CHAPTER 6

SOCIAL PROFILES OF WORKING COUPLES:
A STUDY OF SELECTED CASES

In the preceding three chapters emphasis was placed on quantitative precision, while in this chapter the attention is on the qualitative dimension.

Twenty detailed interviews were carried out for better understanding of the relationship between occupation and family. The essence of the discussion in the last three chapters has been the effect of various socio-demographic factors on occupational choice and satisfaction and the effect of occupation on family and the effect of family on occupation.

I felt the need for case studies in order to give some perspectives to the themes and arguments of the preceding chapters. My intention here is to provide a document of life where the interaction between occupation and family can be seen as much as a pattern as a process. I have deeply studied 20 cases which were chosen to represent the wide range of the socio-economic and occupational scale. Among them, 14 cases are discussed in detail here.
CASE NO.1

Chand is an illiterate cobbler, 60 years old. He belongs to the chamar community and hails from Uttar Pradesh state. He migrated to Delhi with his uncle as a young boy after the death of his parents. He had learnt the work of a Cobbler. He regards it as his ancestral occupation. Sundari, his wife, is also illiterate and works as a sweeper in the colony. They had an arranