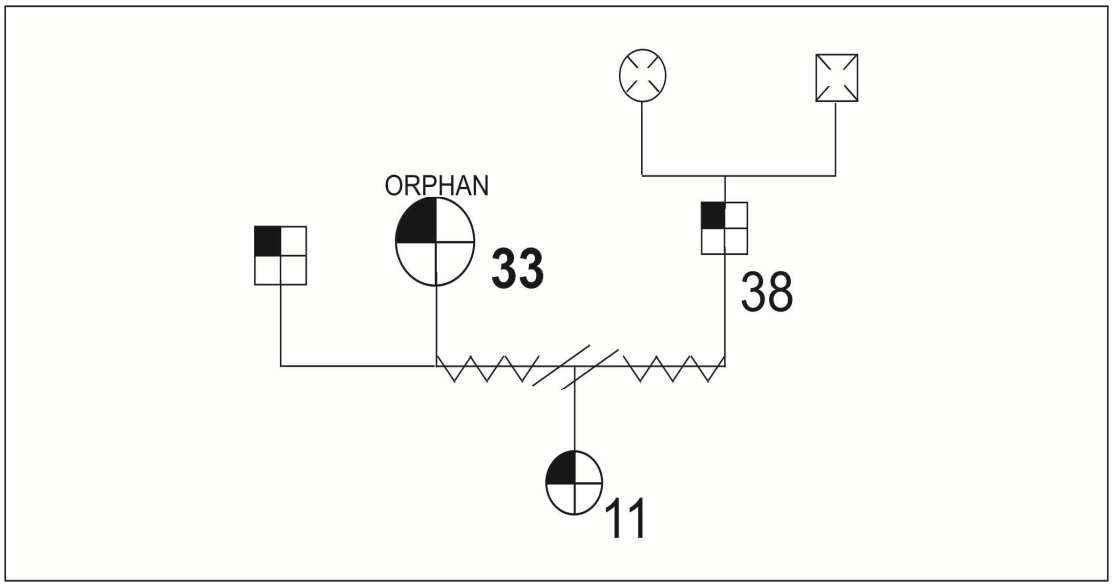



**Figure No. 4.29 : Case Study 29 - Family Genogram**

33 years old Saroj (name changed) is Hindu by religion and belongs to schedule tribe category. She has studied up to 11$^{th}$ standard. She was an orphan as her parents passed away at her young age. She has a differently able brother. Saroj was

sent to a hostel at district place as no family member was willing to shoulder the responsibility after her parents' death. She spent her entire childhood in a hostel. When she reached the age of maturity, her maternal uncle, in order to get rid of his responsibilities, fixed her marriage with a groom from another district.

Being extremely poor, her relatives found a groom from the same economic background. Her husband had studied up to 7$^{th}$ standard and was working in a market yard. His meager income of Rs. 7500 was hardly sufficient to make both ends meet. Husband was an alcoholic and authoritarian by nature. Physical abuse and altercations were frequent in the house. Saroj's nephew, son of her sister-in-law, hanged himself in their house. This unfortunate event caused many issues in the future.

Saroj's husband had HIV but he didn't disclose this to Saroj at the time of marriage. Later on, Saroj gave birth to a girl. When this girl was 6-7 years old, Saroj came to know that she herself and her daughter are HIV positive. This deceit and treachery made Saroj furious. When she came to know the truth, it was too late. She felt guilty as she couldn't protect her daughter from this dreadful illness. The psychological pressure and distress affected her mental health. As a result, she had to take the psychiatric treatment at district hospital. She became indifferent and negative towards life. The psychiatric treatment helped her to realize her responsibility towards her daughter and also made her think positive. Afterwards, Saroj did essential tests for both of them and started HIV treatment. She was resentful of her husband, her family. But she couldn't blame anyone as there was nobody to support her against her husband.

She decided to live independently. She filed a divorce case with the help of a lawyer. She was living on her own for a period of a year and half. She got a position in an organization working for HIV disease. Saroj acquired more information about HIV problems while working there. She never discussed the issues with anyone after she filed for divorce. She did not make an effort for reconciliation as well. She got divorce on mutual consent. She is unable to comment on usefulness of counseling as she never consulted any counselor. She was quite determined on the decision of divorce so she never even tried counseling. She was also unaware about pre-marital counseling and didn't acquire one before marriage.

Post-divorce, Saroj has rented a place in the city where she lives with her 11 years old daughter. Saroj is accountable for her daughter's education, health issues, social and financial well-being.

- **Indicators of Quality Of Life**

**A) Material Living Standard/ Standard of Living**

Currently Saroj lives in a rented place. The material possessions she needs depend on the support she gets. She does not own any material means. Saroj does not have any savings or bank deposits as she has started working recently.

**B) Foundation of Well being**

Saroj has sources available to get information about daily issues, family life etc. to some extent. She obtains this information through the training programs conducted by the organization where she works. However, her need for communication is fulfilled rarely.

**C) Health and Wellness**

Saroj needs to be more careful about her health as she is leading life with HIV infection. At times, her health limits her participation in certain activities. She gets free of charge treatment for her health issues. Due to the fact that Saroj had to endure terrible disease because of her husband's deceit and not because of her fault, caused her severe mental anguish. Saroj is not pleased or satisfied about her life as she had to face mental stress, depression, loneliness, lack of confidence, insomnia, emotional ups and downs and guilt.

She doesn't have any hobbies in particular. Her job and house chores take most of her time. There is hardly any free time for her. She seldom meets her relatives or attends family events.

**D) Environmental Quality**

Saroj feels safe and secure at her current home. At all times she is worried about her daughter's safety as she is alone at home when Saroj leaves for work. Sometimes her neighbors help Saroj with her daughter. Sometimes she has to find a way through unforeseen financial problems. She feels safe at her

workplace. She wants to start a side business as her salary is not enough to take care of day-to-day needs.

**E) Opportunities**

Saroj is aware of her rights to some extent. She cannot opt for modern, professional training owing to her weak financial position and daughter's responsibility. She has the freedom to take future decisions. Her desires are fulfilled to a limited degree. She consistently feels vulnerable and helpless. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. Life with religious values, moral values and principles is really hard for her. She finds it difficult to accept decisions with their consequences.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

Helplessness deprives one of many things in life. This client had to undergo various challenging stages in childhood as she was destitute, in younger stage she had to make an adjustment for her marriage due to her economic condition and no support, where she found deception. Then she had to suffer from life threatening disease in spite of no fault from her side.

A chain of biased or preferential treatment is created. Here it was found that degradation of human values and how woman became victim of it. Due to HIV status there are limitations to live quality of life. She has to keep her health status confidential, she has keep her environment safe for herself and her daughter too. There is a deep impact on her mental state.

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## Case Study - 30

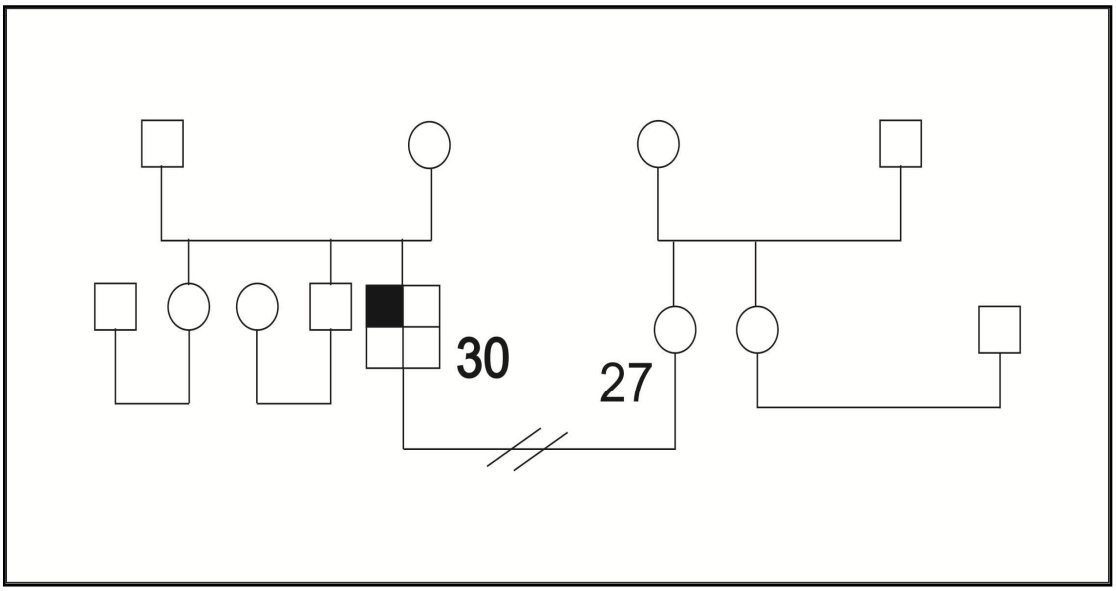



**Figure No. 4.30 : Case Study 30 - Family Genogram**

The concerned male client Nagesh(name changed) is 30 years of age and presently pursuing post-graduation. He belongs to Hindu religion under Scheduled Caste. Nagesh basically comes from a rural area and his parents' occupation is farming. He has a married younger brother and a sister. He is the eldest among his siblings. His father is not educated but he always encouraged his children to take education hence, Nagesh started trying for D.Ed and also prepared for competitive exams. He wanted to be employed in a government job and do something for his parents. He spent 2-3 years in this and in the meanwhile his parents were constantly after him to get married. At that point of time, Nagesh was working in a private firm earning Rs. 12,000-13000/- per month. His marriage was fixed with a girl who was a distant relative i.e Nagesh's cousin's sister-in-law. She was brought up in Mumbai and Nagesh in rural area hence, he felt the need to communicate with her and get to know her first and see if she is prepared to stay in a rural area. With the consent of his family members, he went to see her before marriage and told her that he was preparing for M.P.S.C., works in a private company and does not earn much etc. She showed her readiness to it all then and there was a time span of about 6-7 months before the marriage. They would exchange phone calls then and after the marriage started living in their village. During this period, Nagesh had also cleared the first step to M.P.S.C. and was also selected for the second examination for which he had shifted to Pune and started preparing. Nagesh's wife would call him frequently and started

troubling him. She would constantly bicker that, “I get bored here, let me go to Mumbai.” Due to this, Nagesh rented a 2 BHK flat in Pune as his brother was married too and so that they all could live together. His younger brother had helped him a lot in his education but Nagesh's wife wanted to live with him separately and not with everybody else. She continued to complain and bicker again.

At the time of Rakshabandhan, she again started bickering as she wanted to go to Mumbai. Nagesh insisted that she call her brother to Pune, but she did not agree to it. Finally, Nagesh gave in and allowed her to go to Mumbai. She left saying that she would return in a day or two, but she did not come back. When he called her she said, “I do not wish to come.” Nagesh felt stressed out. He says that he does have any addictions. Her elder sister i.e. her sister-in-law tried to convince her but her mother opined that, “If you need your wife, you should do all that she says.” To save their marriage, Nagesh’s parents also gave in and advised their son to listen to his wife. For two months Nagesh rented a room there and lived with her but there was no change in her behaviour. She did not cook properly neither did she take care of his health. He became a bit unwell and felt a lot of weakness. He returned to his village for his entrance exam for D.Ed. While he was here, she filed a complaint against his relatives in a nearby police station saying that Nagesh’s family members used to hit her and had named all of them in the police report. The police too assured her to give all the necessary protection. Nagesh’s father-in-law was addicted to alcohol and understood that his daughter was wrong but could hardly do anything under his wife’s predominance. They laid down conditions saying that she wouldn't work in farms as it troubles her. They didn’t want their daughter to go back to her husband, so they directly filed a case in the Mumbai court. Nagesh waited for 6 more months and tried to call her back. When he came back from Kalyan he fell ill repeatedly, so he decided to get himself tested. He tested positive for HIV. He informed his wife about it and asked her to come back saying, “You make all the decisions henceforth”. His wife created a lot of ruckus to gain publicity from her relatives and forced him take the test again. Nagesh suffered a lot emotionally. A case was again file in the Shivaji Nagar Court. It came to his notice during those 6 months that evening before getting divorced; his wife had already married someone else.

Nagesh had filed for a divorce 2 years after their marriage and they lived in separation for a year and it took 6 more months for the trials for the procedure to get

completed. Before filing the case, Nagesh had consulted with all the elderly people and had tried to mend things and reconcile. Finally, with mutual consent they both got legally separated. There are no other cases of divorce in Nagesh's family.

Nagesh and his wife had gone for counselling while the trials were going on but it didn't turn out to be of much help in the case of his wife. Counselling can prove to be of help to face the challenges of life post-divorce. Nagesh had also availed pre-marital counselling. He does not have any children but bears the financial responsibility of his family.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions –**

Presently, Nagesh lives in a rented room. Nagesh has to completely rely on some support to get the materialistic things that he needs. In terms of ownership, Nagesh owns some land in his village. It is difficult for Nagesh to take care of his needs out of his earnings.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

The knowledge and information required to face the situations and challenges of day-to-day life is sometimes available to Nagesh. He gets all the knowledge from the organization where he is employed.

**C) Health and Wellness** –

At present, Nagesh has learned to survive with HIV. It limits his participation in a few activities some times. There is treatment and medication available for his health issues.

Speaking of his mental state, he has undergone tremendous stress in the past. He was severely depressed and had even tried to commit suicide. He experienced extreme loneliness, lack of confidence and concentration but his current workplace has supported him to overcome it all. He does not feel happy at all or that life is good. Owing to the sufferings of the divorce and HIV, Nagesh faces dual stigma and his dream to make his career is now far left behind.

Nagesh likes to read books and spends his spare time reading books. He does not wish to disclose the fact that he has HIV and often tells people, “HIV patients die, but I am very much alive, which means I do not have HIV.” He thinks that it changes the perception of people. He hardly meets relative or attends family functions but always takes part in creative and entertainment based activities. He has no membership of any social organizations or groups.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Nagesh feels completely safe and secure at his present residence. He sometimes faces unexpected financial challenges. He always feels secure at his workplace. He has not at all planned his future in regards to financial or social security.

**E) Opportunities –**

Nagesh is fully aware of his rights. He is currently pursuing advanced business education. He always has the freedom to take his own decisions. According to him, there are limitations when it comes to fulfilling his wishes. Similarly, it is challenging for him to face the day-to-day challenges of life. He also finds it difficult to live with the religious and ethical values or to face the consequences of the decisions taken all alone.

- **Interpretation by researcher :**

This marriage was performed in close relations and groom tried to maintain transparency of socioeconomic situation before marriage. However, it all failed. Expectations from each other were never fulfilled or never matched or not compatible. This may be because of life goals are different. Both of them were brought up in two different cultural backgrounds i.e. rural and urban. When both of them were not satisfied with each other, they went for alternative relationship.

There was a great deal of interference from his in-laws. They insisted him to behave as per daughter's opinion, which shows no acceptance of son in law and his family background. The disease or health status may affect the whole environment. Maintaining confidentiality was major problem for them. Because of this the client

lost his courage to appear for MPSC. He has to divert his goals according to his health status.

## Case Study - 31

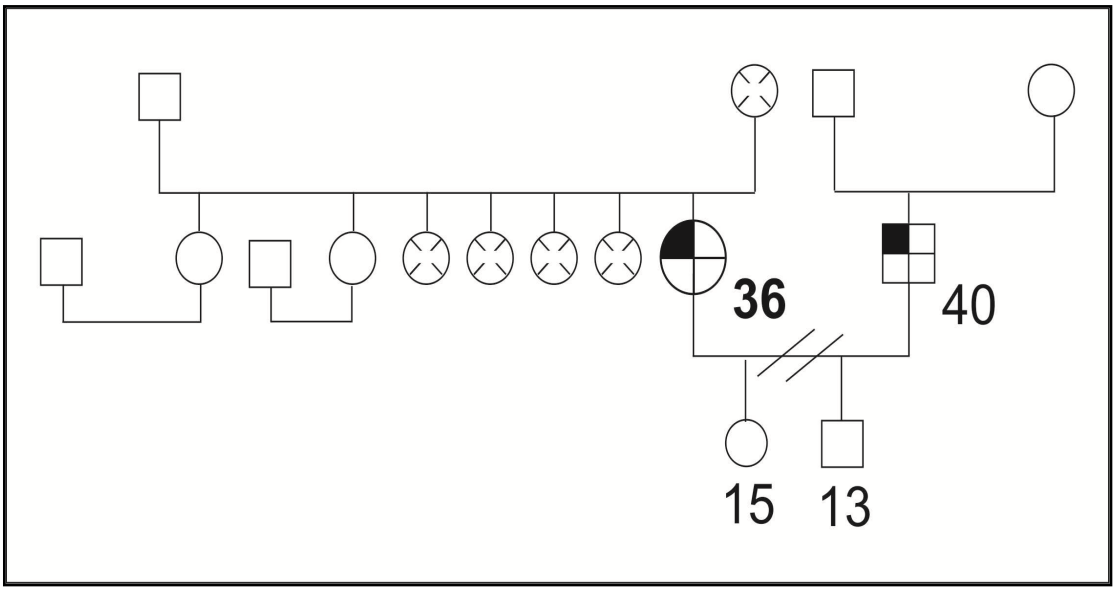



**Figure No. 4.31 : Case Study 31 - Family Genogram**

Surekha (name changed) was born in 1984 in a village near Umaraga in Usmanabad district. She is 36 years old. Her father was visually impaired. Her mother was a homemaker. Both her parents used to work in the farm they had. This couple had 7 daughters. In 1993, during earthquake in Killari district, Surekha's three sisters died along with two children. According to Surekha,'' These deaths came as a huge shock to the family, especially, my mother was traumatized badly.'' One of her elder sisters was married at the time. Sometime after this, Surekha's mother was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Around same time one sister was diagnosed with brain tumor. Surekha's father made every effort possible to save her mother and sister. He sold his farm for their treatment. But his efforts did not prove fruitful and mother daughter duo passed away. Her father found it difficult to cope with the reality.

These sisters had to face some social criticism as they did not have a brother. Two sisters were unmarried. Surekha had finished her junior college. Her father was a freedom fighter. He encouraged and supported education for his girls. According to social norms, one cannot marry for 3 years if there is a death in the family. After Surekha's mother expired, the family was worried that if they follow this norm then

Surekha's age might become a hindrance for her marriage. As a result, it was decided that Surekha would marry immediately. Her brother-in-law brought a proposal. He did not check the background of groom in detail. According to Surekha's brother-in-law, the farmland owned by the groom's family was sufficient to fix her marriage. But the groom was a hard drinker. Surekha said,'' There were majority of women in my family. My father did not have any addiction. So, it took me almost 6 months to realize that my husband was an alcoholic.'' Husband was a habitual drinker. Arguments and conflicts were daily routine. He used to fight with his parents and would constantly demand money. He would taunt his mother,'' You do not earn but my wife works and brings money home.'' He used to threaten his parents that he would burn his wife to death or would hang her. This went on for some months. A son and a daughter were born in next three years. Surekha's in-laws were on good terms with her and always supported her. As her husband's attitude and behavior did not get better with the time, her in-laws told them to stay separately and promised to bear some expenses as well. As a result, Surekha along with her husband and two children shifted to Pune in 2010. Her husband got employed in a shop for salary of Rs.7000. He had completed school education till $10^{th}$. On the contrary, Surekha became a graduate with the help and support of her in-laws. Husband used to spend all his salary on liquor. Surekha started working for Lijjat Papad. She would make around 10-12 kg papad every day. Her income took care of house rent and education of her children. In 2015, her husband became awfully sick and was too weak. He had hardly any appetite for food. His blood pressure dropped to 60. Hospital expenses in Pune were out of their reach so he was taken back to his home. Doctors in a district hospital checked him and asked Surekha if she had had a family planning operation. He told her to do that quickly if she hadn't. But doctor did not explain anything in detail. Surekha could not make any sense of that. Her husband was taken to a hospital at a district hospital where her husband's cousin was working in a nursing department. He told her that she also needs to be examined along with her husband. There she was told that her husband was HIV positive and she was also infected. But medication wasn't necessary for Surekha as her CD 4 count was 400. Surekha didn't understand much but realized that the disease was deadly. At that point she wanted to commit suicide. She told her husband,'' Instead of going home, we should commit suicide by throwing ourselves under some vehicle.'' But her husband didn't agree. Doctors had told him to stay away from liquor in order to be healthy. He

remained sober for 8 days and started drinking again. He was admitted in rehabilitation center but it was in vain. Surekha was not comfortable staying there. She was afraid that society would look down upon them for being HIV positive. There was no respite from her husband's alcohol addiction. The situation worsened and became unbearable. At last, with the permission from her in-laws, she decided to apply for divorce. Her in-laws were well aware of the horrible situation and didn't oppose her decision. The divorce case was filed in court and she got divorce on mutual consent. She didn't opt for counseling therefore has no knowledge about it. Surekha frequented the Art Center and felt that counseling offered there was useful. After her divorce, she came back to Pune. She was working with a social organization and was making papad also. She was responsible for her children's education as well as social and financial well-being.

- **Indicators of Quality Of Life**

**A) Material Living Standard/Standard of Living**

For now, Surekha lives in a rented house. She doesn't possess any material means. She depends on the support gets. She doesn't own anything apart from some land given to her by in-laws. Her income is hardly enough to fulfill her needs.

**B) Foundation of Well being**

She does not have the sources available to get the information about daily issues. She can obtain this information as and when the organization she works for conducts the training programs. As a result, sources of information and communication are rarely available to her.

**C) Health and Wellness**

Currently, Surekha is HIV positive. In spite of that she does her daily chores. Treatment is available to her for her health issues. She has experienced extensive stress in her married life so the current situation is much better for her. It is far quieter. After the divorce, she is delighted. She has no particular hobbies. She spends her time doing work and with her children. Twice a year,

she visits her relatives at her parents' place in her village. Apart from that, she doesn't meet any other relatives.

**D) Environmental Quality**

Surekha feels safe and secure at her current home. Her neighbors are co-operative. She has to face unforeseen financial issues all the time. She finds her workplace safe as well. She has not planned for her or her children's social and financial security.

**E) Opportunities**

Surekha is very well aware of her rights. Presently, she is taking modern professional training. She is free to take future decisions. Often, she is unable to fulfill her aspirations. At times, she has sense of helplessness. Dealing with daily issues is challenging for her. Life with religious values, moral values and principles is really hard for her. To accept decisions with the consequences on her own is usually difficult for her.

- **Interpretation by researcher :**

In the present case it shows that how one lady can become scapegoat of situations arise in the family. At every mode of life the client face problems continuously. Here also while fixing of marriage proper eligibility not considered. Only wealth was taken into account. The reason of divorce again violence and deception.

Still she was not defeated but stand alone to support her children and developing her future. Marriage is just a ceremony to bind the couple, However, lack of humanity perspective, less sensitivity, value deterioration was found. As she had support from her in-laws she received courage.

She was not satisfied with her quality of life in the area of standard of living, health, however as she is taking professional training her attitude is changing and she was trying to improve it.

## Case Study - 32

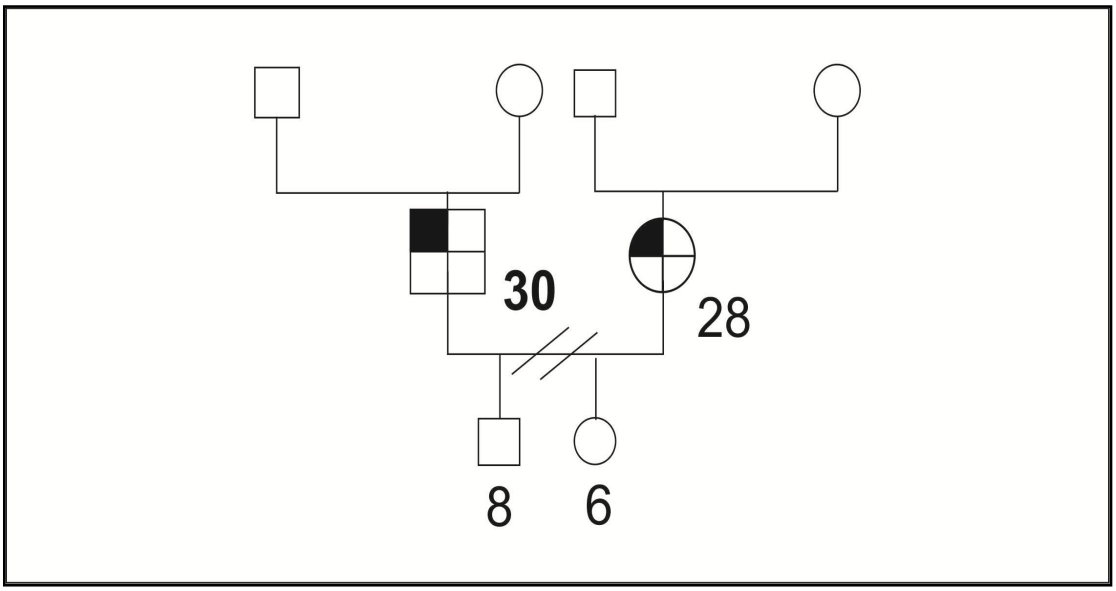



**Figure No. 4.32 : Case Study 32 - Family Genogram**

The concerned male client Ganesh (name changed) is 30 years of age. He has completed his education till High School and runs a business of his own. He earns around Rs. 25000 per month. Ganesh lives in a city area, belongs to Hindu religion in open category.

At the age of 25, Ganesh got married. It was a love marriage, but the aim with which he married his partner completely failed. Just 2 years after their marriage, Ganesh filed for divorce as he found out that his wife had an extra marital affair. His wife was very stubborn and belligerent by nature. There was a lot of interference of his in-laws in their married life. There were differences in the level of education and ego issues. She had conservative thoughts. In all, the compatibility that should have been there was missing. All of this did not come to Ganesh's notice when they were in love earlier. They lived in separation for a year and then file a case after which it took 6 months. It was Ganesh who took an initiative and filed the case in the court and before filing the case he had consulted with the elderly members in the society. He took a lot of efforts and tried to reconcile and hence this procedure was completed along with the trials in the court.

There are no cases of divorce in Ganesh's family other than his. While the trials were going on, Ganesh availed counselling. According to him, counselling has completely proved to be useful, especially, to deal with the life after divorce. For

those people who have already decided to get divorced, counselling is of no use. Ganesh had not availed pre-marital counselling. As per him, pre-marital counselling helps to avoid a divorce. Post-divorce, Ganesh lives with his parents. He has a son and a daughter and Ganesh's wife has the custody of both the children. Presently, Ganesh has financial responsibilities to take care of.

- **Indicators of Quality of Life –**

**A) Materialistic Living Conditions** –

At present, Ganesh lives in a house on a rental basis. All the materialistic needs are available and taken care of. Speaking of ownership, Ganesh owns fixed properties. Ganesh's income is hardly sufficient to take care of all of his needs.

**B) Foundation of Well-Being –**

Ganesh gets all the information that he needs from the members of his family. Such information and communication required for day-to-day life is always available to him.

**C) Health and Wellness –**

Ganesh has HIV and it limits his participation in some activities. He is alcohol addiction too. He feels that the right treatments and medication required for his health is not available to him. He quoted that he does not face any mental issues.

Ganesh's hobbies include playing Cricket, going for walks, chatting. He spends his spare time watching television or browsing internet. He rarely participates in family functions. Since Ganesh has HIV, he participates in all the activities of the institution that helps HIV patients. Hence, he feels that life is not at all good.

**D) Environmental Quality –**

Ganesh does not feel completely secure at the place where he resides. Seldom, he comes across unexpected financial challenges. He has not at all planned his future when it comes to social and financial security.

**E) Opportunities –**

According to Ganesh, he is not fully aware of his rights. He can pursue advanced or business education if he wishes to do so. He has the freedom to

take his own decisions for future. Sometimes, Ganesh feels helpless and insecure. It is always challenging for him to face the challenges of daily life and situations. Living with all the religious and ethical values is difficult for him. Similarly, facing the consequences of the decisions taken alone proves to be difficult for him.

- **Interpretation by Researcher:**

This was the failure of love marriage. It may be due to influence of age factor or attraction in young age. There was no compatibility and positive aspects seen by each other. Counselling was useful to cope in post-divorce life.

There was not much effect on quality of life. Though he was staying in rental house, he had good standard of living. He was addict and due to HIV status he was not able to disclose it anywhere else. He kept himself away from his relatives and social groups. Economic condition definitely affects other indicators of quality of life excluding mental health.

**Section 2**

## 4.2 Analysis within the Context

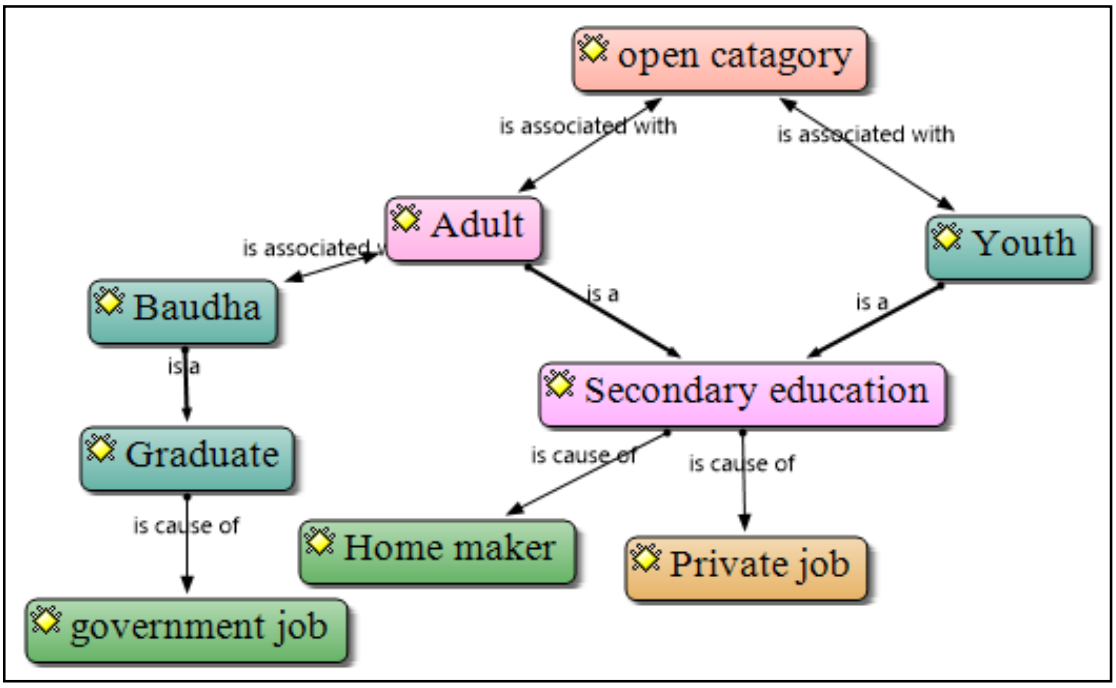
Each context has its own effect of socio economic or cultural background. Thus researcher tried to explore the relationship of variables in qualitative data in its own context by using Atlas ti. This analysis shows the groundedness ,density and nature of relationship with each other. Multiple case study design was used by researcher thus case studies in following background were analysed.

1. Case studies of differently able
2. Case studies of urban context
3. Case studies of sub urban context
4. Case studies of inmates of residential institute
5. Case studies of rural context
6. Case studies of people living with HIV /AIDS

### 4.2.1 Case studies of differently able:

### 1. Socioeconomic and Marital Issues

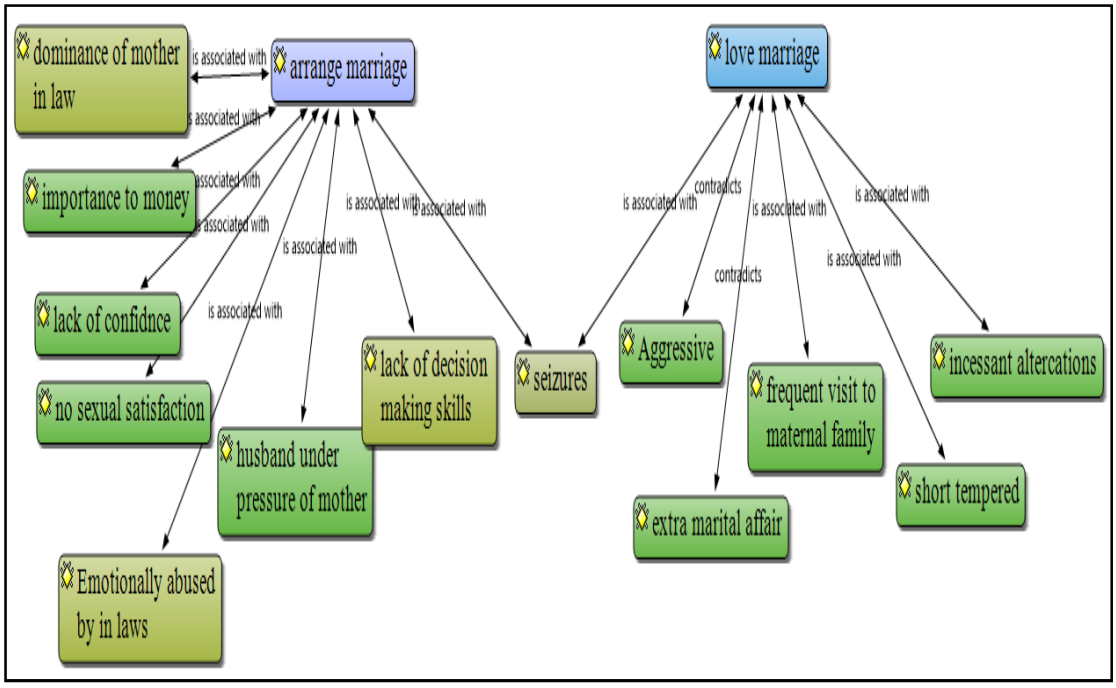
There were five deaf mute cases and their age range was between 30 - 41 years. Following network shows socio economic background and marital issues in the context of deaf-mute couples, limitations related to access of services, their perception towards their situation, especially service of counselling during divorce process.




**Network No. 4.2.1 : Socioeconomic Background**

The above network highlights the density and groundedness in the context of differently able respondents. This network shows educational, economic background, social category.

Maximum respondents had their education till 10th standard. Four respondents were from open category and one from Baudha. Only one female respondent had completed graduation with full support and encouragement of her father and it shows association between education and job. There is cause effect relationship between secondary education and job in private sector.

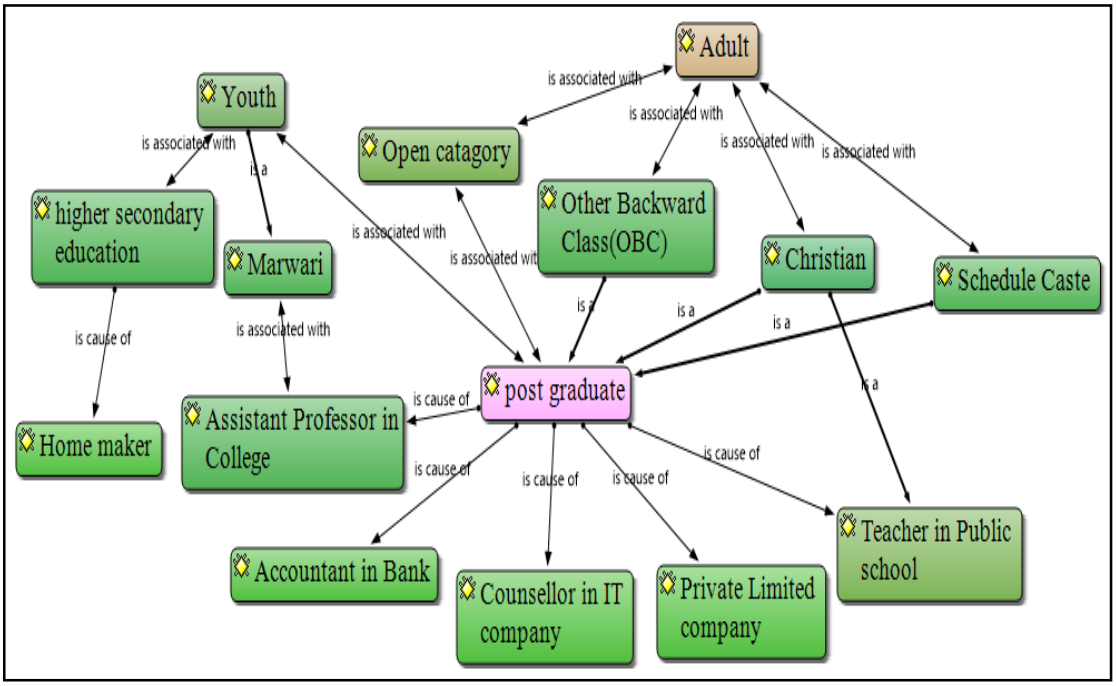



**Network 4.2.2 : Type of Marriage and Causes of Divorce**.

The above network highlights the density and groundedness in the context of differently able respondents. This network shows type of marriage and causes of divorce. Three respondents had arranged marriage and two did love marriage, still it shows contradictory relationship. In arranged marriage there were multiple reasons of divorce related to personality problems, dominance of in-laws, violence, importance of money etc and in love marriage there were the reasons of extra marital affairs, not known about each other's personality problems or health issues.

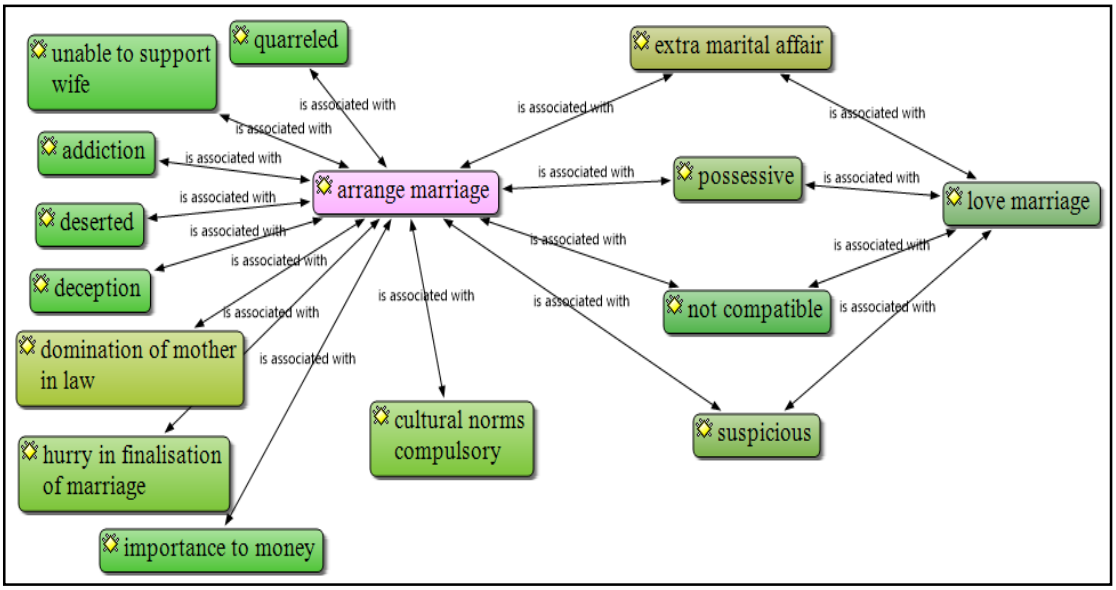
### 4.2.2 Case studies of urban context:

All seven cases from urban area were analysed in its context by using their socio economic characteristics, type of marriage, causes of divorce and opinion about counselling during divorce process. Age range of respondents was between 28-43 years.




**Network 4.2.3 : Case studies of urban context:**

The above network shows that as maximum cases staying in urban area completed post graduation and they were financially independent which shows association.




**Network 4.2.4 : Type of marriage and Causes of divorce**

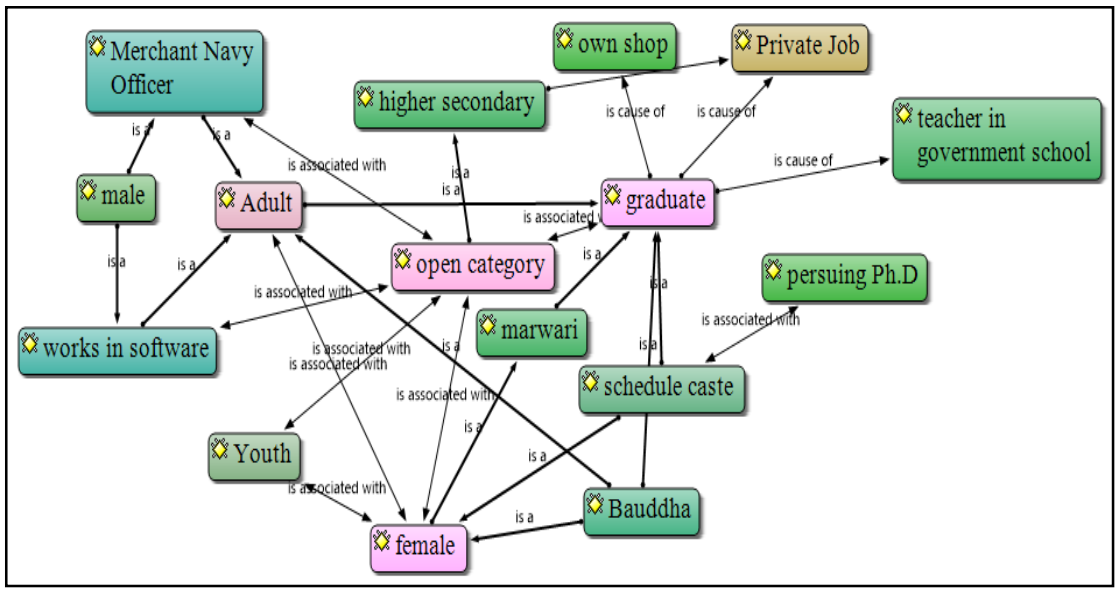
More respondents had arranged marriage and had reasons like hurry in finalising marriage, extra marital affair, domination of mother in law, compulsion of

cultural norms, possessive and suspicious nature of husband. Mixed experience about counselling was also found, when one of the partners confirmed that divorce counselling doesn't work.

### 4.2.3 Case studies of sub urban context:

There are two networks shown below. One is about socio economic situation and another is type of marriage and causes of divorce. There were 10 cases in suburban area and age range of clients in these cases was between 27-45 years.

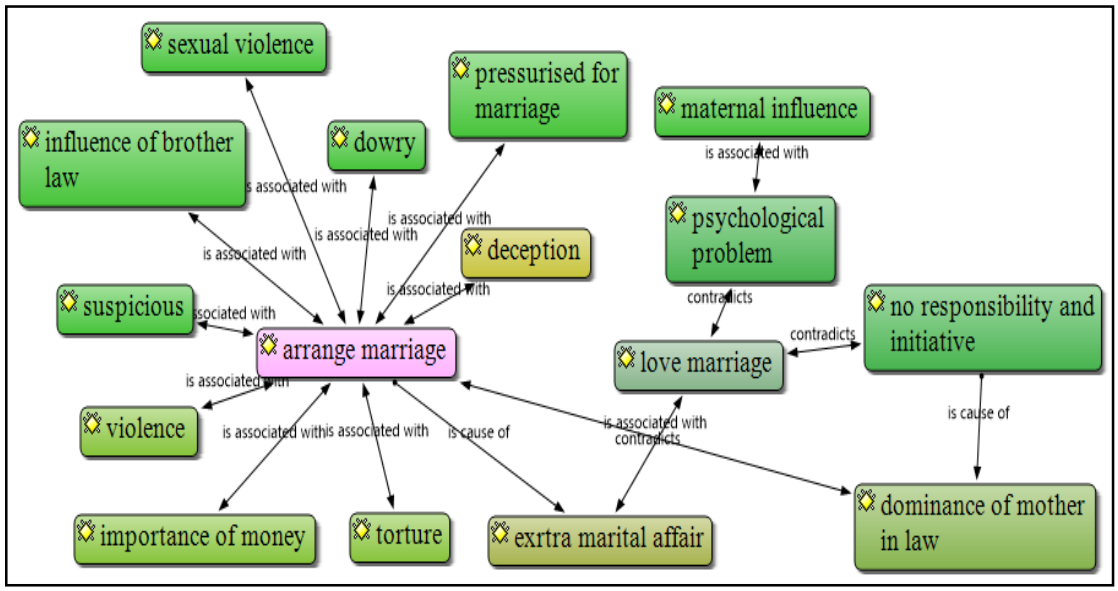
**A) Socio economic situation**




**Network 4.2.5 : Socio economic situation**

This network shows that among 10 respondents from sub urban area, maximum respondents were graduate (including technical), one was post graduate and one had completed higher secondary education. Majority of respondents were from open category, two from schedule caste and one from Buddha. More number of female respondents were working in private sector and two male respondents were working in Merchant Navy and a software company respectively. One female was working in Zillha Parishad School and one had her own shop and one is perusing Ph.D.

**B) Type of marriage and causes of divorce**



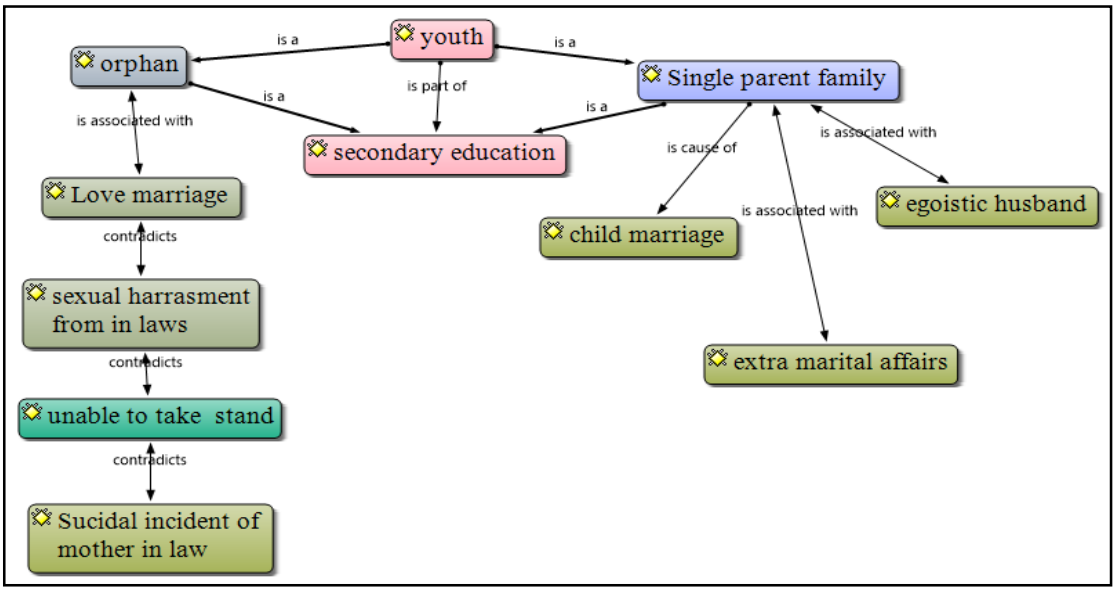

**Network 4.2.6 : Type of marriage and causes of divorce**

The above network shows type of marriage and causes of divorce among respondents from suburban area. Among ten respondents, seven had opted for arranged marriage and three had opted for love marriage. However, it shows that there was contradiction in love marriage and causes of divorce. It shows that respondents were in love for long time and still were not able to understand psychological problem of partner before marriage. Though they had love marriage, their partner was in extra marital affair.

Arranged marriage shows association with deception. Fifty percent cases detected deception in marriage. Three respondents reported violence by in -laws, greedy in-laws as well as dominance of mother-in-laws. Other causes reported were maternal influence, suspicious behaviour of husband, forced marriage, no responsibility and initiative taken by husband.

### 2.4.4 Cases of Inmates of Residential Institute

Following network shows causes and socioeconomic background. There were two case studies from residential institute and both were female. Both were very young i.e. 24 and 25 years.

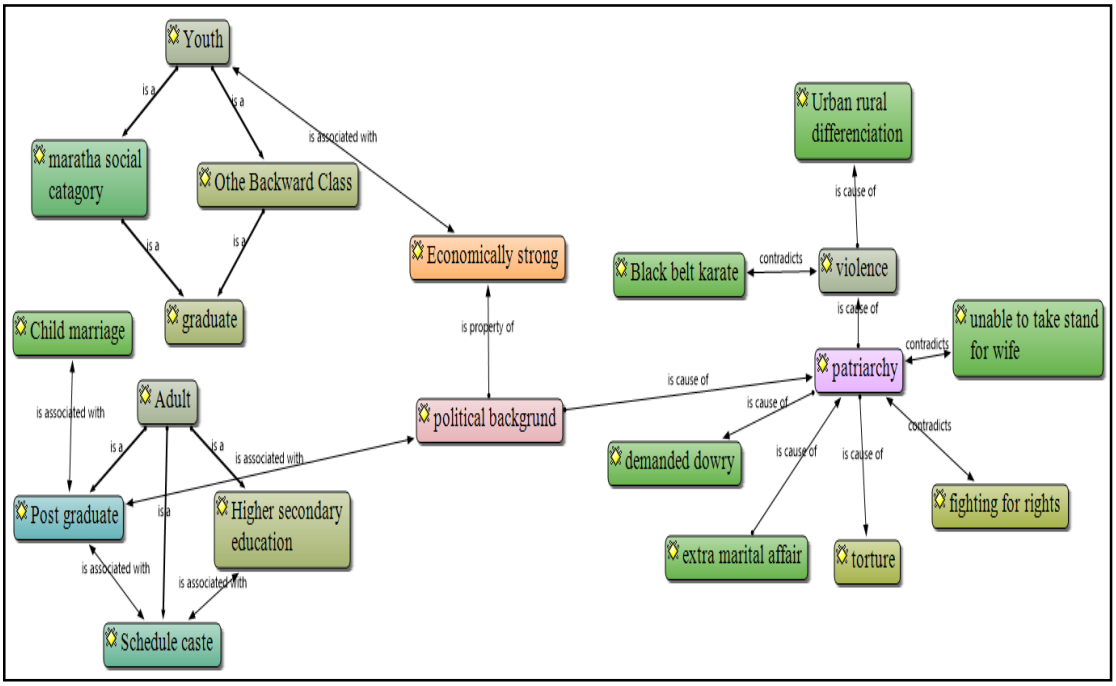



**Network 4.2.7 : Cases of Inmates of Residential Institute**

The above network shows respondents from residential institute basically destitute, who were very young and had completed secondary level of education. One is love marriage and another was arranged but it was found that troubles from in-laws(molestation), egoistic husband, extramarital affair etc were causes of divorce.

### 4.2.5 Case studies of rural context

Following network shows socio economic situation and causes of divorce in rural context. There were four case studies from different villages of Pune district. Three female and one male participated in research.Age range was between 26- 37 years.

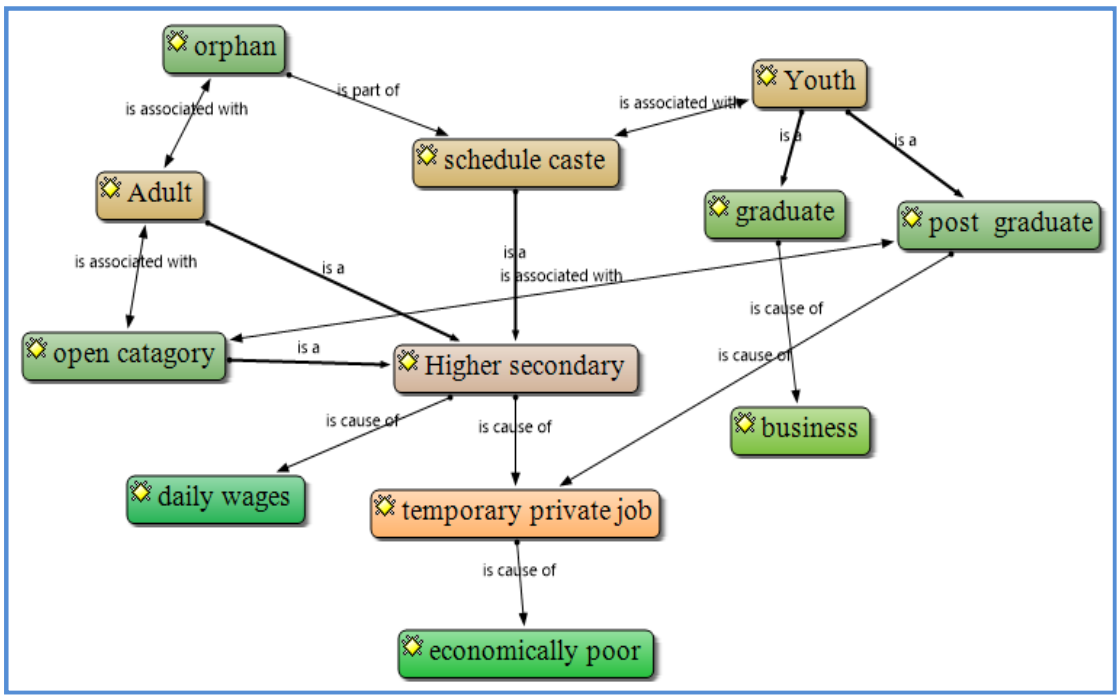



**Network 4.2.8 : Socio Economic Situation and Causes of Divorce in Rural Context.**

Groundedness and density found in above network shows about socioeconomic characteristics of rural context such as patriarchal system of dowry, inferior and basic education to women, violence, torture, and political background.Political background was associated with manipulation. However it contradicts that female respondent with black belt in karate had to experience extreme violence and two female with no such background were fighting for their rights. Domination of in -laws, extra marital affair of husband, differently able daughters, nurturing differences were few reasons for divorce.

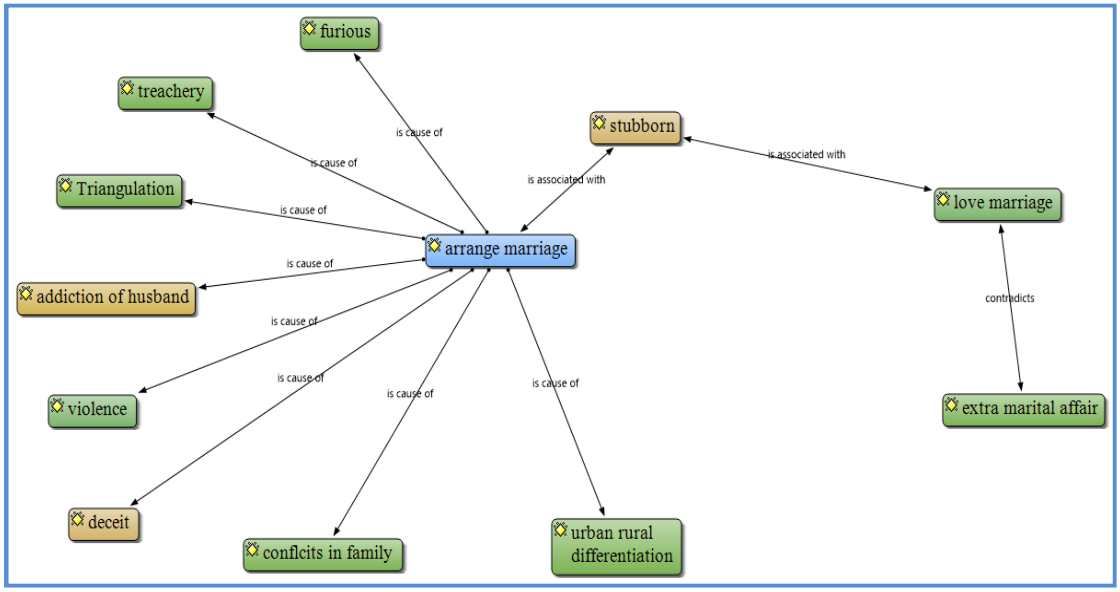
### 4.2.6 Case studies of people living with HIV /AIDS:

Following network shows socioeconomic situation and marital issues of people living with HIV/AIDS. In four case studies two male and two female participated. Age group of participants was between 30 -36.




**Network 4.2.9 : Socioeconomic Situation and Marital Issues**

Above network shows groundedness and density of socioeconomic situation and marital issues. Basically all of them had secondary education but when they confirmed their HIV status and joined civil society organisation, with motivation from organisation, they were trying to take advance education. Out of four three were working in civil society organisation. They belonged to low income group.




**Network 4.2.10 : Type of Marriage and Causes of Divorce**

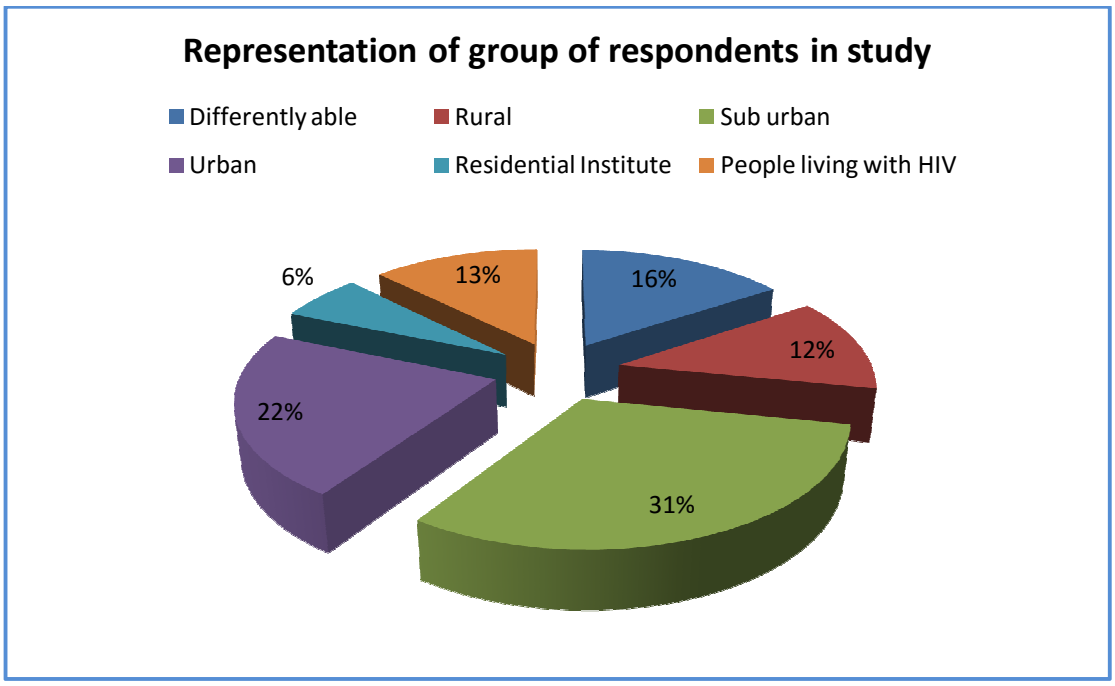
It also shows that situation of helpless and without support individuals was associated with deception in marriage and violence in family. In one case, it shows contradiction where husband was an addict still his wife got complete support and a piece of land from in -laws.

Groundedness in reasons of divorce shows stubborn nature of wife, maternal interference, urban rural differentiation, extra marital affair. In one case it was very shocking for respondent when she got to know that she was HIV positive because of her husband. As a result, she collapsed and that she had to undergo psychiatric treatment. She became furious because of this deceit and treachery.

**Section 3**

## 4.3 Cross Case Analysis:

The researcher under section of "cross case analysis" has presented the analysis of the data collected from 32 families of divorcee individuals from Pune District through in-depth interview. The profile of the selected case units under the study were classified as follows.




**Graph No. 4.3.1 : Representation of group of respondents in study**

The above pie chart shows that maximum representation of cases was from sub urban area.

The researcher collected the information from selected families belonging from different socio economic groups. They were sub divided according to their occupation and social category. The table below shows the social category along with their respective service lines.

**Table No. 4.3.1**

**Numbers of Male-Female participated in research from different socio economic groups**

| **Deaf mute individual** | | **Individual living in Rural area** | | **Individual Living in Urban area** | | **Individual living in suburban area** | | **Individual from Residential Institute** | | **Individual living with HIV** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

A case unit was selected by the researcher using the purposive sampling technique. However, on a later stage, snowball sampling techniques were incorporated. The references and contacts of the researcher in the field were used. Due to COVID-19 pandemic researcher was unable to meet all the respondents personally. Few respondents allowed to meet personally two three times but few insisted to have telephonic interviews only. Detail interviews help to gain insights on the issue and discussion with family members helps to mitigate the problem.

The cases were cross analysed with indictors of quality of life.

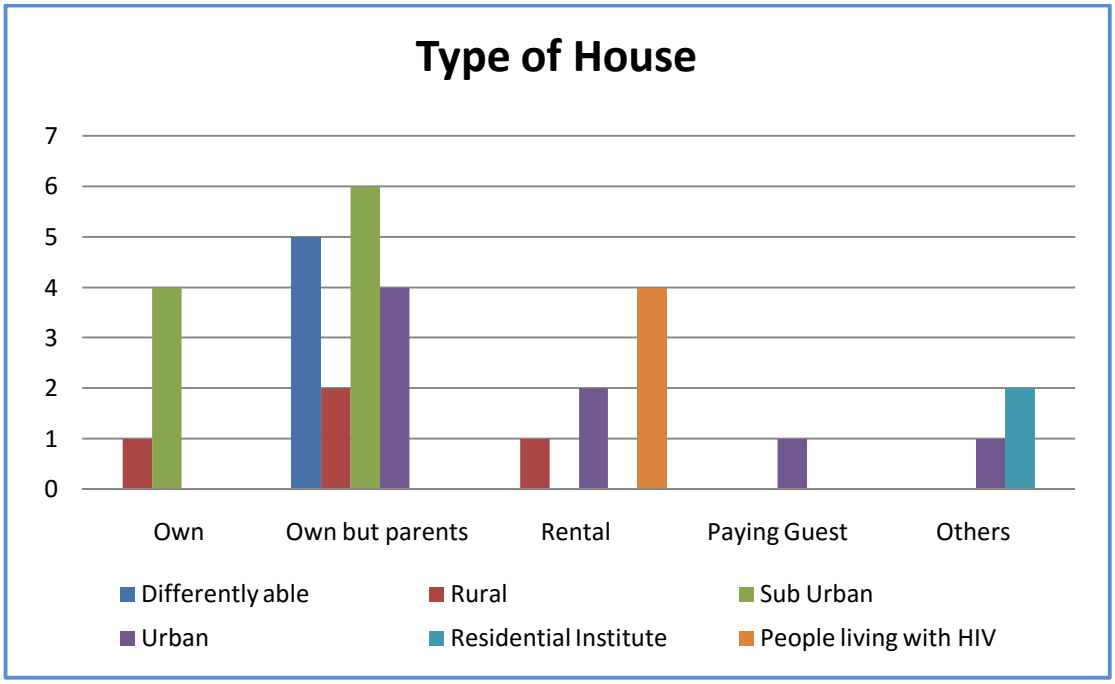
**A)** Standard of Living
**B)** Foundation of Well being
**C)** Health and Wellness
**D)** Environmental Quality
**E)** Opportunities
**F)** Overall Experience

## A. Standard of Living

Standard of living is a component of Quality of life in which four sub components were covered to understand the standard of living of respondents.

- **Type of House**

Following graph is about types of house of respondent from various background. These are the different type of houses in which respondets are currently staying.




**Graph 4.3.2 : Type of House**

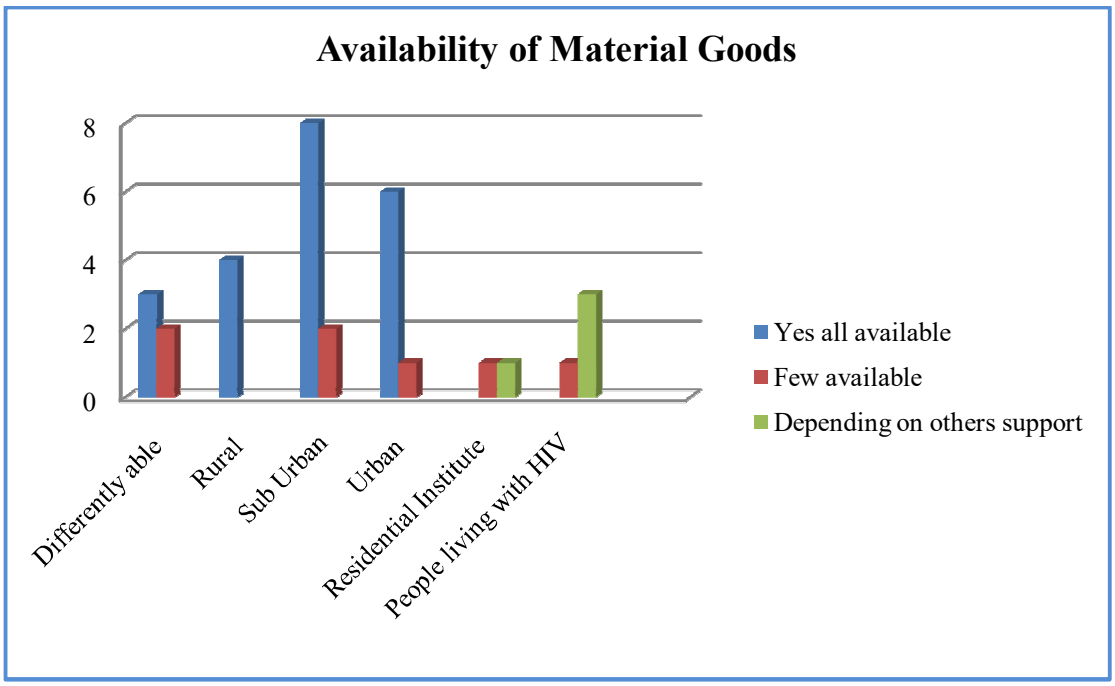
Above graph shows context wise types of residence. Respondents from rural and suburban had own house. Respondents from differently able (Divyangen), rural, suburban and urban groups were staying with their parents which had their ownership. Rural, urban, respondents from residential institute and living with HIV were staying in institute, Respondents who were staying as paying guest or with relatives/with support of friends were from urban context.

The majority of respondents from all categories were staying with their parents in their own house. Respondents with low income and no support were staying in rental house like people living with HIV and respondents of residential institute. Only those had sound economic condition and basically male respondents had their own house.

It can be concluded that type of residence of divorcee is depend upon income, support from family members and gender.

- **Availability of Material Goods**

The present graph is about the availability of material goods to fulfil the needs of respondents and their children.




**Graph 4.3.3 : Availability of Material G**

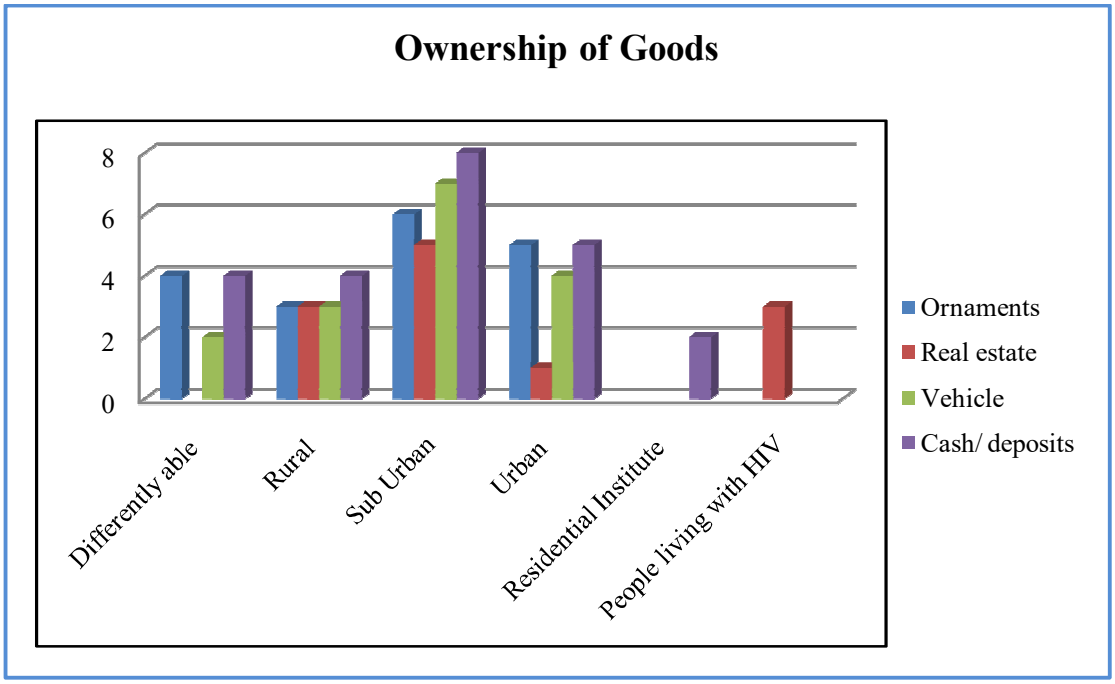
Present graph shows that maximum differently able individuals (*Divyanjan*) had all material goods and some of them state that they had few material good. Respondents from rural background had all material goods. Maximum respondents from suburban and urban context had all material goods and some of them had few material goods. Respondents from residential institute one had few material goods and another revealed that availability depends upon the support provided by others. Respondents living with HIV/AIDS state that they depend on support provided by other while some of them said they had few material goods.

Respondents belonging from sub urban, urban, rural area and few differently able had all material goods, however people living with HIV/AIDS were dependent on others for such material goods.

It is concluded that the availability of material goods depend upon the income and family support.

- **Ownership of Goods**

This graph represents ownership of goods with respondents from different background. The goods considered are in different forms such as ornaments, real estate, vehicles and cash or bank deposit.




**Graph 4.3.4 : Ownership of Goods**

Present graph describes that differently able (*Divyanjan*) had ownership of good in the form of cash deposit, ornaments and vehicle. Respondents from rural background had ownership of goods in the form of cash deposit, ornaments, vehicle and real estate. Respondents from suburban area had cash deposit, vehicles, ornaments and real estate as ownership of goods. Respondents living in pure urban location had the ownership of goods in cash deposit, vehicles, ornaments and real estate. Respondents from residential institute had cash deposit only and people living with HIV /AIDS had real estate in the form of ownership of goods.

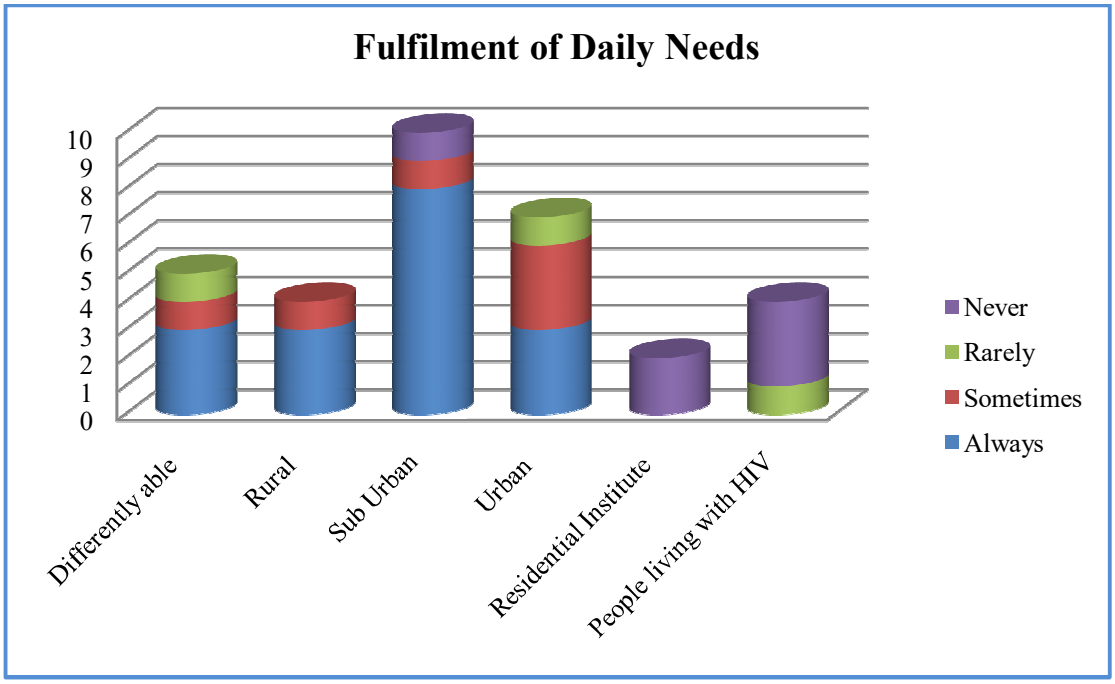
It was found that maximum respondent had some cash or deposit with them and women had their ornaments which they get back in the form of alimony. Respondents from rural area had farms, sub urban and urban respondents had

apartment, people living with HIV /AIDS had common farms at village in the form of real estate. People living with HIV/AIDS and respondents from residential institute had only one goods of ownership.

It is concluded that ownership of goods depend upon socioeconomic background of respondents. Only respondents from suburban, urban and rural location have all kinds of ownership of goods.

- **Fulfilment of Daily Needs :**

The following graph is one of the components of standard of living which shows the frequency of fulfilment of daily needs.




**Graph 4.3.5 : Fulfilment of Daily Needs**

The present graph shows that according to differently able *(Divyanjan)* respondents their daily needs were always fulfilled. Some of them said it was sometime fulfilled and few said that their daily needs were rarely fulfilled. More rural respondents had opinion that their daily needs were always fulfilled and some of them said that sometime needs were fulfilled. More respondents from suburban area revealed that their daily needs were always fulfilled, few of them said sometimes fulfilled and few said never fulfilled. According to many respondents from urban area said that their daily needs were sometime fulfilled and few of them stated that their

needs were fulfilled rarely. Residential respondents state that their daily needs were never fulfilled and people living with HIV/AIDS said that their needs were rarely fulfilled. At the same time, some of them said that their needs were never fulfilled.

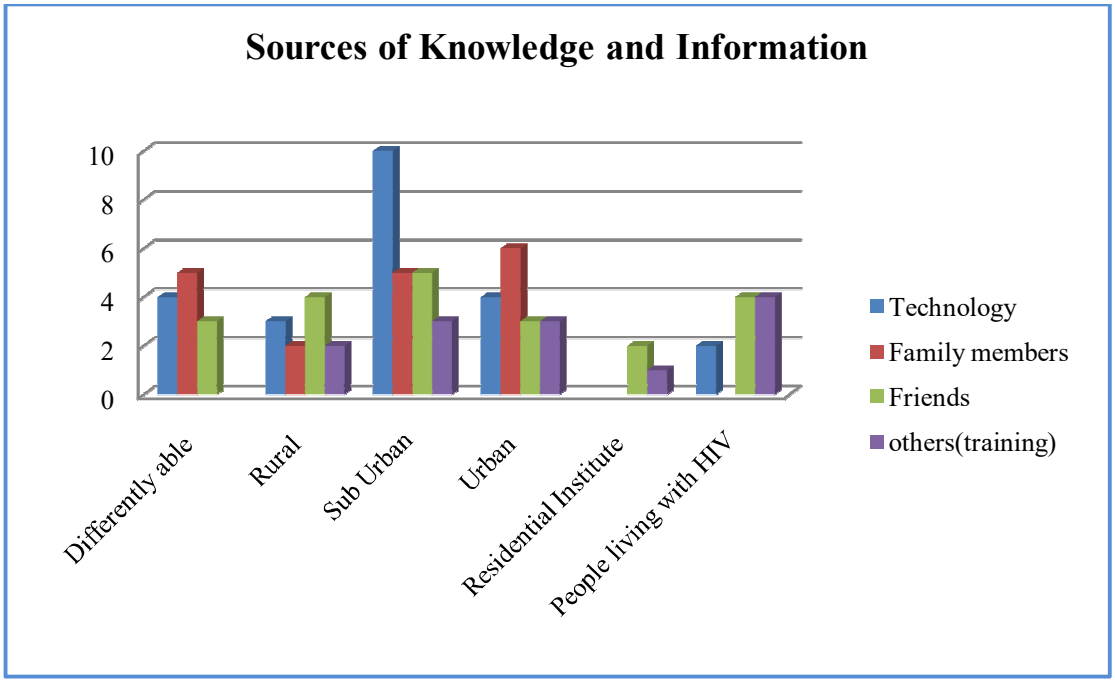
Majority of respondents staying in sub urban area and economically independent with less responsibilities reported that their daily needs were fulfilled. However people with no support and weak economic background are of opinion that fulfilment of their daily needs was difficult.

**The conclusion can be derived that standard of living was mostly dependent on the economic condition of respondents and their family support. Individuals living with HIV/AIDS and respondents from residential institute were more vulnerable in this aspect of quality of life.**

## B. Foundation of Wellbeing

The Foundation of wellbeing was dependent upon the knowledge, information and communication related primary life issues**.** The following graph shows the sources of knowledge and information available to respondents.

- **Sources of Knowledge and Information**




**Graph 4.3.6 : Sources of Knowledge and Information**

Present graph revealed that differently able (*Divyanjan*) had three source of information technology, family and friends. According to rural respondents they had four sources of information i.e technology, family, friends and training. Suburban respondents stated that technology, family, friends and training were the sources of information. Urban respondents had four sources of information i.e. technology, family, friends and training. According to respondents from residential institute, they had only two sources of information, one was friends and other training. People living with HIV/AIDS had three sources of information: technology, friends and training.

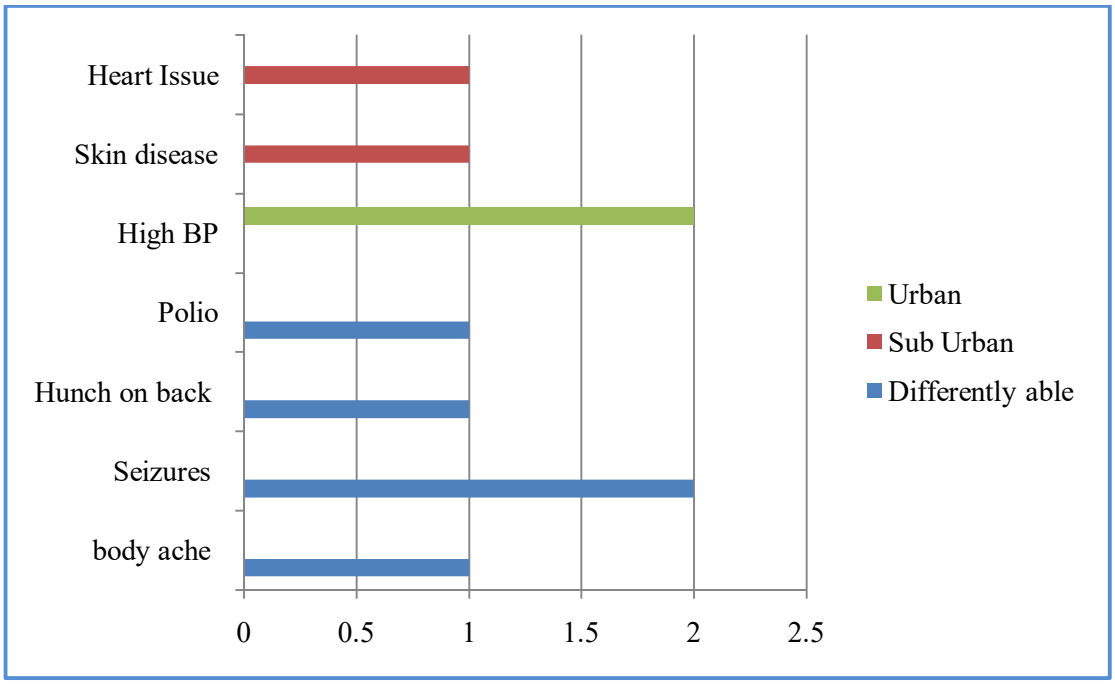
Respondents with different background had varied sources of information. All respondents excluding residential institute were using mobile phone for getting knowledge and information. Friends was the common source for all respondents. Family was mentioned as a dominant source of information by differently able and urban respondents as most of them were dependent on family. Respondents excluding differently able associated with social sector had training as a proper source of knowledge.

**It is concluded that in current technological world all respondents had access to basic information and knowledge. It shows changing functions of family. Now technology is the leading source of knowledge and people who are deprived of family environment have an alternative option to get knowledge.**

## C. Health and Wellness

Health and wellness is the third component of quality of life which describes the status of physical and mental health of respondents. Also it described their wellness. It is highlighted here how health and social relationship was affected as a result of divorce.

- **General Health Issues**



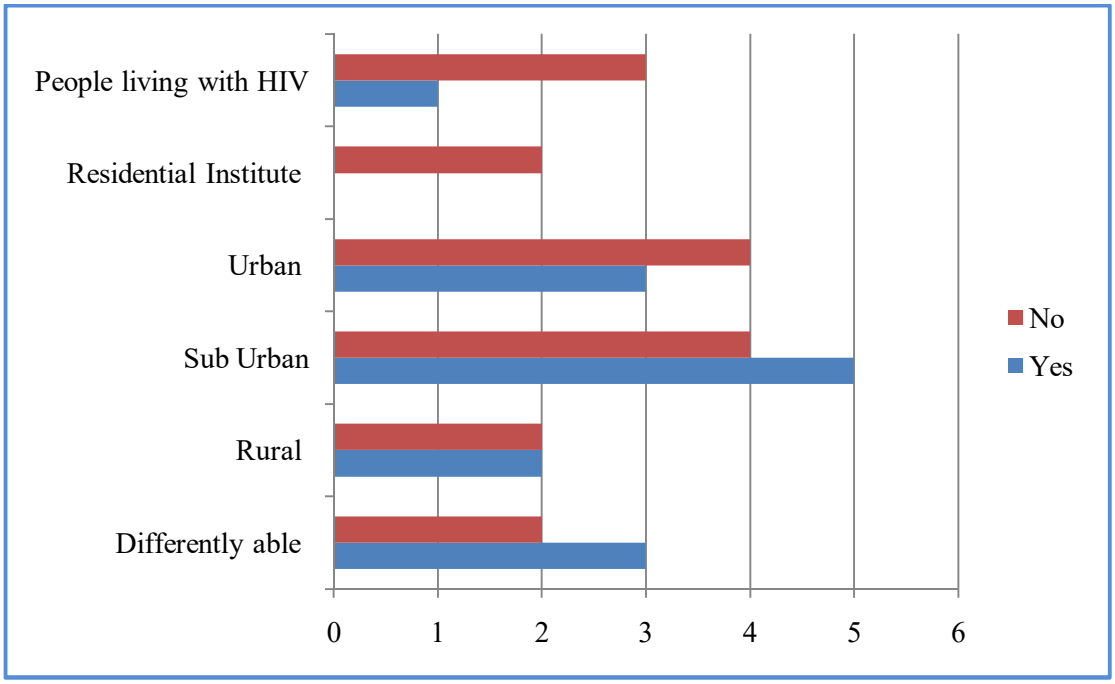

**Graph 4.3.7 : General Health Issues**

The above graph shows general health issues of respondents. Respondents from sub urban area had heart issue and skin problems. Respondent from urban area facing high blood pressure problem and deaf mute respondents had additional health issues like seizures, hunch on back, polio and body ache.

More respondents from differently able group had other health issues compare to other groups.

It conclude that differently able people may had more than one disability.

- **Family & Health Issues Creates Restriction to Participate in Other Activities**

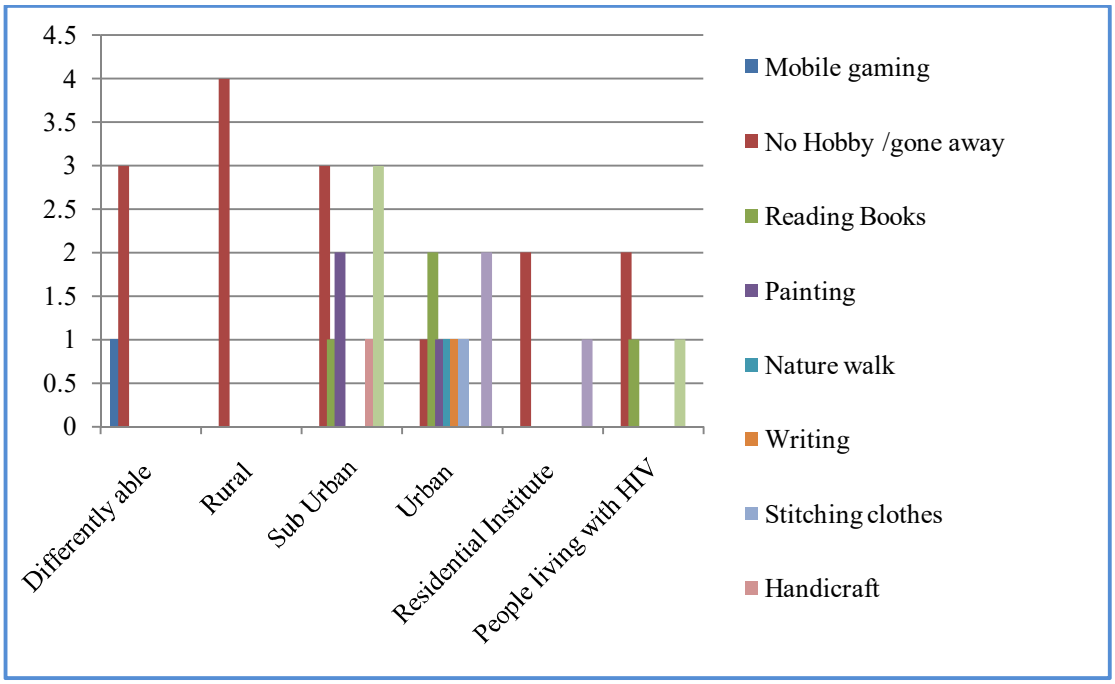



**Graph 4.3.8 : Family & Health Issues Creates Restriction to Participate in Other Activities**

The above graph shows that family and health issues creates restrictions to participate in other activities. More respondents of people living with HIV/ AIDS, residential institute and urban context do not face restrictions. However respondents from suburban group and differently able group share that they had restrictions to participate in other activities. 50% rural respondents face restrictions and 50% do not face restrictions.

It concludes that those mostly had health issues face restrictions to participate in other activities.

- **Hobbies of Respondent**



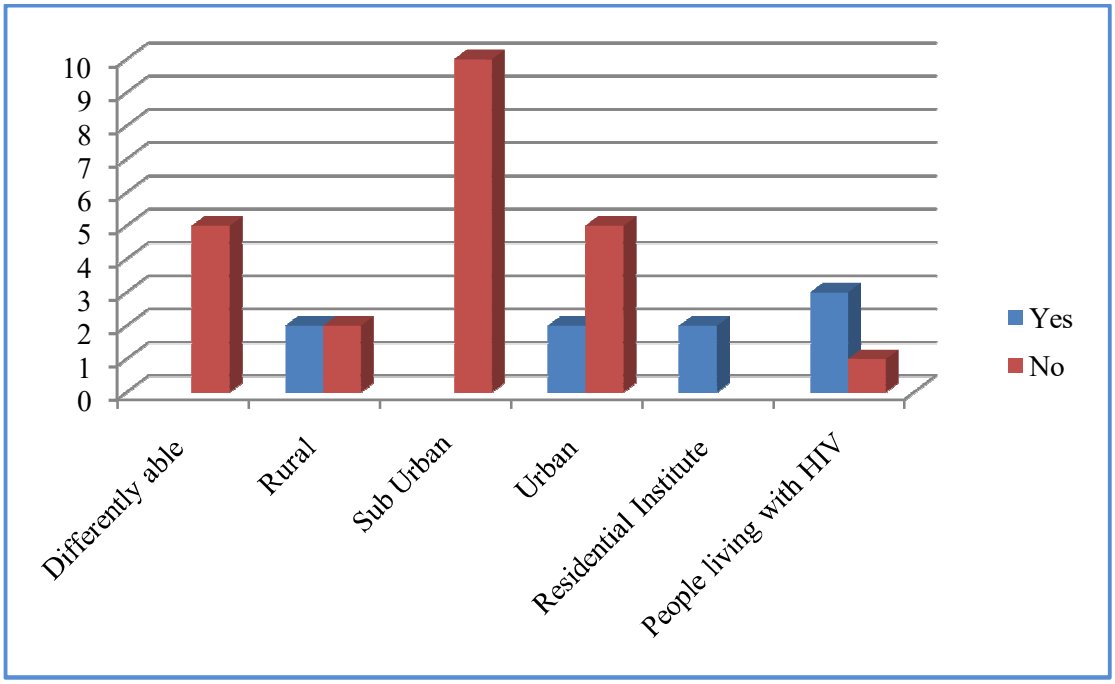

**Graph 4.3.9 : Hobbies of Respondents**

The above graph highlighted the hobbies of respondents and it shows variety of hobbies. Mobile gaming hobby was state by differently able group. No hobby or hobbies gone away due to family responsibilities were shared by respondents from all group. Respondent from urban area and people living with HIV/AIDS shared that they had hobby of reading books. Painting is hobby shared by respondents from suburban and urban area. Nature walk, writing and stitching clothes hobby was also shared from urban area. Handicraft hobby was shared by respondents suburban area. Trekking hobby shared by respondents from suburban and people living with HIV /AIDS. Listening music / flute /plays guitar hobbies were shared by respondents from urban and residential institute.

Majority respondents do not have hobbies or gone away while shouldering family responsibilities.

It conclude that those who had hobbies, it was easy for them to cope situations.

- **Information about Membership or association of Respondents with Social Organisations**

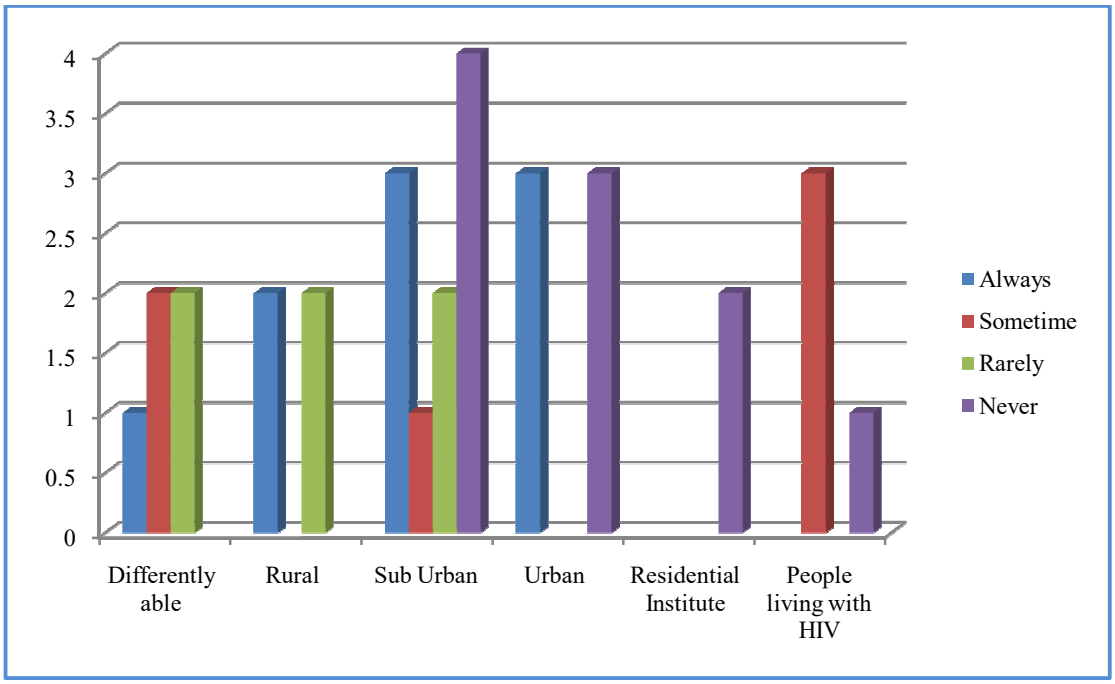



**Graph 4.3.10 : Information about Membership or association of Respondents with Social Organisations**

The above graph revealed that respondents from differently able and sub urban area do not have membership or association with any social organisation. People living with HIV AIDS and residential institute had already associated with social organisation, and work with them. Few respondents from rural and urban area intentionally connected with such orgnisation.

It concludes that many respondents not aware however like to connect with such organisations to release their stress and tensions.

- **Information about Frequency of Meeting with Their Relatives**

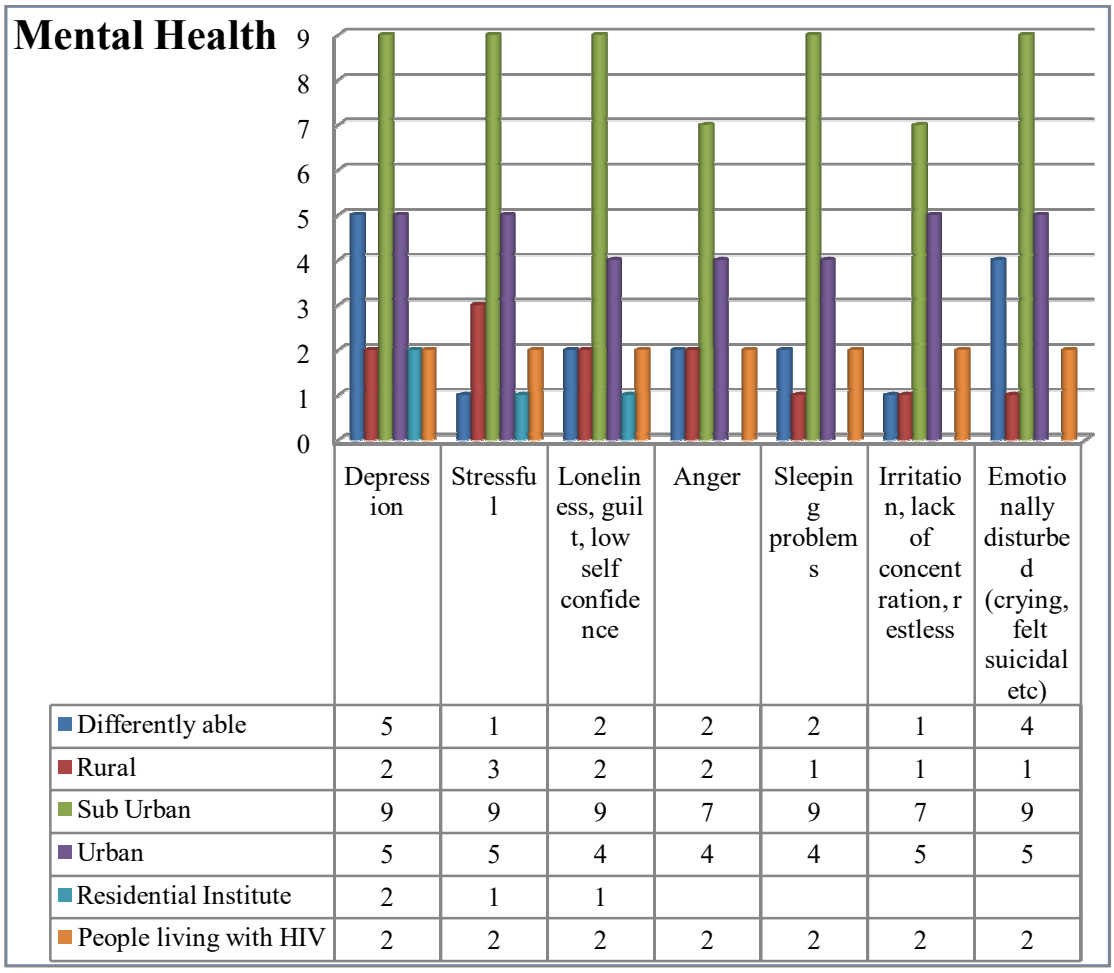



**Graph 4.3.11 : Information about Frequency of Meeting with Their Relatives**

The above graph highlighted that how frequently respondents meet their relatives. Respondents who shared that they always meet their relatives are belonging from differently able, rural, suburban and urban area. Respondents who sometime meet their relatives were belonging from differently able, sub urban and people living with HIV/AIDS. Respondents who rarely meet their relatives belonging from differently able, rural and suburban area. Respondents who never meet their relatives are from suburban, urban, and residential institute.

It conclude that respondents from residential institute never meet as they were deserted. Respondents shared that they only meet those relatives who accepted them. Few of them shared that they have erased relatives from their life.

- **Mental Health**




| | Depression | Stressful | Loneliness, guilt, low self confidence | Anger | Sleeping problems | Irritation, lack of concentration, restless | Emotionally disturbed (crying, felt suicidal etc) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Differently able | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Rural | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sub Urban | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| Urban | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Residential Institute | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| People living with HIV | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

**Graph 4.3.12 : Mental Health**

The above graph shows the mental health condition of respondents after divorce. Multiple feelings and mental health issues were faced by respondents. All the respondents, irrespective of type of background had depression issue, stress and feeling of loneliness, guilt, low self-confidence. Respondents with all the types of background, excluding respondents from residential institute had feeling of anger, sleeping issues, irritation, lack of concentration, restlessness, and were emotionally disturbed (crying, felt suicidal).

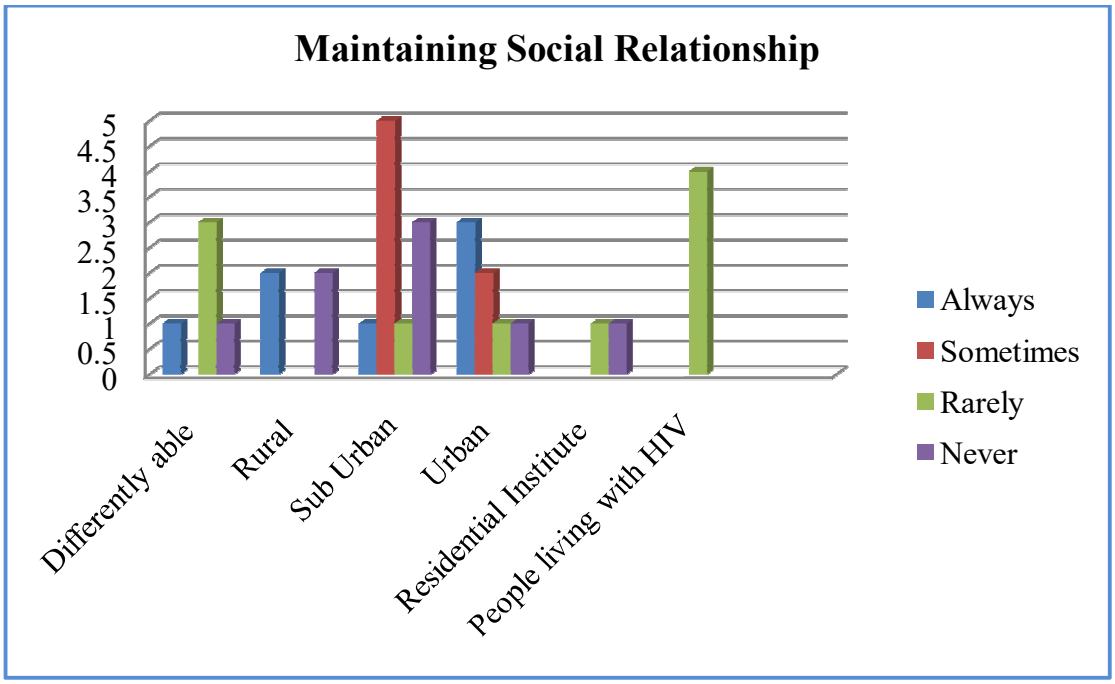
Divorce affects mental health to a great extent. Female divorcee struggled with depression, stress, loneliness, anger, sleeping problems, Irritation lack of concentration, restlessness and were more emotionally disturbed than male divorcee. Coping with this issue was quite difficult for female divorcee. Two of them even did suicide attempt. Female from sub urban area had treatment for their mental health

issues like, counselling, flower remedies etc. One educated female took support of motivational videos.

It can be concluded that there is relationship between gender and mental health. Support and hobbies help to cope with relatively more ease.

- **Maintaining Social Relationship**

The following graph describes context wise situation of divorcee in maintaining social relationship after divorce.




**Graph 4.3.13 : Maintaining Social Relationship**

The graph shows that more differently able respondents were rarely able to maintain relationship. Few of them were never and few of them said that they were always able to maintain social relationship. Half respondents from rural area stated that they were always able to maintain social relationship and half stated that they were never able to maintain social relationship. Maximum respondents from suburban area said that sometimes they were able to maintain the relationship, remaining respondents said never and few said always and rarely maintain the relationship. Majority of respondents from urban area revealed that they were always able to maintain the social relationship, while some had the opinion that sometimes, rarely and never. Half respondents from residential institute had opinion that rarely they

could maintain the social relationships and half said never. People living with HIV revealed that they were rarely able to maintain the social relationship.

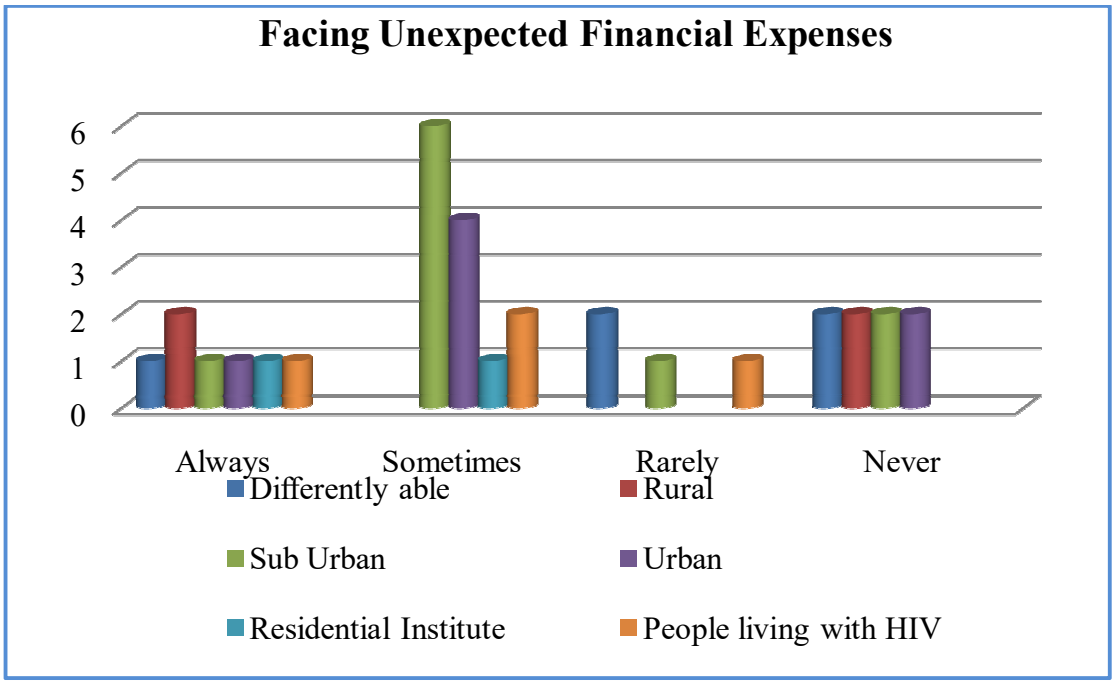
The Stigma is attached with divorcee. Respondents reported that during and after divorce relatives blame them and have negative attitude towards them. Thus, these respondents kept themselves away from all relatives. Maintaining social relationship includes participation in family programs, engagement in creative activities, association with social organisations or groups regular meeting with relatives. Majority of respondents from all groups reported that either they rarely connect socially or never maintain social relations. Very few respondents reported that they regularly or sometimes maintained social relations. Family and cultural background affects it.

**It is concluded that divorce majorly affects mental and physical health especially female divorcee. Hobbies help them to cope with situation. Society blames mostly women for their divorce and exclude from social participation. Discrimination and deprivation is faced by differently able, women from residential institute, people living with HIV/AIDS.**

### D. Environmental Quality

Environmental Quality is one of the components of quality of life in which two sub components are included. All respondents from all groups felt safe at their home environment and even in work environment. Still, they were trying not to disclose their marital status.

- **Facing unexpected Financial Expenses**




**Graph 4.3.14 : Facing unexpected Financial Expenses**

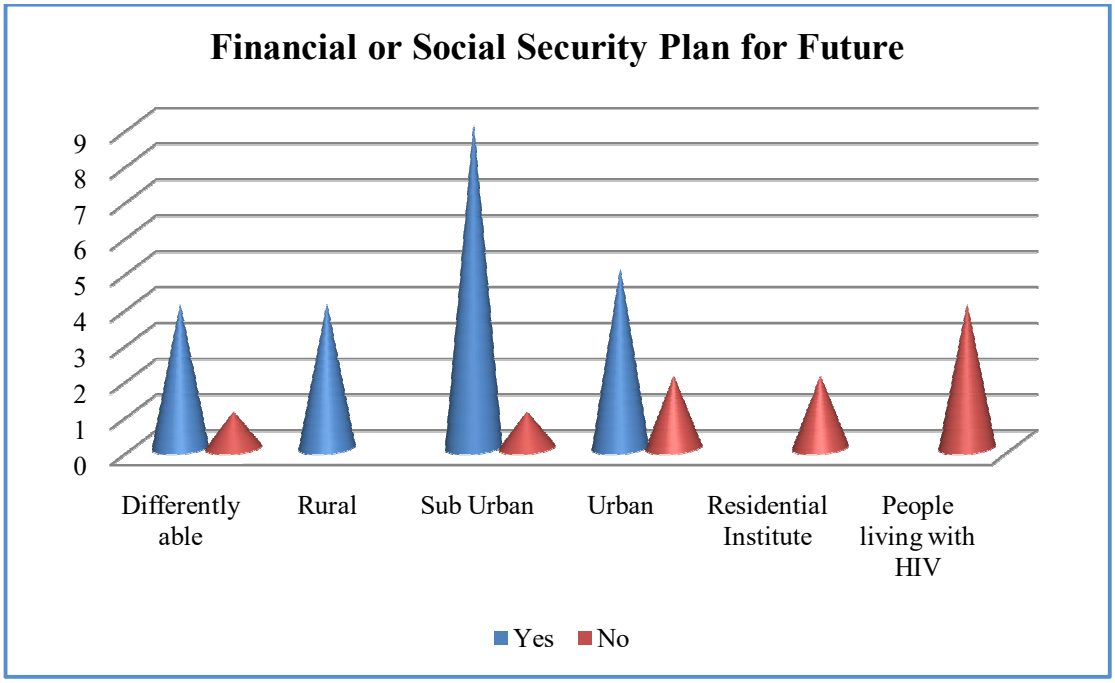
The above graph revealed the situation of respondents facing unexpected financial expenses. Respondents from all backgrounds especially from rural background, always face unexpected financial expenses. Sometimes facing financial crisis speak out by all respondents except *divyajan* and rural residents. Divyanjan and sub urban respondents as well as individuals living with HIV mentioned rare financial crisis. Some *divyajan*, rural, sub urban and urban respondents mentioned that they never face any financial crisis.

Most of the respondents from suburban and urban background faced occasional crisis whereas very few were always facing unexpected financial crisis.

It is concluded that respondent with sound economic condition mostly urban, suburban, differently able (with full family support) and rural background never face economic crisis. However, respondents, mostly female without economic support and with all backgrounds always face financial crisis.

- **Financial or Social Security Plan for Future**

Present graph is the situation or opinion of respondents about their social security plan for future**.**




**Graph 4.3.15 : Financial or Social Security Plan for Future**

The above graph shows that majority of *Divyanjan*, all rural, most of the suburban and urban respondents had social security plan. However people living with HIV/AIDS and from residential institute did not plan for future.

Respondents had social security plan for future in the form of health insurance and opted schemes under Life Insurance.

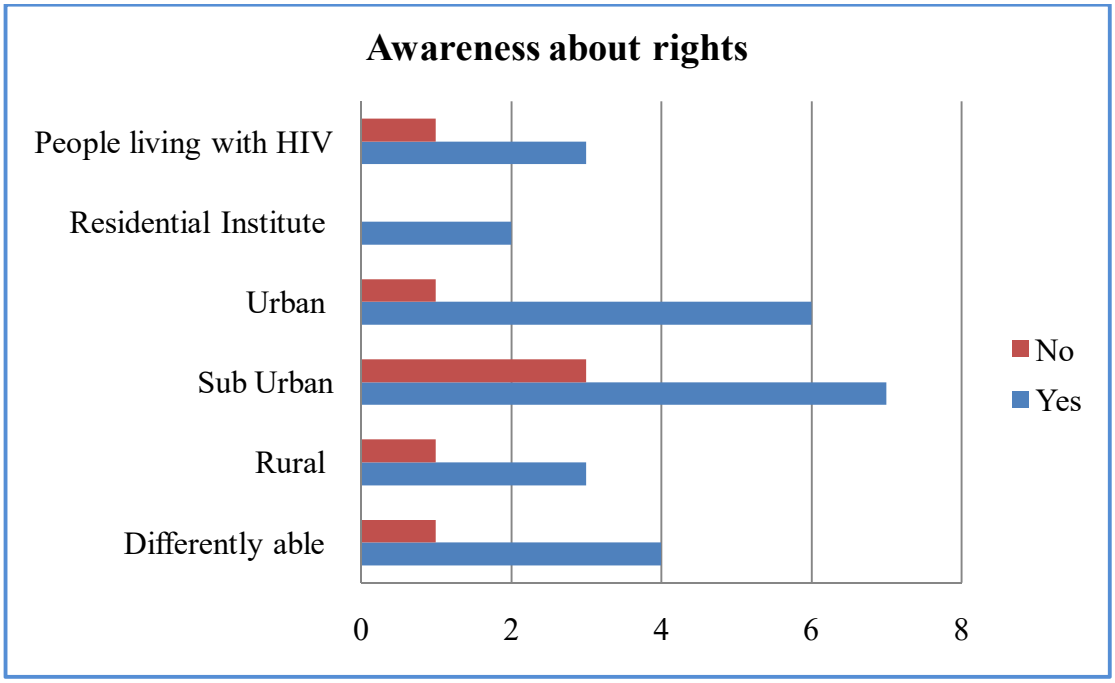
**It is concluded that environmental quality was quite good in the context of safety at home and workplace. In the context of economic and social security it was not good for people living with HIV/AIDS and from residential institute.**

## E. Opportunity

This indicator talks about possibilities and chances for future growth and independency in the life of divorcee. There are three sub components such as awareness about rights, opportunity to take further education and liberty to take decision.

- **Awareness about rights**

The following graph is about the level of awareness among the respondents of their rights.



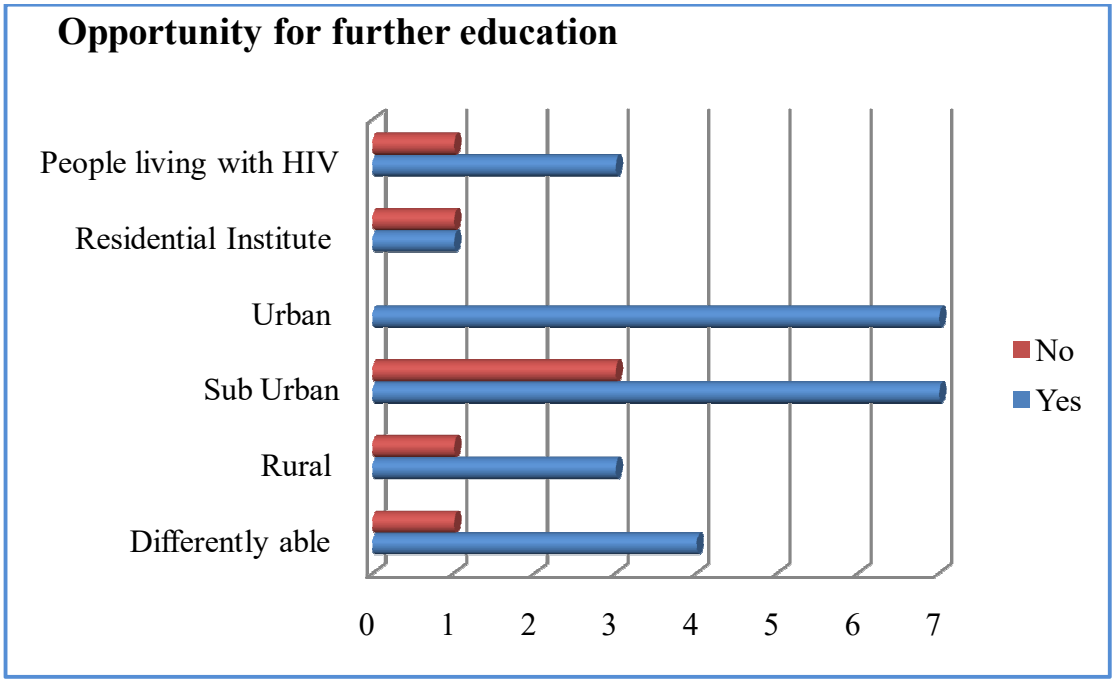

**Graph 4.3.16 : Awareness about rights**

The above graph shows awareness about rights among respondents. Majority of the respondents from *divyanjan,* rural, urban, sub urban, residential institutes and people living with HIV/AIDS were aware about their rights.

It was found that respondents were aware about their rights because the lawyers guide them to fight in the court. There only they learn to use their rights. Sometimes it was also found that under the pressure and fear of getting blamed from other party, women did not use their rights. All of them were aware of limited rights.

- **Opportunity for further education**

Following graph emphasizes the respondents' opinion about available opportunities for advanced education.




**Graph 4.3.17 : Opportunity for further education**

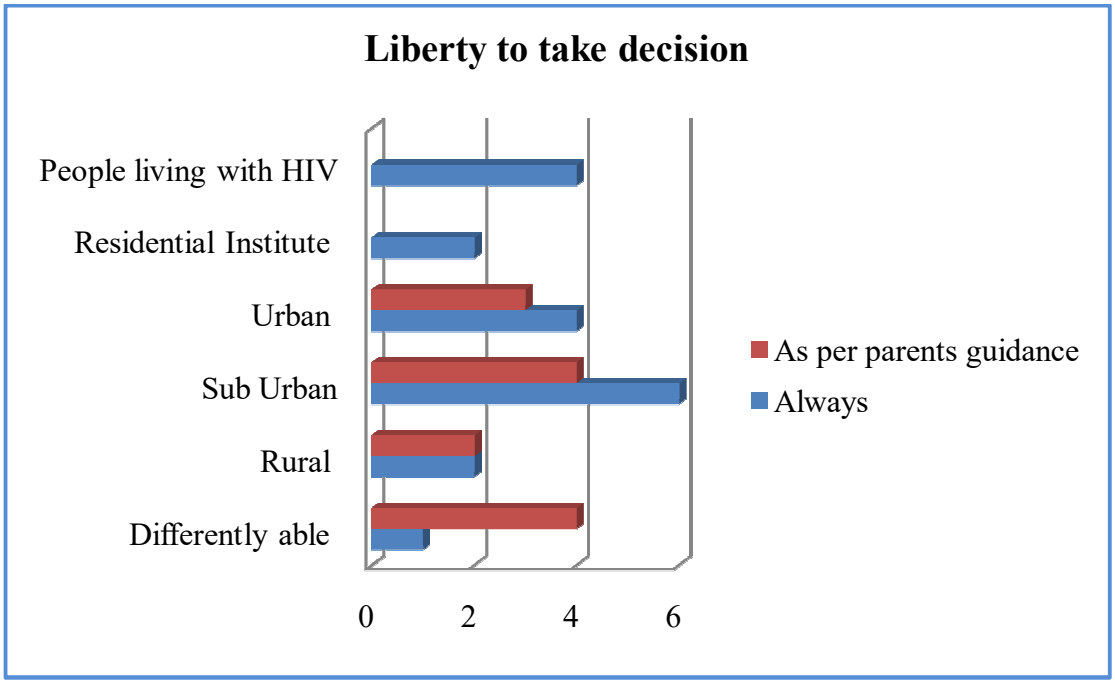
The present graph shows that more respondents from *divyanjan,* rural, sub urban, and people living with HIV/AIDS had opinion that they had opportunity to take further education. One respondent from residential institute stated about available opportunity and one said no opportunity to take further education.

All respondents from urban area were reported that they have opportunity to take advance and professional education. Female respondents with responsibility of children are of the opinion that they should give preference to their children's education first. Respondents living with HIV /AIDS were taking education for better future.

It is concluded that educational opportunity depends upon gender, geographical background and nature of responsibility currently they have.

- **Liberty to take decision**

Following graph shows the respondent's liberty to take decision.




**Graph 4.3.18 : Liberty to take decision**

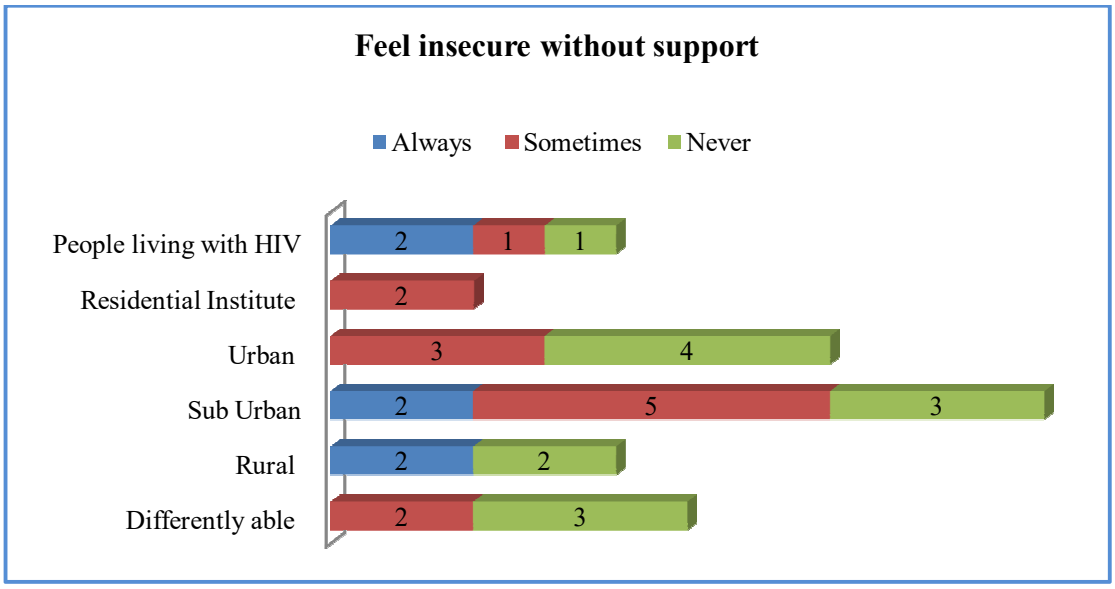
Majority of *divyanjan* respondents do not have liberty to take decision. They were taking decision as per parents' guidance. Half of rural respondents said that they always had liberty to take decision and half said they were taking decision as per parents' guidance. Most of the respondents from suburban and urban background always had liberty to take decision. All respondents living with HIV/AIDS and from residential institute had liberty to take own decisions.

**It is concluded that all respondents had opportunity for their further development. Though they were educated, they were not aware of rights, decision of using rights was guided by lawyer and decision of personal life was guided by parents.**

## F. Overall Experience

Over all experience of respondents in post life was explored through following graphs.

- **Feel insecure without support**



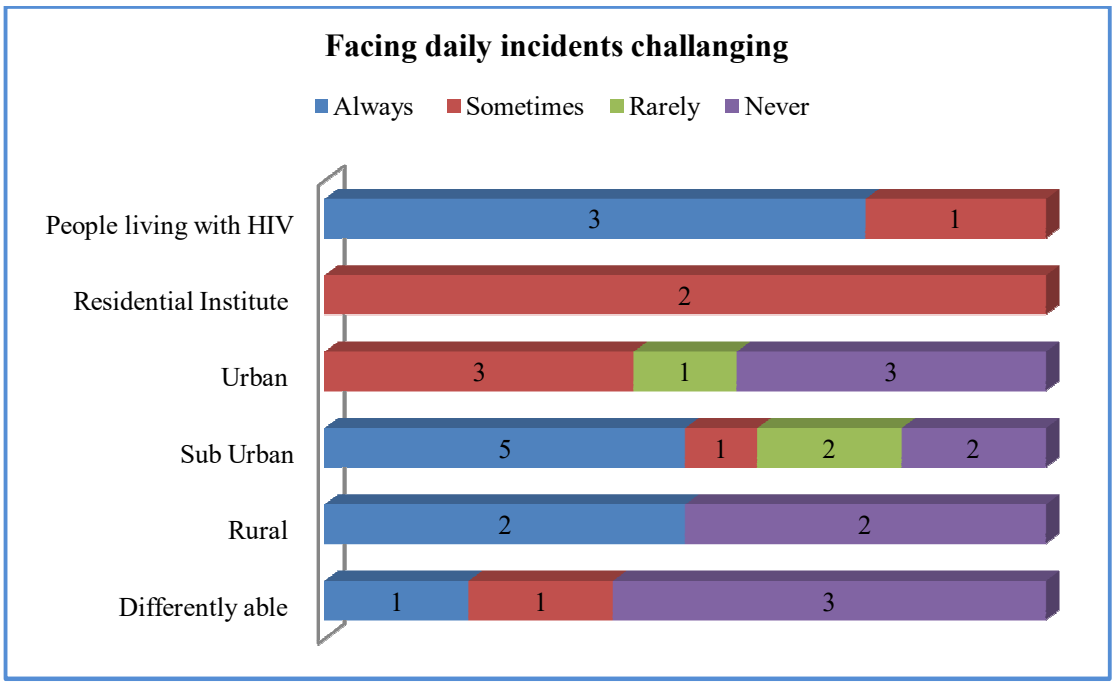

**Graph 4.3.19 : Feel insecure without support**

The above graph highlights frequency of feelings of insecurity without support among respondents. Many *divyanjan* respondents never felt insecure without support. Half rural respondents always feel insecure without support and half never feel insecure. Many respondents from suburban areas sometimes feel insecure. Most of the respondents from urban area never feel insecure. All respondents from residential institute sometimes feel insecure without support. Most of the respondents from the group of people living with HIV/AIDS always feel insecure without support.

It is concluded that majority female respondents feel insecure without support. Feeling insecure depends upon financial security.

- **Facing daily incidents challenging**

Following graph shows the respondents' opinion about facing daily incidents are challenging.




**Graph 4.3.20 : Facing daily incidents challenging**

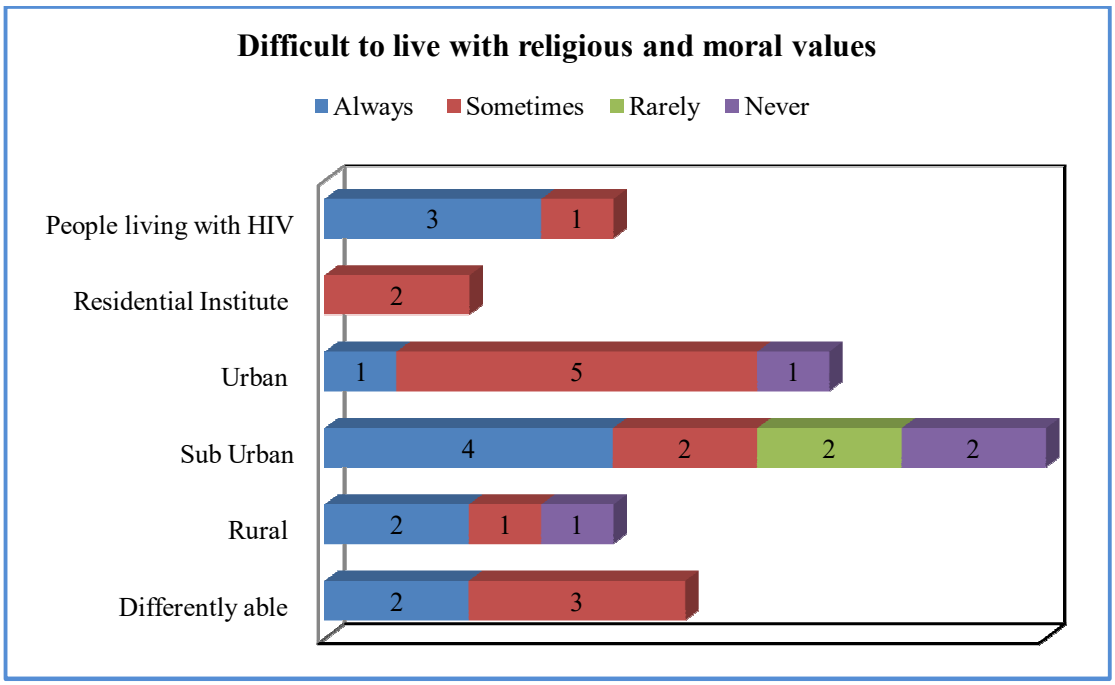
The present graph reveals that many respondents from *divyanjan* group never found daily incidents challenging. Half of rural respondents always felt that daily incidents were challenging and half never found daily incidents challenging. More respondents and urban sometimes facing daily incidents challenging. More respondents from people living with HIV/AIDS always found daily incidents challenging.

Respondents from residential institute had protection from institute .

It can be concluded that those who are without support found daily incidents challenging.

- **Difficult to live with religious and moral values**

Following graph describes the opinion of respondents about living with religious values and moral values.




**Graph 4.3.21 : Difficult to live with religious and moral values**

The above graph describes that many respondents from *Divyanjan* ,urban and residential institute group sometimes feel difficult to live with religious and moral values. Most of the rural, suburban and people living with HIV respondents always found it difficult to live with religious and moral values.

**It is concluded that respondent with no family support at all feel insecure and daily incidents are challenging for them. It was difficult to live with religious and moral values for respondents living with HIV/AIDS, differently able, residential institute due to discrimination on multiple levels.**

**Section - 4**

## 4.4 Analysis of Children's Divorce Adjustment Inventory

The CDAI measures the respondents' feelings, thoughts, and behaviour related to the divorce. The total set of 25, 5-point Likert scale responses constituted the CDAI score. Respondents chose a number ranging from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) representing their agreement with each item (Saylor, 1994). Eight of the 25 items required reverse scoring. Possible scores ranged from 25 to 125. For this test, high score indicated positive divorce adjustment, while low score indicated negative adjustment. For the study, the researcher modified the wording of CDAI items to

reflect past divorce experiences. For example, the item "I wish I were able to spend more time with my father," was changed to "After the divorce, I wished I was able to spend more time with my father." Wording alterations did not displace the intention of the item but merely adjusted the CDAI's temporal relativity. Scoring methods remained the same for the adapted form of the CDAI(Sanchez E.2002)

**Table 4.4.1**

**Total Score of Children**

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | 50 to 75 | 5 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| | 76 to 95 | 10 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 75.0 |
| | 96 to 123 | 5 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 20 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Above table shows 5(25 percent) respondents had score in the range of 50 to 75 and 96 to 123. 10(50 percent) respondents had score in the range of 76 to 95.

Children with high score means positive adjustment and low score show negative adjustment were same number. Children with medium adjustment score were more.

**Table 4.4.2**

**Sex * Total score Cross tabulation**

| | | Total score | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 50 to 75 | 76 to 95 | 96 to 123 | |
| sex | Male | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| | Female | 4 | 4 | 5 | 13 |
| Total | | 5 | 10 | 5 | 20 |

$\chi$ = 5.93, df= 2, p= 0.05

The above table is cross tabulated with biological sex and divorce adjustment score. A large number of male children shows medium adjustment score and high number of female children shows high adjustment score.

It shows significant relationship between sex and divorce adjustment. It can be concluded that adjustment after divorce was depend sex of child.

**Table 4.4.3**

**Age * Total score Cross tabulation**

| | | Total score | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 50 to 75 | 76 to 95 | 96 to 123 | |
| Age | 3-6 yrs | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| | 7-14 yrs | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| | 15-22 yrs | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Total | | 5 | 10 | 5 | 20 |

The above table is cross tabulated with adjustment score and age of the child. A high number of children in the age group of 3 to 6 yrs have 76 to 95 score which is medium adjustment level. Higher number of children in the age group of 7 to 14 years show medium adjustment level. Children in the age group of 15 to 22 years show high score means positive adjustment. It can be concluded that divorce affects the children in the age group of 7-14 yrs more as it is more sensitive age group. Children below 14 years show low score. It means post-divorce adjustment was quite difficult for them.

### 4.4.1 Quality of Life of Children after Divorce :

Family has strong influence of cultural norms, patriarchy, geographical location, social status, normality and it affects exclusion of children in getting their rights. However, in relation to conflict theory children were being caught in the middle of the situation. Power structure was always found in the family and everybody was insecure in their own roles and trying to dominate spouse. The children suffer a lot in the context of physical, mental health, identity issues, trust

building, etc. Basically support system of divorcee women was weak, stigma is attached to this issue, thus it was found that all these children were staying with their mother only or maternal family support was availed as per the need. They and their mother were excluded from participating in family and cultural programs.

Pre marriage education, training related to coping in post-divorce life and support group is necessary for intervention.

**Section – 5**

## 4.5 Quality of Life of Family Members

Interview guide **was** prepared to meet the need of triangulation of the case study. Information collected from supporters with whom the respondents were staying or associated:-such as parents (mother /father ), friends, sister, founder of residential institute etc. The collective analysis was as follows .

- **Opinion about divorce: (Two opinions): Parents expressed their opinion about divorce . Some of them (especially who's daughter is divorcee )were happy with divorce and some of them (especially who's son is divorcee) were not happy with divorce.**

  If physical health is going to deteriorate due to marriage then divorce is the answer for the problem. If one had to forget about self respect feeling worthless and spouse was committing adultery then what's the harm in taking divorce? One has the right to be happy. If there is deception in marriage and no happiness at all then divorce is needed. If in marriage the partners are unable to adjust with each other, it is better to live separately and lead happy life. However, one should not ignore one's own responsibilities. If spouse is not able to understand the partner, if there is violence then why should one stay together under the same roof. When situation is out of control then divorce is necessary. Instead of spending life with an addict and violent person it's better to take divorce.

  Nobody should undergo such kind of process. Couple should solve the problems together and control their anger, increase endurance. It is not the need of society. In rural area dowry is important. Divorce is still not accepted

in rural area;-people are not able to understand each other. Family gets disturbed due to divorce. It is stigma for family. It means complete absence of understanding about each other. It is the problem created by elders in family.

- **Opinion about divorcee couple:**

  Parent have given their opinion about their son & daughter in law and about their daughter &son in law.

- **About son/daughter in law:**

  It is their own decision and one needs to respect the same. It was felt that this was forced marriage. Daughter in law kept her husband away from her. There was deception. Daughter in law spent maximum time at her maternal home. Basically, deaf-mute individuals are very aggressive. They are not able to hear as a result they are always suspicious about others. My son was aggressive but daughter in law did not was not respond to his communication.

- **About daughter/son in law :**

  If people are not comfortable with each other then they search their own way of happiness. Son in law was very aggressive and was not able to understand, there was deception. He was very manipulative and violent with my daughter, she suffered a lot. Though the groom was related to us we were not getting proper information from proper source. Son in law doesn't have his own opinion, not able to take stand for his own wife, he was totally under the pressure of his mother. He was unable to take proper decision, perform proper role. He was not mature enough and wasn't settled and was irresponsible. He had psychological problem. Daughter has taken good decision.

- **Causes of divorce in your family: Parents shared following causes which are responsible to push them to take divorce.**
  - ❖ Maternal interference from daughter in law and pamper of daughter. over possessiveness of mother towards son.
  - ❖ **Lack of communication**, disrespecting, misunderstanding about each other, taken for granted.

- ❖ Extra marital affairs and **deception**.
- ❖ Different life style and thinking, different opinion about commitment of relationship.
- ❖ Dowry, differently able children, status is important. Addiction, not taking responsibility.
- ❖ Violence from husband and problem from in laws **specifically mother in law. Violence** to daughter and grandson and me too.

- **Changes in behaviour of children in family after divorce: Parents describes the changes they found in their grandchildren due to divorce.**

  Children are emotionally disturbed but sometimes are more mature than their biological age. Parents prepared them mentally. Our grandson was not emotionally attached with his father. Daughter was not at all happy with her mother, she wanted to spend more time with father. Children were very small when they separated, thus did not have much involvement with father & their family. Sometimes children are asking questions about who is their father. Both girls are differently able so are unable to express about it. To make them normal lot of efforts have been done. Grandson felt very lonely and emotional, he was always comparing other family with his family. He had fear of father so remained quiet. He was emotionally disturbed so help of counsellor was taken.

- **The efforts taken by parents to resolve the conflict among couple:**

  Parents tried to communicate, counsel and explained future consequences with daughters and couple. They also used mediator to resolve marital issues. Lot of efforts have been taken to resolve but mother in law was very rigid, she didn't want daughter in law in their house. One party trying to explain but the other party were aggressive and violent. Efforts were taken to reconcile to avoid divorce it but other party was not ready to adjust. Some parents are still taking lot of efforts for grandson because he wants his mother back, but she didn't understand. Lot of discussion to make them understand. Some parents

tried to communicate to clear misunderstandings but in vain. But now we don't want to do anything because its question of my daughter's safety. Stake holder from residential institute shared that before finalization of marriage, parents were doubtful of incidents earlier happened in the family so suggested inmate not to marry with that person, however unable to stop her to marry.

- **Support provided by parents to their son / daughter:**

Parents have accepted decision and will support wherever necessary. Parents are ready to provide unconditional support and help her to participate in every activity. Some parents were struggling to get custody of granddaughter. If get this custody, they are ready to support for her education ,care and extra curricula activities. Some of them provided complete support in taking care of her daughters and encourage her to start NGO. Parents are providing support for child rearing and education of children. Few parents have sound economic condition so they are ready to provide support totally. Few are thinking about remarriage of son or daughter. Parents expressed that they will support by giving property to their daughter. Few stated that they will help the daughter to take more education and make herself reliant.

- **Suggestions for next generation about their married life :**

Family members or parents of divorcee have offered some suggestions to young generation to prevent the divorce. They should accept the partner as he or she is, understand limitations, forgive the person. There is no need to predict anything about future, take life as it comes. Honesty is very important for long term relationship. Young generation should give importance to relationship to maintain it and also self-esteem of each other. If partner is abusing, then come out of it and live happy and peaceful life. Parents think that men are not serious about marriage. They are expecting a lot from wife but they themselves are not prepared. They are supposed to train themselves for marriage. They should behave in good manner with each other. There are always differences in opinion, perceptions. One should accept and forgive each other for mistakes they make. It was suggested that young generation

should be capable and independent to solve their own problems without help of their parents. Youngsters should be empowered to shoulder marital life responsibility, should have their own opinion. Proper information about other party is very necessary while taking final decision of marriage. Education and economic independency is necessary for daughter before marriage. Couple has to understand each other and their emotions. They should at least shoulder the responsibilities of children. There should be love between husband and wife. Addiction may lead to destructions of family. Parents should try to understand young generation and their world. We have to follow the preaching of our *sant* :-give respect to each other never hurt anybody.

**Section - 6**

## 4.6 Opinion of Counsellors and Lawyers

Opinion of experts is important to support and validate data collected from respondents. Opinion of three counsellors from Pune family court and three lawyers working in rural and urban area dealing such cases were taken by using interview guide. All of them had professional practice and work experience for more than five years. Thus counsellors, advocates highlighted this issue though their professional point of view.

During discussion some cases, surveys, experiences, book references were shared to give more clarity about context wise differentiation.

- **Counsellors :**

  All counsellors in family court were professional social workers and were dealing with average 10 cases of family disputes daily. Thus they discussed assorted dimensions of family. They had emphatically highlighted on importance of maintaining relationship in married life. According to them, need of professional help is becoming essential due to increasing rate of divorce.

  Many times, clients were not aware about legislation and legal procedure so creating awareness is important.

Counsellors talked about various causes of divorce like patriarchy, economic independency of women, excessive use of social media, extra marital affairs, live in relationship, addiction, violence, parental influence and extreme involvement, no commitment towards marriage and relationship, issues related to sexuality, effect of IT work life and culture on family. Counsellor also shared that causes are different according to culture, geographical location, socioeconomic background etc.

Counsellors expressed the vulnerability and victimization of children of divorced couple. Divorce has social, psychological and educational impact on the children. Hence responsible and careful parenting is necessary.

During discussion more focus was on the importance of family relationship, companionship, impact of social media on family and attitude towards relationship of an individual. Counsellor accentuates the facts that commitment, humanity in marital relationship is decreasing day by day. They have drawn attention to complexity in relationship, triviality of marital discard in some cases, discrimination, lack of openness and acceptance in relationship leads to divorce.

However positive initiatives taken by the counsellors such as Association of Marriage Counsellor of Family Court, Maharashtra State has started to publish '*Pratibimb'* journal in 1995 and every year it is published in Annual Coordination Meeting of Marriage Counsellors. Every year the journal is based some conceptual framework or theme .The articles published, moreover, reflect the major concerns and issues related to marriage institution. The meaning of '*Pratibimb*' is the reflection of marriage partner in each other, mutual understanding between husband and wife. All the experts and experienced stakeholders of Family Court contribute regularly in *Pratibimb* to make it more qualitative. Counsellors initiated project like 'Swaymsiddha' for rehabilitation of women after divorce, who are from economically weaker section to make them self-reliant. Regular pre-marital workshops and stress management workshop are conducted. Children's Day, Women's Day, are also celebrated regularly in family court .

- **Lawyers:**

  Two lawyers out of three were females, working in Pune city and one male working in rural Pune. According to them, couple having ego problems is condescending in nature. Some use their children as a weapon, making children resent their mother or father. In a case due to this kind of treatment a daughter is not ready to go with father. Children are becoming lire and diplomatic. Children want both parents. Deaf-mute couple is fighting a lot. Lawyer from rural area highlighted that couple should meet each other and must understand each other before marriage. Love and bonding is important in marriage. Pre marital education is important.

  Now more preference is given to materialistic aspects. Women are educated thus if not they do not feel comfortable with spouse, immediately take decision of separation. Many things are consciously hidden by partner. People in family are using advance technology but the thought process has not changed. incidences of disruption due to excessive use of mobile are increasing day-by-day. Also we have to emphasize challenges faced by them during judicial proceedings, for example how couples are struggling and fighting for the custody of child in the court, which shows how family system is collapsing. Importance of child witness room and measures to sustain family system, need of right based approach are highlighted through various International Conventions.

  Lawyers have drawn attention to use of legal provisions to get the proper rights to individual, effect of modern lifestyle on family, digital evidences, etc .There was complexity in court process hence '*Janadalat*' was initiated which is a simple process for those who are not able to pay court fees but still need speedy justice in marital issues.

## 4.7 Summary of Chapter :

The fourth chapter is data analysis and interpretation chapter. In this chapter data was analysed in different forms and divided into six sections. The researcher collected data from respondents with different socio cultural background. Thus these respondents divided into six context to explore the similarities and differentiation.

The first section of data analysis was narration of cases. All 32 cases narrated in detail and explained by using family genogram followed by interpretation of researcher. Then second section was contest wise analysis. Researcher presented this analysis in the form of network by using atlas ti software to explain the socioeconomic background and causes of divorce according their type of marriage. Next section of analysis was cross case analysis. This analysis was presented in the form of excel graph. These graphs explained the quality of life of respondents. The chapter continued with analysis of situation of children, followed by quality of life of family members and their opinion about divorce. The last section of analysis was opinion of lawyers and counsellors who have handled their cases.

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# CHAPTER - V
# FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

**Introduction :**

*Present chapter reveals all findings of study. These findings are based on the objectives of the study and analysis done in the fourth chapter. The research was qualitative in nature with diverse group of people. Thus, the first section of findings emphasis similarities and differences found among the group of respondents. The second section discusses socio, emotional and cultural factors influencing decision of divorce. The third part describes humanity values, commitment towards marriage swayed by individualism and materialism. The fourth part highlights the impact of divorce on quality of life of divorcee on the basis of indicators of quality of life. The fifth section addresses coping issues of children and other family members after divorce in the family and the sixth part underlines opinion of counsellor and lawyers. The chapter highlights and concludes with suggestions and proposed social work intervention.*

## 5.1. Similarities and Differences among the divorcees from diverse socio-economic background:

### A) Age at the time marriage:

Considering the legal age of marriage, few (2 out of 32 cases) had marriage an underage marriage, all other cases were legally valid. The age range at the time of divorce was for men it is 26 to 38 and for women it is 22 to 43 years.

Previous studies focused on age is crucial factor in marriage. It has legal importance(Rathi Pooja 2017) revealed that 54 percent women had under age marriage from Muslim community. Another study by Gabriel Jelestin, S,2000; Aneesh Thadathil & Sujata Sriram,2019, highlighted the age range at the time of divorce is 21 years to 40 years, (for men 31 years to 40 years for women 21 years to 30 years). The difference is because of husband is elder than wife. Majority of the divorce cases in male was seen after 35 years, however, in female majority of the divorce cases were seen before 35 years (Pinto Vincent., & D'Mello, Laveena ,2018)

Hema highlighted ,"I was 17 year old at the time of marriage, first year graduate student. I was black belt karate champion. The in- laws agreed initially to support me to take further education but didn't keep their word afterwards. Me and my sister were married at the same time. The in-laws demanded Rs.1 lakh, furniture and 100 grams of gold in dowry but my father opposed dowry and marriage took place without dowry. Both the families had political background."

**B) Marriage within the Caste or Community:**

Study conducted by Yuanting Zang, Jennifer Van Hook, 2009 revealed that compare to endogamous marriages interracial marriages are less stable. Despite small increases since the 1980s, 12 only about 6% of marriages between 2001 and 2005 were inter-caste and only 2% crossed the barriers of religion (Megan Nicole Reed, 2022)

In present research work it was found that same community and caste were favored while fixing up the marriage. In few (2 out of 32) cases inter caste marriage was opted for.

**Savita expressed her views on....** *"I was in love during college days and then had inter caste marriage without permission of both parents but after some days I realized educational disparity, psychological issues and overall incompatibility push me to take divorce....."*

**Medha highlights.....** *"We both were working in same company and fall in love. I have proposed him for marriage. I have taken all the initiative. For three years we were in relationship, but he neither withdrew from relation nor was ready to marry. Then forcefully convinced him to marry. This marriage was not accepted by his family. It was court marriage and nobody attended it from his family....*".

**C) Types of Marriages and Family:**

Few studies stated that, the percentage of divorcees who were coming from nuclear families are high. Vast majority 54% of the present study lived in nuclear families. 44% joint families and the rest 2% were belonging to extended family. Most

of the divorcee's marriages are arranged marriages (Gabriel Jelestin, S,2000;Pinto Vincent & D'Mello, Laveena,2018).

In present research work majority (23 out of 32) marriages were arranged and extended family type was more common in all groups compared to (9 out of 32) love marriage and joint family. It shows that more arrange marriages have impact divorce.

**D) Eligibility Criteria for Marriage:**

While fixing marriages, preference was given to material aspects like education, job (income) & property investments etc. This information provided by concerned parties was also found fake/fabricated in some cases. More importantly, there was little or no consideration what so ever given to the character & value system aspects.

Findings from earlier study suggest that there is a growing evidence of valuing the economic potential, trustworthiness, equal temperament, physical look, and intelligence of the prospective partner among men and women of the present generation. Indians are more traditional oriented gender roles. (Ravi Prakash & Abhishek Singh, 2014;Benjayan K.et.al, 2013).

In present research work especially in 4 cases from urban area, 4 cases from sub urban area, 2 cases from rural area, 1 case of people living with HIV marriage was fixed on the basis of farmland ownership of family, education and income told by other party.

**E) Lack of Detailed Information about Other Party:**

Marriages were fixed in haste, without full information & verification. Early indicators of possible fraud were ignored, even in love marriages. Essentially the suitability of marriage for both parties was ignored and it was forced on one of the partners.

Among the reasons wive's illegal contact, sexual maladjustment and suppressing the truth at the time of marriage were the significant reasons for their divorce (Gabriel Jelestin, S,2000).

Present research supports the previous findings. In all love marriages couples were totally unaware about personality traits of partner, family background particularly in 2 out of 5 cases from Divyangjan group, 2 out of 6 cases from urban area, 5 out of 10 cases from sub urban area, 1out of 2 & 4 cases from residential institute and people living with HIV.

**Radhika's parents talked on this is...** "After few days of marriage it came to Radhika's notice, when she went to her maternal home and decided to consult a doctor, that her husband had a problem with his retina and that his side vision was affected and then realized earlier experiences whenever the couple went out in the evening, the husband's parents would call them repeatedly and ask them to get back home soon.."

**Lina shared her experience...** "Initially, they were told that the groom had completed his education till M.E. and earned Rs. 1,25,000/- monthly. His father was a headmaster in a private school and mother a homemaker. Considering all we found it compatible and the marriage was fixed. But soon I found that my husband was unemployed and was not in service anywhere. He had some addictions and had an extra marital affair."

**Shweta feels...** "The marriage was hurriedly fixed. Husband was in America. When my sister-in-law came to visit India, the in-laws were continuously pestering to get married within 15 days. But I asked for 2 months instead. Within this time span, both of us met each other twice or thrice and it came to her notice that he hardly spoke. I still have thought that few people do not like to talk much. After the marriage when I was in India for 6 months, my husband never took an initiative to call her by himself and when I went America he was not working anywhere else and don't want to keep intimate relationship..."

**F) Initiative of Parents:**

Parents were more active in fixing up marriages as it was felt that it is ultimate goal of life. Especially focus on monetary benefits was seen prominently. Marriages were seen as an easy way to obtain tax free money. Significance of money was further ascertained through practices such as dowry, extravagant weddings. In all 23 arranged marriages parents were taken initiative.

Some previous study revealed that in most cultures, religions, castes, and regions of India, tradition of dowry is predominant. However, because of direct monetary benefits, cultural and group variations don't prevent this activity. Nowadays, the dowry system is becoming like business for some castes. When a girl is accepted not from her virtues but for the money she brings and when the dowry she brings is the be all and end all of the transaction, the marriage looses all sanctity and sublimity (Ramachandra & Radhakrishna,2019;Uddin et.al,2019; Dr. Pushpam,2022).

**Deepa Said....** "My marriage was arranged marriage and in close relatives. However my father who was Auto Driver had paid 7 lakhs cash and 50 grams gold. Further after marriage mother in law continuous demanding for money..."

**Medha explained her experience...** "After our marriage, my mother-in-law demanded money for marriage reception. I refused to pay and the in-laws had to bear it. Their greed for money and for all other material things was clearly seen through every gesture..."

**Vanita said....** "I woke up to the reality pretty late. Every month, I was forced to give entire salary to mother-in-law. When in-laws came to know that my salary was Rs.3000, they got the confirmation of the amount through RTI. When in-laws figured out that my salary was not as per their expectation, arguments started. Mother-in-law always told me that handing over salary to in-laws was a way to respect husband. My parents also had the same value system so I always made efforts to put up with that. Further expected to take tuitions of children after her day job. An institution was conducting a night school in the vicinity of our house. My father-in-law gave my resume to the school without asking my permission. He expected me to accept the job of teaching between 9 pm to 1.30 pm and told that he would accompany me for the period.''

**G) Traditional Practices:**

Marriage was finalized on the basis of traditional practices; all the rituals were followed by both parties. It was found that marriage became celebration especially in rural and sub urban area, thus a lot of money was spent on marriage to impress the people and opposite party. Dowry, use of specific language of that particular

community, dressing pattern, celebration of festival and expectations of gifts from bride family was expected.

**Surekha was disappointed and said,** "According to social norm one can marry in a year or have to wait for three years if there is death in the family. My brother in law thought that if we wait for three years then my age would become hindrance for marriage. Thus brought proposal and fixed marriage only on the basis of owing farmland and not checked the background of groom who found further hard drinker..."

**H) Financial Independency of Women:**

It was found that women from all groups were working either in private sector or government sector irrespective of their level of education. They had some sort of income and were not completely dependent on parents or maintenance received from husband. It was also reported by women that maintenance was not regular. Some cases reported that their income increased after divorce. There were 6 male and 26 females. Most of the women (20 out of 26) are economically independent earning their bread and butter.

Some sociologist highlighted the same results in their study.Some of the Hindu divorced or separated or widow women earn for their sustenance, which provide them relatively more mental support. For divorcee, separated and widow, their relation to the household head and their economic status acts as an important determinant of empowerment (Biswas CS, 2018). Key domain in which large and persistent gender differences emerged were women's disproportionate losses in household income and associated increases in their risk of poverty and single parenting. women have to struggle a lot to get maintenance and to prove the income of their husband. Poor women struggle to survive while the middle class plunge into poverty. Women lived with their parents and had to face a lot of difficulty in the upbringing of their children especially financial and emotional. Majority of the women thought that unemployed women suffer the most. (Leopold,Thomas,.2018 ;Nigam, Shalu,2015;Motto&Ashai,2012).

**I) Initiative in Divorce:**

In maximum cases, divorce was filed by women or wife. It may be because situation worsened and crossed the limit of tolerance. There were efforts for reconciliation but husband was highly influenced by parents. Husband was unable to take firm decision for the sake of family future. It was found that most of the women got divorced in their early years of marriage, i.e. within 10 years of their marriage and without child.

Specially, 3 out of 4 women from differently able group filed petition. Respondents of urban background all 6 women filed case for divorce for various reasons. 7 women from sub urban area filed petition for divorce. Even two women from rural area taken initiative for divorce. Two women from people living with HIV applied for divorce.

Few studies highlighted that couple without child had maximum divorced and divorces were more commonly seen early years of married life. More number of female filed application for divorce. It is found that most of the women got divorced in their early years of marriage, i.e. within 10 years of their marriage.(Mandu, Bahalen,2015;GirseR.et.al.2006;Amato Previti 2003; Vasudevan,2015)

**Seema shared her experience...** "At the time of marriage my husband was suffering with Chickenpox and this fact was hidden from me. Then after a month I felt behaviour of husband was whimsical, erratic and rude with his parents. Suspicious and possessive with me. Being an educated and working it become difficult for me to stay in such situation so I have filed case for divorce'.

**Deepa state that,** "Basically, my mother-in-law never liked me, hence the relations never improved. I strongly believe that men always look women with lust; they can make her happy 90% physically and 10% emotionally. They never ask about what the women wish for. I feel utterly disgraced by all this. My husband blamed me for his indebtedness and used to beat me up, but when he strangled our 8-months-old boy."

**Rupali from rural area applied for divorce and revealed that,** "I had always clashes with my mother in law. But my husband never took a firm stand or voice out a fair opinion for both and always proved me wrong. My husband proved to be weak when it came to taking a stand for me and asked her to always bow down,

nor would he live separately leaving his parents. These arguments continued to grow and one day resulted in a terrible physical abuse".

### 5.1.1 Context wise Differences:

**A) Education:**

Education is important variable associated with divorce. In present research educational differences were found in each context or background. A higher of number of cases of differently able, people living with HIV/AIDS and from residential institute had completed secondary education. 3 out of 4 case respondents from rural background had completed higher secondary education and 1 had completed graduation. In the urban area all cases respondents had completed post-graduation. In suburban area maximum case respondents were graduate and 1 is perusing Ph.D among them, 1 post graduate and 1 had completed higher secondary education.

According to earlier studies the data also indicates that female respondents were better educated than male. Drawing on social exchange theories, the authors hypothesized that educated women are more likely than uneducated women to leave violent marriages and suggested that this pattern offsets the negative education – divorce association commonly found in the United States. In India with the general perception that more divorces accompany higher levels of education of women, it is reported that women with higher education took recourse to divorce to end marital incompatibility.(PintoVincent&D'Mello,Laveena,2018;Kreager DA.et.al,2013;Thadathil, Aneesh & Sriram, Sujata,2019).Shweta said....." I have completed my post-graduation in M.Tech and currently trying for PhD."

**Hema from rural area said...."***I am post graduate degree holder*."

**B) Employment:**

As maximum cases from differently able group had education till secondary level, they were working in private sector on temporary basis. In urban area with graduation women had good enough income to fulfil their daily needs. Women from sub urban area were working in private sector, 1 in government school and 1had a

shop. Respondents from residential institute were not working anywhere but helping in the same institute and get remuneration. Economic condition of rural respondents was strong (maternal) thus 1 was home maker and other one established civil society organisation. People living with HIV/AIDS were working with civil society organisation.

**Seema's mother said that ....** "She has been working in a private limited company since last 10 years on a monthly salary of Rs. 15000/- and hence, she is independent".

**Vaishali's sister proudly point out that....** "Vaishali is handicapped i.e. she is speech and hearing impaired and loses her balance while walking too. Despite having 2 girls, Vaishali's father would always provide motivation, support and help in times of need when it came to education or job. He constantly struggled so that Vaishali could become independent. Though they were financially weak, he chose to go for Cochlear implant for Vaishali and provided guidance to her to appear for examinations necessary for a job in the Government sector. Owing to the constant efforts of her father, Vaishali got a job in the Military Engineering Services (MES) of the Central Government along with all the facilities that are provided to government servants."

**Ganga expressed ...** "I have my own shop of aquarium and additional work of DTP typing."

**C) Religion and Social Category:**

Out of 32 case respondents 1was Christian, 2 were Baudha and rest of others were Hindu. More respondents are in open category. Among 5 cases of differently able 4 were from open category 1 from schedule caste. In urban context mixed group is found, 2 cases belonged to open category, 2 from OBC, 2 Marwari and 1 schedule caste. In sub urban context majority of respondents were from open category, 2 from schedule caste. Among 4 cases of people living with HIV /AIDS, 3 were from schedule caste and 1 from OBC.

Earlier studies found that religious differences in divorce and separation show lower rates of dissolution for Hindus followed by Muslims and the highest for the other religious group (this group includes Christians, Buddhist and Sikhs). The

biggest difference is not between Hindus and Muslims, though there is a difference, but between these two groups and the other religious group. Upper castes (Brahmins and Vaishyas) were heavily represented. (Dommoraju Premchand, 2016; Dr. Parimal Kumar Roy,2003)

**D) Causes of Divorce:**

In present research respondents expressed some causes. Extra marital affair, dominance of in-laws, violence, and deception, suspicious behaviour of husband and importance of money were the predominant reasons for divorce. Other few reported by respondents were personality problems, compulsion of cultural norms, possessive, maternal influence, pressurised marriage, no responsibility and initiative taken by husband, egoistic husband, and differently able daughters, nurturing differences, stubborn nature of wife, maternal interference, urban and rural differentiation.

There are diverse reasons that have been cited for increasing divorce rates in India. Some causes were highlighted in studies. The factors which are considered by the couple mostly while taking the decision of divorce. The most frequently cited grounds for divorce, regardless for caste or occupation of the husband were spousal abuse & interference in marital affairs by parent in law. Infidelity was the most commonly reported cause, followed by incompatibility, drinking or drug use, and growing apart. Physical and Mental harassment by husband: male dominance, extramarital relationship of either of the spouse, inferiority complex, lack of adjustment, nosy mother in law, unreasonable expectations, lack of physical intimacy, negligence of responsibility, lack of time, impotency.(Kelly Robert et.al,2016; Dr. Parimal Kumar Roy,2003; Amato, Previti ,2003; Arunima Kumari, 2016; Mahdinia and Nezhad,2016),

**Mohan revealed the reasons lead him to take divorce .....**"My father in law called my wife six to eight times daily with constant interference. My wife was taught, "You are never wrong. You are uniquely intelligent and beautiful and everybody else should pamper you as your parents do. She used to argue over the petty reasons, hurt herself or threw things around when she was angry and it became a routine. "

**According to Mahesh.....**"Though we were married, my wife wouldn't talk much. She wasn't open about her feelings. I felt that she might be reserved and quiet by nature. After the marriage, she always wanted to visit her father and would stay there frequently. We stayed together for 190 days only. For a very short period.''

**Saroj said .....**"My husband had HIV but he didn't disclose this at the time of marriage. Later on, I gave birth to a girl. When my daughter was 6-7 years old, I came to know that me and my daughter are HIV positive. I felt guilty as I couldn't protect my daughter from this dreadful illness. I decided to live independently and filed a divorce case with the help of a lawyer"

## 5.2 Analysis of Socio, Emotional and Cultural Factors Influencing Decision of Divorce:

According to Bowen Family system theory, family is emotional unit and it is system thinking of complex interactions. Members of family are connected with each other emotionally with attention approval and support. They react to each other's needs, expectations and upsets. Connectedness and reactivity are the functioning shows the interdependency of family members. Change in the function of one member results into reciprocal changes in the functioning of others.

While there were some primary factors observed resulting in divorce, co-relation with other factors such as complications in the overall family system, foundational principles of the marriage system & resulting complexities were also observed as follows:

### A) Emotional Factors:

Most people acknowledge that the family is critically important to human health and wellbeing however there are emotional forces and patterns of interactions of all families that govern whether the unit functions as a resource or stressors for its members.

Superficially, it shows that violence, abuse and aggressive behaviour of husband in (10 out of 32 cases) and extra marital affair of husband and wife in few (8 out of 32) cases, no sexual satisfaction found in 1 case, experience of sexual abuse in

childhood period found in 1 case, feeling of rejection or ignorance, desertion and discrimination were the basic reasons for divorce. In love marriages also compatibility issues were found in 2 cases.

In addition to this, lack of emotional maturity and appropriate attitude in a certain situation is observed. Mother's were more inclined towards son and father with daughter which created emotional triangle in marital relationship in which the formation of triangle is a cause to instability of two person system. This involves two people agreeing that cause of any tensions between them is not their immaturities but the third person. It means two people align and reject third. The rejection can take many forms like judging, criticising and excluding third person either in face to face communication or behind closed door communication. In many cases due to involvement and influence of third person (Mother-in-law or father-in-law) marital life of spouse was spoiled. Out of 32 above issue shared by 11 cases. Suspicious and possessive nature of husband affected maintaining relations with anybody else found in one case.

Previous studies highlighted that, concept of happiness in married life linked with possibility of enjoying their own life choices without influence of their own spouse. Feeling of happiness depends upon their spouse current frame of mind. Thinking of futuristic financial situation people taking next move. Feeling of being in love or expressions of love affect their thinking. The stages of the psychological and emotional divorce are categorized in five transitional zones such as: blaming the spouse and disillusionment of one party, mourning the loss and expressing dissatisfaction, anger and resentment, being single and deciding to divorce, new beginning and acting on decisions. To deal with family as subsystem couple may feel pressure and struggling to cope as familial obligations and responsibilities are primary in India rather than conjugal relationships. (Kelly Robert et.al, 2016; Al Ubaidi BA,2017;Majumdar, 1996; Pinto Vincent., & D'Mello, Laveena,2018).

**B) Cultural Factors:**

Cultural restrictions and rituals become prominent than family relationships. Family encourages attire approved by society, speaking a particular language, to respect husband irrespective of his improper and objectionable behavior, not to

question husband and provide support without complaints. People of Marwari caste are loyal to their traditions and stick to their religious norms. It was highly expressed by respondents from Marwari families, and families from rural area.

**Vanita Highlighted...** "Mother-in-law always told me that handing over salary to in-laws was a way to respect husband. My parents also had the same value system so I always made efforts to put up with that. Demands for money, jewellery and other things were put to her parents. On festivals, they treated her well only when they were to get gifts from her parents".

Being married is extremely important where as being divorcee is a taboo. Thus women never disclosed status of divorcee expressed by all cases. Being together with family members during events and celebration is essential. One is often compared with other families and told to follow the ones who obey cultural decorum.

The social system treats marriage as a social tradition. After marriage, an individual is expected and somewhat forced to follow traditions and rituals. Compatibility, consent do not stand much value like family members of divyang respondents only checked their deaf muteness ,however other kind of disability was hidden by other party. Case number 9, 19 mate selection of daughter done by family.

**Deepa shared her grief....** "I was married early against my will. I wanted to make a career in food science. I and my husband had not even seen each other. The family members coerced me a lot. I did not have an affair elsewhere. It is the first proposal, do not say no, they said to pressurize me. I had to agree to it."

## C) Social Factors:

### 1. Socialization in Family:

Marital and family relations underline the importance of socialization. All the case studies show clear impact of socialization.

Parameters like broken families lack of love, parental disputes, having single parent etc. affect and shape personality traits and marital relations found in 6 cases out of thirty two. Loudermilk,et.al. 2016;John□Kåre Vederhus et.al.2021, highlighted that those who experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences(ACE) as a child were at more risk of being currently divorced/separated. Forced to have sex or forced to touch

as a child were at increased risk of divorce/separation. Individuals with a parent in prison were twice as likely to experience divorce/separation. Many adults reporting ACEs cope with their childhood adversity and poor quality of life using strategies that have potentially severe long□term health consequences.

Transparencies, trust, love and commitment is critical to build a relationship and is missing in these case studies. While socializing children, parents raise them in overprotected environment as well as do not teach them to be self-sufficient. Many parents fail to make children aware of responsibilities and also encourage patriarchal environment in the home which was observed and as a result, lack of skills, feelings and sense of responsibility essential for marriage is prevalent. Most marital arguments cannot be resolved. Couples spend year after year trying to change each other's mind but it can't be done which was observed in 6 cases out of 32. This is because most of their agreements are rooted in fundamental differences of lifestyle, personality or values (Scott Shelby et.al.2013)

**2. Childhood Experiences:**

Factors like sexual abuse in childhood shared by case number 8, being a witness to suicide case number 16, over pampering case number 24, karate training case number 23 etc. played pivotal role in establishing powerful system of beliefs and forming personalities. All these factors determine an individual's response to complex situations in marital life. Childhood experiences influence one to constantly compare his/her marital relationship with others' marital relationship. If both relationships don't have similarities, a rift is created. More the disparity, relationship is more strained and is more criticized. It was explained by 5 out of 32 cases.

Damodaran & Varghese(2019) found that the odds of having physical and sexual abuses, and risk for major depression in adulthood were significantly greater (two times) among males than females with family dysfunction than those without it.

**Medha revealed ....,"**My father was government servant but he was an addict. I never experienced love or understanding in my parents relation. My father evaded all the responsibilities regarding the family. My mother was always beaten by father and struggling and quarrelling was going on. In this circumstance, when I was just

fifteen years old, my father committed suicide in front of my eyes. It was a great jolt to me. I was brought up by my mother only."

**Lina Shared ....,**"I was cheated as my husband was unemployed and was not in service anywhere. He had some addictions and had an extra marital affair, total disparity in education level and leaving conditions."

**Rohini expressed.....,"**My father-in-law and brother-in-law would molest me and abuse indecently. They would peep while i was taking bath or try to get close to me for no reason. When I informed my husband about it, he denied that and never took a firm stand for me."

### 3. Influence of Sub Systems:

Even though marriage is between two individuals, family sub-system like in-laws, brothers/sisters from both sides play a big role. At the same time, influence of systems outside the family is also observed. The more dominant subsystem influences the decision making, control over family members etc. These sub systems affect relationships in any kind of family. This results into injustice or the possibility of taking someone for granted. Predominantly, the daughter in law suffers this fate.

Some studies stressed the hierarchy in families becomes root cause of insecurities. Every family member tries hard to get rid of insecurity and establish himself/herself in family. In the process, the individual may not do justice with other relationships which is very much relevant to resource theory of family power (Niermann Christina et.al.2018;Thomas Bino,2012),

**Vanita said ...."**My brother-in-law had completed diploma after $12^{th}$ and had a job with Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. He had dominance over the family. He earned well and used to take care of household expenses. Naturally, he was revered in the family. His social circle differed significantly from his domestic environment. He would never let his reputation get affected by family circumstances. His wife was a homemaker. Her sister-in-law's family was well off. They frequently used to send gifts to the in-laws".

**Deepa shared ..."**Whenever there was any kind of argument in the house, my mother-in-law would be unhappy and leave for her maternal house and complained about the family members."

**Medha added..."**If mother-in-law is supported by her father or brother then she holds the key to the house and father-in-law doesn't have much of a say".

**4. Social Structure:**

It proposes that human beings develop social constructs based on interactions with others and those lasts over the time which is called as reality and accepted by most of the society. Many things take shape according to the person who controls family. Patriarchy takes prominent role in family system especially observed in all 4 cases of rural areas. At times, patriarchy also becomes root cause of domestic violence experienced by 10 out of 32 cases.

Family members are often used to establish the control over family. In patriarchal system, head of the family (who owns land, has abundant money, has social, political supremacy) invariably treats woman insignificantly. He expects a woman to accept submissive, inferior position in the family, otherwise violence becomes rampant. This affects lots of other things in a relationship like communication, love, opinions, notions, emotional attachment, sexual abuse etc (Sonawat R,2001).

**Hema highlighted....** "Families are controlled by patriarchs. There are numerous examples where daughters-in-law have committed suicide. My in-laws were irked and angry due to dowry issue. My in-laws used to argue and abuse me frequently and one day they forced her out of the house in the middle of the night. In-laws did the gender determination test and found out that it was girl. They were against the abortion and my husband compelled me to go through the second pregnancy. No one was happy. After the birth of the second girl, I couldn't juggle between the domestic chores and well-being of my daughters.''

**Vanita talk on the same....,"**When my pregnancy detected, in laws forcefully state that my maternal family members should take first five years responsibilities after marriage. When I gave birth to a baby girl, my in-laws never considered bringing me back home. All those years, her husband did not visit his daughter even once."

**5. Lacking in Life Skills:**

Self-opinion and confidence, problem solving skills carry a lot of importance in an individual's married life. Women reported that husband lacked decision making skills to survive his marriage. They were always under the influence of their parents. Hence it is important that parents prepare their sons and daughters for their future married life. It was stated by 11 case s out of 32.

Interpersonal communication skills are necessary for making good relationship bond between the partners. Problem solving skills and marital satisfaction are not associated. (Haris Farah & Anish Kumar,2018)

**Rupali expressed that....."**My husband always felt that my siblings never looked after their parents and therefore it was his sole responsibility to do so. He considered his mother's words as final and would never go against her will. Often there used to be clashes between me and mother-in-law, but my husband never took a firm stand or voice out a fair opinion for both and always proved the me wrong."

**Mohan revealed that ....."**Looking at the extremities of her anger, I spoke to her family members and her brother informed me that it happened earlier too. She had no control over her anger and hurts herself and others too when she is angry. My wife was taught, “You are never wrong. You are uniquely intelligent and beautiful and everybody else should pamper you as your parents do.”

**Mahesh added his experience...."**After the marriage, my wife always wanted to visit her father and would stay there frequently. I had to travel within and out of India for my work. On such occasions, she would stay at her father’s house than her own. She didn’t have much responsibility at home. But everyone took notice of her silent, reserved nature. Later on, she became pregnant and stayed at her father’s house only. We stayed together for 190 days only. For a very short period.’’

**6. Social Background :**

It is hardly easy for a deaf and mute person to adjust with normal individuals. Though family members feel that they love children, they cannot communicate and feel excluded. They spend most of the time outside the house or with other deaf and mute people. Their marital relationships are full of similar misunderstandings which

are mostly created by normal people in the family. Normal people do not let them grow and flourish together. Hasty decisions are made in search of love and family life without forethought of consequences.

Moiser Anthony(1999) revealed about, deaf-hearing females reported the lowest levels of marital adjustment. A qualitative component of the study yielded information concerning what Deaf-Deaf and Deaf-hearing couples consider the most important factors contributing to marital happiness. Both Deaf-Deaf and Deaf-hearing couples reported that language and cultural compatibility is the most important quality of a successful marriage.

In residential institute, individuals need family environment thus in search of love, hasty decisions were taken. They were unaware of complicated relations, challenges of family life and expectations. After the marriage, adjustment with family issues might prove challenging.

The idea of living life with HIV itself is traumatic. Thus, there is a constant tussle with emotions, age specific changes and morality. It resulted into deception.

Previous studies also highlighted the QOL and marital contentment were different among non-HIV and HIV infected couples. Besides, marital contentment was higher among males than female's in infected patients. Women have to face numerous challenges after the infection, such as lack of social support, a higher level of stigma and discrimination, decreased quality of life, mental health issues and adverse coping.( Azam Faraji et.al,2021; Malik & Dixit;2017)

All the three instances show chain of deprivation and discrimination. While leading normal life one has to face numerous hardships for e.g., being a differently able woman, being a divorcee etc. An individual is stressed out to disguise marital, social and health status.

## 5.3 Humanity Values, Commitment towards Marriage Conquer with Individualism and Materialism.

It is observed that there is an overall deterioration of human value system & lack of emotions like love and respect.Money was the centre point in marriage to fulfil the needs and wants. To get the money brides were tortured in majority of cases.

**Vanita Expressed her feelings.....,"**During my pregnancy, doctor had prescribed a minor surgery which needed Rs.30000. In-laws wanted my parents to bear expenses. Doctor had advised me bed rest for 9 months as I was incapable of working for the duration. On the same day, in-laws abused and kicked me out of the house. When I was under treatment at the maternity home, my husband instructed doctors not to treat his wife and threatened to file a case for sex determination test against them if they refuse to comply. As a result, doctors refused to treat me."

Relations often reflect selfishness and self-centered attitude. Such kind of thinking was found in majority cases, mostly in urban areas. It was highly correlated with social exchange theory ( Rank and Le Croy ,1983)

Alternate options are always pursued in case of unfulfilled expectations. These substitute relations are also neither perfect nor flawless. An individual fails to understand this due to emotional immaturity(Amato,Previti,2003; Kelly Robert et.al,2016;Arunima Kumari,2016).

Today's social network finds many options for one's needs outside the family and home, for instance, restaurants take care of one's hunger in case of being away from family. Social interchange makes this possible. More the social reach, more such options will be explored by an individual.Functions of family depend upon the kind of society in which it is found. Now there is change in family functions.Social media is easily accessible and it shows that majority of respondents depend upon technology for knowledge and information on daily life issues instead of family. Thus extra marital relations of partner shared by 8 out of 32 cases.

**Sarika said..... ,**"I dislike few traits of husband that he used to password protect his mobile and carried his mobile everywhere and never left it lying anywhere. He never tried to keep any physical intimacy with me. Then I gathered evidences and caught him red handed. Finally, he confessed about his affair and demanded a divorce."

Family experiences tussle for dominant positions that enable full control of family. Expectations from marital relationship and changed attitude due to women's education and monetary independence influence marital institution. Generation earlier is unwilling to cast aside traditional framework of family and more importantly traditional role of daughter-in-law. In-laws want monetary benefits from daughter-in-

law but are not yet prepared to share rights. In comparison to women, men haven't changed much (Mujumdar, K. 1996 ; Nigam, Shalu;2015).

In present study 19 women are working and in laws expecting money and household responsibilities. It is easy to expect a woman to shoulder household responsibilities but a man is still far away from sharing that responsibility. Men are not encouraged to participate in daily household chores which is crucial in the current situation. This leads to dissatisfaction and unrealized expectations which gets transformed into frequent disagreements and conflicts. Family control and rights, freedom of expansion of family is not smoothly handed over to next generation. It highly correlated with Symbolic Interaction Theory by George Mead .

## 5.4 Impact of Divorce on Quality of Life of Divorce:

Researcher explored post-divorce situation of respondents from diverse backgrounds and effect of divorce on quality of life measured by using six indicators.

### 5.4.1 Quality of Life of Divorcee:

### 1. Standard of Living/ Materialistic Living Condition

Standard of living on the basis of type of house, availability of material goods, ownership of goods and fulfilment of daily needs mostly depended on the economic condition of respondents and their family support (Mattoo, Ashai,2012;Leopold Thomas,2018; Pinto Vincent., & D'Mello, Laveena,2018). More number of respondents were staying with their parents in their own house with availability of material goods. People living with HIV/AIDS and respondents from residential institute were more vulnerable in this aspect of quality of life. In comparison with men, women were more vulnerable to poverty and single parenting.

### 2. Foundation of Wellbeing :

In current technological world all respondents had access to basic information and knowledge. Respondents had different sources of knowledge where family was prime source for deaf mute and urban respondents and mobile was important source for suburban respondents and friends was source for rural as well as, people living with HIV/AIDS, respondents from residential institute. It shows changing functions of

family. Now technology is leading source of knowledge and people who are deprived of family environment have an alternate option to get knowledge.

### 3. Health and Wellness:

Most of the cases did not have any physical health issues except two of them reported the blood pressure problem which started after divorce. All of them had access to treatment and only few males reported some kind of addiction. Health was greatly affected after divorce, especially, mental health (Sbrra David 2016) Depression was the most common experience for respondents from all groups. (Singh et.al.1978; Kaneez Salma,2015) Few women(3 out of 20) from urban and sub urban areas had taken post-divorce counselling with flower remedies. Two women and one male committed suicide attempt or suicidal thoughts in mind (Mattoo, Ashai, 2012). and 2 cases had to take psychiatric treatment for the same(Mary, M. J. 2013; J. K. Trivedi, et.al.2009).Stigma and discrimination associated with this makes an individual impossible to socialise. A large number of female confided that reading the wonderful status of friends compels them to ask themselves "*why can I not enjoy such happy life? I really want to be happy."* Few women (6 out of 20) state that hobbies help them to gives hope and cope with situation.

Mostly society blames women for their divorce and thus they excludes themselves from social participation (Kramrel Elizabeth et.al 2007) expressed by many (14 out of 20) women. Discrimination and deprivation faced by differently able, women from residential institute, people living with HIV/AIDS(Malik & Dixit ,2017).

### 4. Environmental Quality:

Respondents from all backgrounds reported that they were safe at their home and work environment. Some of them reported that to keep their environment safe they were not disclosing their marital status. Unexpected financial expenses depended on the economic condition of respondent and their family responsibility. Respondents only from rural, urban, sub urban and differently able had social security plan for future.

**5. Opportunities:**

Respondents from all backgrounds were aware of their rights. It was limited to marital area only because their lawyer had guided them about how to use it. In spite of that women had fear of getting blame in the court, as a result, they mostly refused to use it. All respondents had opportunity to take further advance and technical education, specially respondents from urban area. However, those who had responsibility of child gave priority to their education. All respondents excluding differently able and fifty percent respondents from rural area had liberty to take decision.

**6. Overall Experience:**

More number of respondents reported that sometimes they feel insecure without support and facing daily incidents were always challenging for them. Sometimes it was difficult for them to live with religious and moral values. Respondents living with HIV/AIDS, differently able, residential institute had faced multiple discrimination (Bhatia and Munjal,2014)

## 5.5 Quality of life of children and other family members after divorce in the family.

**A) Impact of Divorce on Children:**

Family has strong influence of cultural norms, patriarchy, geographical location, social status, normality and it affects exclusion of children in getting their rights. However, in relation to conflict theory, children were caught in the middle of the situation. There were 13 girls and 7 boys among twenty children. The age group ranged in between 3 years to 22 years. Only one father had custody of child, rest of the children were with their mother.

Standard tool was used to assess the impact. Very few children directly communicated. Due to sensitivity, parents don't allow direct communication with children. Parents fill up the questionnaire, thus, there was possibility of parents' perspectives might have included in this questionnaire. Results show that out of twenty children 25 percent shows low score means low divorce adjustment. Children

below the age group of 14 years and mostly girl children have exhibited low divorce adjustment. Fathers were not emotionally attached with their children. In a case, father tried to kill the son. In many cases girl child was rejected on the basis of their gender and normality. Some of them even don't know who is their father. Only one father was struggling for his daughter's custody as she was not happy with her mother. Coping and post-divorce adjustment of children depends on how parents communicate with them about their divorce. In few cases children have strong emotional impact. These children had to undergo psychological counselling and affected schooling as well. A girl was forcefully separated from her mother and multiple responsibilities were assumed by maternal grandparents. The child yet not cried in any situation and met her mother twice a year and was always in some kind of fear. In one other case boy always feels very lonely and hopes that one day his mother will come back. He was trying for the same. Few parents reported that their children become matured untimely.

**B) Impact on family members:**

1. **Economic:**

Few family members had effect and reported that responsibility increases in the old age as they had other expenses of medicine. On the contrary few had not faced any economical challenges. Parents reported that money was wasted in custody battle, in lawyer's fees and treatment of grand-daughters. Lot of money was also spent on marriage ceremony. They had to face huge financial setback. They refused the custody of their granddaughter as it was an addition responsibility for them as her mother is deaf mute.

2. **Social:**

Parents face social pressure and lot of questions related to divorce. Society rejects divorcees due to negative attitude towards them. They are unable to socialize as people point fingers at them. Parents feel that their social status becomes negligible and relations are spoiled due to divorce. Grandchild has to face a lot at school, peer group level. People always find fault with their daughter. Nobody supports them and

keep distance from them. As a result they never disclose the marital status of daughter in society.

3. **Emotional:**

Due to emotional involvement, it was quite difficult for parents to get over the situation. After few days they became stronger. Questions arose about relationship. Parents were always carrying burden, thinking about future of their grandchild. Sometimes, they feel stressed, however, they are satisfied about the decision. They have little stress and tension. At the same time they are feeling very unhappy and angry about in laws of daughter. They felt bad and were unable to bare sufferings of their daughter. They felt guilty of not educating her and getting her married forcefully. They are unable to look at daughter, they are blaming the fate. It is so intolerant that they felt nobody should face it. Parents keep thinking about where and how they have made mistake. Parents feel frustrated and guilty for not crosschecking the information given by groom's parents.

4. **Religious:**

Some parents were not bother to implement religious commitments and activities. When celebrating any function parents recognise the emptiness. They feel stressed while facing this situation in old age. People in community or religion could not able to accept these parents. Rural community is quite rigid to accept it.

5. **Daily functional:**

They feel guilty while looking at happy families with happy daughters-in-law. They do not meet many people regularly except their supportive neighbours. Each day is full of anxiety for their daughter and granddaughters. There is no set routine or structure to their life due to constant tension and pressure. They feel stressed and anxious about daughters and grand children's future. At this stage of life in their old age they have more responsibilities.

## 5.6. Opinion of Counsellors and Lawyers

Counsellors shared their experiences and various causes of divorce. They have taken initiative in publishing journal based on their first hand experience to create awareness about marital issues and even implementing *Swaymsiddha* project to divorcee women to provide economic support.

Lawyers talked about the need of legal awareness is important. Evidences are necessary. Couples are using children as weapon and children are also becoming diplomatic in cases. They have also initiated *Janadalat* to ease the lengthy legal process.

## 5.7 Conclusion:

Marriage is a union. Marriage is companionship and friendship. It is being together, acting together, doing things together, and not wanting it any other way. It‘s being considerate in every way-considerate of the other‘s time, feelings, and desires. It‘s giving them moral support, physical support, prayer support, all approximately support. It‘s cheering each other on and encouraging when they feel down. Marriage is stooping to lift the other. It‘s being strong when the other is weak. Marriage is protecting mate from harm, physical and emotional. Marriage is provision. Marriage is lending a helping hand. Marriage is sacrifice. It‘s being ready to provide up own ideas or desires to make mate happy. Marriage is yielding, bending, melting together. Marriage is going the extra mile. Marriage is compassion. Marriage is submission. It‘s giving the other person a chance. Marriage is living and loving and helping one another. Marriage is learning from one another. Marriage is humbling. Marriage is being opened minded. Marriage is walking a mile in another‘s shoes. Marriage is listening and understanding.

All the above statements are now become traditional. Instead of building the marriage system strong it becomes fragile. In present study there are similarities in basic practices of marriage observed such as age, mate selection process, formalities in marriages, marriage finalization by parents. It was good sign that maximum women are economically independent hence they have taken initiative to take divorce after crossing the limit of tolerance.

Context wise differences found based on socio economic background of respondents, specifically on education wise employment differences, religion and social category differences. There are different causes of divorce however highly common and major causes are violence, extra marital affair and interference of in laws.

So many social, emotional and cultural factors are responsible for it. Though women are economically independent patriarchy is still dominant, hence it shows that women are emotionally tortured in married life in different way. Cultural and influence of rituals are still existing in some communities which is difficult to follow in present professional life.

In social factors, the role of parents in nurturing and socialization of children is very crucial in building and sustaining marital relationship for both boys and girls. The basic learning of human values should be core part of socialization. It shows the failure of such values in relationship families are more money oriented and individual in family is self centered. Childhood experiences had a strong impact, on the other side controversy in one case the women from rural area is karate champion, but she had tolerate lot of violence from in laws. In family sub systems also played vital role and power structure works a lot. It was found that couples are lacking in family life skills. Differences in social background creating different issues for divorcees.

Quality of life of divorcee was mostly depends upon the economic condition and support they received from family members. Standard of living was mostly depend upon economic condition of divorcee. Women do not have their own property however men have ownership of home or farming lands. Due to digital advancement all respondents had access to information and the role of family replaced by mobile. Divorce has strong impact on mental health due to higher the emotional involvement higher the mental health issues experienced by women respondents and men as well. Those who are staying with parents and with their support feel safe in that environment. Future opportunities are depend on the responsibilities women are shouldering in their family. Women are not aware properly about their rights it is operational information given by their lawyer and they have used law as per lawyer guidance. Women are facing lot of challenges after divorce. It is difficult for them to live religious and moral values. Due to stigma attached to divorce and divorcee they never disclosed their status to society.

Children and other family members are facing lot of issues after divorce at different levels. Now society is changing maternal family is proving support to all respondents in spite are their background.

Counselors and lawyers had opinion that they observed how society is changing and different forms of marital issues Preventive and rehabilitative measure need to be taken for the same.

Success or failure of a relationship depends on the amount of personal investment in the relationship in terms of money, intellect, emotions, hard work etc. If the returns are better from the relation, then it sustains. The returns expected are subjective and depend on the perspectives of an individual. The circumstances might be conflicting but if there is freedom and expectations are fulfilled, then the relation thrives otherwise divorce becomes inevitable. Women mostly think about their maternal family support and their maternal family status before moving to take decision of divorce. Marriage is long term bond people should be careful about it. Love is the ultimate answer to each and every relationship.

## 5.8 Suggestions:

According global the context of marriage and law the fundamentals of marriage are classified into three categories: eligibility, consent and formalities. All countries have their own interpretation on the basis of types of marriage.

### A) Parents of Married Couple :

- **Eligibility :**

In India, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, was sought to prevent child marriages by punishing the parents or guardians who arranged them. Still, we came across incidents of child marriages in India. Thus, parents should be very careful about it. Rather than become free from responsibility, need Parents need to understand strengths of marriage institution instead of treating it as away to get rid of their responsibilities. Instead of focusing on education, income, family status, caste, religion as eligibility of marriage, they need to focus on compatibility (fundamental

differences, lifestyle, personality, values, childhood experience, perception towards it, parents relationship, support system)

During socialization process parent should focus on developing ability to have self-opinion and its expression, to take decision and develop hobbies to cope with situation.Creating self- sufficient individual, inculcation of value such as gender quality, non-violence should be the aim of socialization.

- **Consent:**

Due to deep cultural influence, parents were taking initiative in finalising marriage. Should encourage the children to develop capability to take decisions and own the full responsibility of their life decisions like marriage, divorce etc. Marriage should not become an urgent need of any individual:- it should not be finalised by taking disadvantage of his or her helplessness. Forceful arranged or love marriage always results in ruining the life of involved individuals.

- **Formalities:**

Formality means making marital status confirmed of both parties and announce it to community and society. i.e. actual ceremony of marriages. Couple should be very keen about not to spend so much money on these formalities. They should fulfil all formalities on their own money. Then only this dowry, economic exploitation will decrease. Marriage registration is very crucial, that has to be done by couple only. Parents should help the married couple to grow and evolve in each other's company rather than treating marriage as celebration of an event.

**B) Married Couple :**

Time is of essence to develop the bond between husband and wife. Both of them should decide when and how to expand their family.

**Learn Essential Life Skills:** Active listening skills, empathy, problem solving and conflict resolution techniques are important in building and maintaining relationship.

**Use of Emotional Intelligence :** Resist and control negative thoughts and feelings about your spouse and don't let it cloud the positive thoughts, emotions. Do not take your partner for granted and overlook the fine qualities of your partner. One should not focus on qualities that you want in your partner and are missing .

**Use of Aikido Principal of Yielding:** The said principal suggested by Gottman that couple to always keen in making outer circle larger of solvable problems and inner circle smaller of unsolvable problems.

**Repair Attempts:** It helps to prevent negativity from escalating out of control. Couples try to change each other's mind and spend many years for that.

**C) Marriage or Family Counsellor:**

The marriage counselling and family intervention techniques could be evolved to reduce marital discard. Even post-divorce counselling on a large scale will help the divorcing and divorced couple to overcome the stress and cope with future situation. High risk adults can be addressed to minimize the trauma. Counselling should be based on what makes marriages succeed rather than what makes them fail.

ART Counsellor needs to be very sensitive to deal with the cases of people living with HIV/AIDS.

**Child Counselling*:*** It is important to recognise specific needs of children in the divorce process in order to prevent or minimize negative consequences and chain reactions during their subsequent life. The parent who has custody of child should be very objective and sensitive towards child's emotions and feelings.

**D) State:**

Awareness on prevention of child marriages:

Young adults and their parents need to be educated about the eligibility of marriage institutions, scientific reasons behind eligibility, legal provisions related to it.

State policy should be directed towards inclusion of family life education at all levels of education.

Inclusion of Family Life Education in curriculum form secondary to higher education.

## 5.9 Proposed Social Work Intervention

Communication training, problem and conflict resolution, cognitive restructuring, identification and expression of affection and sexual problems as well as acceptance and tolerance of differences.

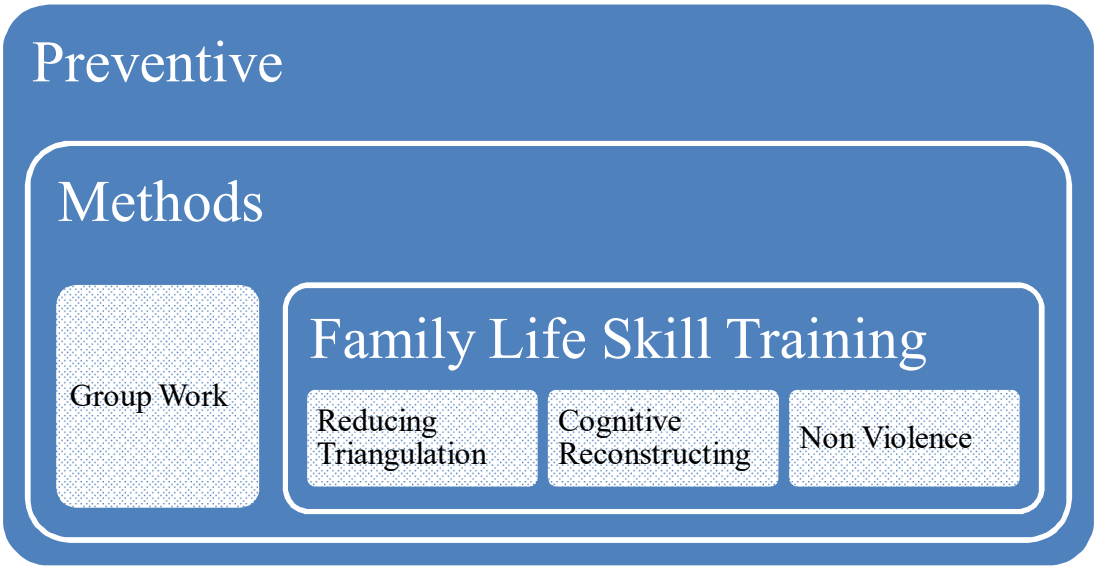



**Figure No. 5.1 : Preventive Approach**

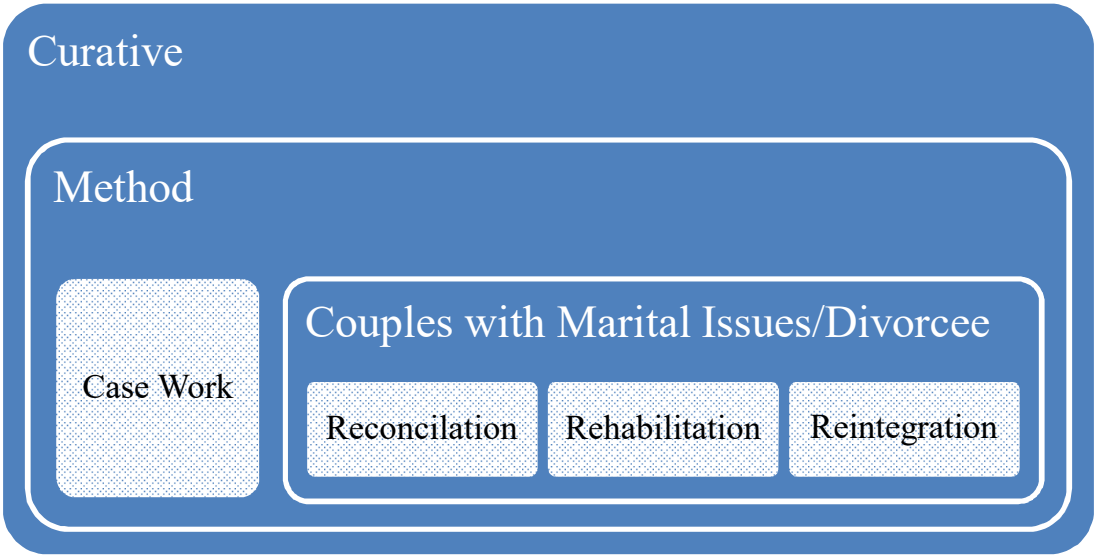



**Figure No. 5.2 : Curative Approach**

## 5.10 Summary of the Research Study:

Introduction is the first chapter which is divided into two sections. In section A following aspects were studied by researcher i.e. concept of marriage and divorce, solemnisation of marriage and dissolution of marriage under various religious act. Then emerging trends in marriage followed by conceptual understanding of family. Further Indian family system with traditional and contemporary trends. Then chapter moved towards theories related to marriage and family. Researcher also studied and included Indian judicial system with origin and development of family court. After that researcher included quality of life, its evolution and development. Then approaches and domains of quality of life covered. Section B discussed about profile of study region and ends with present scenario of divorcee.

In second Literature Review chapter total 72 studies were reviewed and differentiate it under significant aspects of divorce. The first point is legislative procedures on marriage and divorce under which eight studies were covered. Second point is Socio – Economic, Cultural and Demographic profile of divorcee.15 studies were covered. Third point highlighted the skills required in marital life, such as interpersonal relationship, problem solving skills, which are related to marital satisfaction. In fourth point 14 studies were covered and this point titled with causes for the increasing rate of divorce. Next point state in review was psychological situation of the divorcees. In further point post divorce life and intervention for better adjustment of divorced persons were covered. The chapter ends with the gap identified in review.

The third chapter is research methodology. The chapter begins with statement of problem in which background of study subject and importance to study the subject was focused. Second point was conceptual framework. This framework explained the quality of life after divorce depends upon the two factors i.e. support system and socio economic background. The chapter continued with research questions. Research questions are important in case study because it helps to explore answers to how and why questions. After research questions, objectives were stated then to explain the geographical area and nature of the respondents the next point added and it was scope of the study. Further how the study will be useful for different stake holders highlighted in the point significance of study. Independent and dependent variables were included to explain interrelationship of various factors. Then two propositions

written and described in next point. After that research design included in the chapter followed by unit of analysis explained. Further it continued with data collection process, then inclusion and exclusion criteria. Then three different data collection methods and tools were used for different stake holders were highlighted. Then data source explained by using four factors i.e. construct validity, internal validity, external validity and reliability. In last section of this chapter case study analysis written. Further limitations of study and chapter ends with ethical consideration applied by researcher in whole research process.

The fourth chapter is data analysis and interpretation chapter. In this chapter data was analysed in different forms and divided into six sections. The researcher collected data from respondents with different socio cultural background. Thus these respondents divided into six contexts to explore the similarities and differentiation. The first section of data analysis was narration of cases. All 32 cases narrated in detail and explained by using family genogram followed by interpretation of researcher. Then second section was contest wise analysis. Researcher presented this analysis in the form of network by using atlas ti software to explain the socioeconomic background and causes of divorce according their type of marriage. Next section of analysis was cross case analysis. This analysis was presented in the form of excel graph. These graphs explained the quality of life of respondents. The chapter continued with analysis of situation of children, followed by quality of life of family members and their opinion about divorce. The last section of analysis was opinion of lawyers and counsellors who have handled their cases.

In last chapter is findings, conclusion and suggestions. Findings were arranged according to objectives of study. Initially it highlighted Similarities and Differences among the divorcees from diverse socio-economic background. Then further it shows the analysis of socio, emotional and cultural factors influencing decision of divorce. After that the chapter explained how humanity values, commitment towards marriage conquer with individualism and materialism. The chapter continued with impact of divorce on quality of life of divorce by using indicators of quality of life, followed by quality of life of children and other family members after divorce in the family. Then chapter ends with opinion of lawyers and counsellors about divorce and suggestive measures with their initiatives. Conclusion and suggestions to different stake holders

were added. Finally researcher highlighted the social work intervention by using social work approaches and methods.

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# APPENDICES

## A. Children's Divorce Adjustment Inventory

| Adjustment Areas | Strongly Agree | Agree | Indifferent | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Sometimes I think it was my fault my parents have problems. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Since the separation I have been having problems in school. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I wish I were able to spend more time with my father/mother | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Since the separation I have been able to spend time with my friend. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 5. Since the separation I have been able to participate in school activities. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6. Since the separation I have not been able to concentrate my studies. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 7. Since the separation I have not been able to perform well in my academics/ sports/ other activities. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I worry about what will happen to our family. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Since the separation I have times when I feel sad/ lonely | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I get along better with my brothers and sisters than I used to. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

| Adjustment Areas | Strongly Agree | Agree | Indifferent | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. I often get angry with my friends. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. I have not been able to adjust with my friends. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. I often feel that my parents don't understand me and my emotions. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. My parents often fight about me | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. My grandparents and other family members do things with me. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 16. My parents still don't get along much | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17. I keep my self busy doing lots of activities at school ,I don't want to stay at home. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. I wish my parents would get back together | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19. My mother/father is having a tough time getting along since the separation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20. I don't get along well with my mother's / father's friend(s). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 21. I feel like I have to pick sides since the separation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 22. I understand why my parents separated.(reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 23. My parents agree on how I should behave. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 24. Since the separation I get punished(sent to my room) more | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

| Adjustment Areas | Strongly Agree | Agree | Indifferent | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. Since the separation my parents criticize me more. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 26. Since the separation if I do something with my father my Mother gets upset. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 27. Since the separation I get along better with my parents. (reverse) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

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## B. Interview Schedule

**Analysing Impact of Divorce on Quality of Life of Family Members:**

**A Case Study in Pune District**

**Interview**

Name of the respondent :

**Socio Economic Background :**

Geographical location ,age.sex, education, occupation, income, religion, social category)

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Maternal Family background :(Perception and experience about your nurturing)

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Marital background :(age,type, how it finalised,process followed)

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Reasons of divorce : Detail explanation of experiences

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Process of divorce and efforts taken for reconciliation: (perception about Counsellling Facility)

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Responsibilities after divorce:

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**Quality of life Indicators:**

A. Material Living Conditions:

Type of House:

---

How necessary material goods are available for you?

1.Yes all available 2. Few available 3. Nothing available

4. Depending on others support

What kind of ownership of goods do you have?

---

How it is possible to fulfilment of daily needs in your income:

---

**B. Foundations of wellbeing :**

Do you have access to basic knowledge : (Such as your daily life issues, the stage of family life cycle in which currently you are )

---

Sources of knowledge:

(After Divorce) :1.Technology 2. Family members 3. Friends 4. Other (training etc)

How you have access to information and communication which you needed mostly?

---

**C. Health and Wellness:**

Which health issues do you have after divorce?

---

What are the limitations you have in participating any activity due to health?

---

Do you have any kind of addiction?

---

How much access you have to proper treatment for health issues ?

---

Do you experienced any following health condition?

| Health condition | After Divorce |
|---|---|
| Stressful | |
| Depressed/Disappointed | |
| Loneliness, guilt, low self confidence | |
| Anger | |
| Sleeping problems (either too little or too much sleep) | |
| Irritation, lack of concentration, restless | |
| Emotionally disturbed (crying, felt suicidal etc) | |
| Any Other | |

How do you feel about your life ?

---

What are your hobbies?

---

What is the nature of spending leisure time after divorce ?

---

How frequently you participation in informal activities/ family programs?

---

How frequently you engage in any creative or recreational activity?

---

Do you have membership or association of any social organisation or group?

---

How frequently you meet your relatives?

---

**D. Environmental Quality**

How you feel in your residential environment?

---

---

What extra efforts you are taking to keep your environment safe?

---

How frequently you face unexpected financial expenses?

---

---

How you feel at your workplace?

---

If Feeling Unsafe ,why ?

---

Which financial or social security plan for future?

(Mediclaim, pension scheme etc)

---

How you feel with your living environment?

---

**E. Opportunity**

How you aware of practice or work on your rights?

---

---

What opportunities do you have to take advanced education / professional courses?

---

---

What kind of personal freedom and choice do you have for your future decision?

---

---

**F. Overall experience**

What are the limitations do you have in fulfilling desires?

---

---

Why you feel insecure and without support?

---

---

How it is challenging to face daily incidents and happenings .

---

---

How you feel to live with religious, moral, ethical principles /values .

---

How it is challenging for you to take decisions independently with their outcome?

---

---

How it could be possible for you to take decision of separation or divorce? What was your thinking behind taking this decision.

---

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## C. Interview Guide for Lawyers and Counsellors

**Interview Guide for Lawyers and Counsellors**

Name : _____

Age : _____

Years of Experience : _____

Your opinion about present divorce trends :

According to you what are the causes of increasing divorce rate?

Suggestions to reduce it .

Your Initiative :

❑❑❑

# D. Interview Guide Family Members

## Interview Guide Family Members

| Name of the family members | Relationship with respondent | Age of family member | Occupation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

What is your opinion about divorce ?

| |
|---|
| |

What is your opinion about divorcee couple?

| |
|---|
| About son/daughter in law |

| |
|---|
| About daughter/son in law |

According to you what are the causes of divorce in your family?

| |
|---|
| |

What are the changes in behaviour of children in your family after divorce?

| |
|---|
| |

What were the efforts taken by you to resolve the conflict among couple?

| |
|---|
| |

How would you support son / daughter in future?

How divorce affects on you on following aspects

Economic :

Social :

Emotional:

Religious:

Daily functional:

**What you would like to suggest for next generation about their married life ?**

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# ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF FAMILY MEMBERS: A CASE STUDY IN PUNE DISTRICT

A Thesis

**SUBMITTED TO THE**
**TILAK MAHARASHTRA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF**
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**
**IN**

**SOCIAL WORK**

Under the Board of Moral and Social Sciences Studies




BY

**JOSHI GEETA SARANG**

(Registration No. **15515008506)**

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF

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**JUNE – 2023**

## 80_Recommendations

**Conclusion:**

Marriage is a union. Marriage is companionship and friendship. It is being together, acting together, doing things together, and not wanting it any other way. It‘s being considerate in every way-considerate of the other‘s time, feelings, and desires. It‘s giving them moral support, physical support, prayer support, all approximately support. It‘s cheering each other on and encouraging when they feel down. Marriage is stooping to lift the other. It‘s being strong when the other is weak. Marriage is protecting mate from harm, physical and emotional. Marriage is provision. Marriage is lending a helping hand. Marriage is sacrifice. It‘s being ready to provide up own ideas or desires to make mate happy. Marriage is yielding, bending, melting together. Marriage is going the extra mile. Marriage is compassion. Marriage is submission. It‘s giving the other person a chance. Marriage is living and loving and helping one another. Marriage is learning from one another. Marriage is humbling. Marriage is being opened minded. Marriage is walking a mile in another‘s shoes. Marriage is listening and understanding.

All the above statements are now become traditional. Instead of building the marriage system strong it becomes fragile. In present study there are similarities in basic practices of marriage observed such as age, mate selection process, formalities in marriages, marriage finalization by parents. It was good sign that maximum women are economically independent hence they have taken initiative to take divorce after crossing the limit of tolerance.

Context wise differences found based on socio economic background of respondents, specifically on education wise employment differences, religion and social category differences. There are different causes of divorce however highly common and major causes are violence, extra marital affair and interference of in laws.

So many social, emotional and cultural factors are responsible for it. Though women are economically independent patriarchy is still dominant, hence it shows that women are emotionally tortured in married life in different way. Cultural and influence of rituals are still existing in some communities which is difficult to follow in present professional life.

In social factors, the role of parents in nurturing and socialization of children is very crucial in building and sustaining marital relationship for both boys and girls. The basic learning of human values should be core part of socialization. It shows the failure of such values in relationship families are more money oriented and individual in family is self centered. Childhood experiences had a strong impact, on the other side controversy in one case the women from rural area is karate champion, but she had tolerate lot of violence from in laws. In family sub systems also played vital role and power structure works a lot. It was found that couples are lacking in family life skills. Differences in social background creating different issues for divorcees.

Quality of life of divorcee was mostly depends upon the economic condition and support they received from family members. Standard of living was mostly depend upon economic condition of divorcee. Women do not have their own property however men have ownership of home or farming lands. Due to digital advancement all respondents had access to information and the role of family replaced by mobile. Divorce has strong impact on mental health due to higher the emotional involvement higher the mental health issues experienced by women respondents and men as well. Those who are staying with parents and with their support feel safe in that environment. Future opportunities are depend on the responsibilities women are shouldering in their family. Women are not aware properly about their rights it is operational information given by their lawyer and they have used law as per lawyer guidance. Women are facing lot of challenges after divorce. It is difficult for them to live religious and moral values. Due to stigma attached to divorce and divorcee they never disclosed their status to society.

Children and other family members are facing lot of issues after divorce at different levels. Now society is changing maternal family is proving support to all respondents in spite are their background.

Counselors and lawyers had opinion that they observed how society is changing and different forms of marital issues Preventive and rehabilitative measure need to be taken for the same.

Success or failure of a relationship depends on the amount of personal investment in the relationship in terms of money, intellect, emotions, hard work etc. If the returns are better from the relation, then it sustains. The returns expected are

subjective and depend on the perspectives of an individual. The circumstances might be conflicting but if there is freedom and expectations are fulfilled, then the relation thrives otherwise divorce becomes inevitable. Women mostly think about their maternal family support and their maternal family status before moving to take decision of divorce. Marriage is long term bond people should be careful about it. Love is the ultimate answer to each and every relationship.

**Suggestions :**

According global the context of marriage and law the fundamentals of marriage are classified into three categories: eligibility, consent and formalities. All countries have their own interpretation on the basis of types of marriage.

- **Parents of Married Couple :**

Eligibility : In India, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929,was sought to prevent child marriages by punishing the parents or guardians who arranged them. Still, we came across incidents of child marriages in India. Thus, parents should be very careful about it. Rather than become free from responsibility, need Parents need to understand strengths of marriage institution instead of treating it as away to get rid of their responsibilities. Instead of focusing on education ,income, family status, caste, religion as eligibility of marriage, they need to focus on compatibility(fundamental differences, lifestyle, personality, values, childhood experience, perception towards it, parents relationship, support system)

During socialization process parent should focus on developing ability to have self-opinion and its expression, to take decision and develop hobbies to cope with situation. Creating self- sufficient individual, inculcation of value such as gender quality, non-violence should be the aim of socialization.

- **Consent:**

Due to deep cultural influence, parents were taking initiative in finalising marriage. Should encourage the children to develop capability to take decisions and own the full responsibility of their life decisions like marriage, divorce etc. Marriage should not become an urgent need of any individual:- it should not be finalised by

taking disadvantage of his or her helplessness. Forceful arranged or love marriage always results in ruining the life of involved individuals.

- **Formalities:**

Formality means making marital status confirmed of both parties and announce it to community and society. i.e. actual ceremony of marriages. Couple should be very keen about not to spend so much money on these formalities. They should fulfil all formalities on their own money. Then only this dowry, economic exploitation will decrease. Marriage registration is very crucial, that has to be done by couple only. Parents should help the married couple to grow and evolve in each other's company rather than treating marriage as celebration of an event.

- **Married Couple :**

Time is of essence to develop the bond between husband and wife. Both of them should decide when and how to expand their family.

**Learn Essential Life Skills:** Active listening skills, empathy, problem solving and conflict resolution techniques are important in building and maintaining relationship.

**Use of Emotional Intelligence** : Resist and control negative thoughts and feelings about your spouse and don't let it cloud the positive thoughts, emotions. Do not take your partner for granted and overlook the fine qualities of your partner. One should not focus on qualities that you want in your partner and are missing .

**Use of Aikido Principal of Yielding:** The said principal suggested by Gottman that couple to always keen in making outer circle larger of solvable problems and inner circle smaller of unsolvable problems.

**Repair Attempts:** It helps to prevent negativity from escalating out of control. Couples try to change each other's mind and spend many years for that.

- **Marriage or Family Counsellor:**

The marriage counselling and family intervention techniques could be evolved to reduce marital discard. Even post-divorce counselling on a large scale will help the divorcing and divorced couple to overcome the stress and cope with future situation. High risk adults can be addressed to minimize the trauma. Counselling should be based on what makes marriages succeed rather than what makes them fail.

ART Counsellor needs to be very sensitive to deal with the cases of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Child Counselling*:* It is important to recognise specific needs of children in the divorce process in order to prevent or minimize negative consequences and chain reactions during their subsequent life. The parent who has custody of child should be very objective and sensitive towards child's emotions and feelings.

- **State:**

- Awareness on prevention of child marriages:
- Young adults and their parents need to be educated about the eligibility of marriage institutions, scientific reasons behind eligibility, legal provisions related to it.
- State policy should be directed towards inclusion of family life education at all levels of education.
- Inclusion of Family Life Education in curriculum form secondary to higher education.

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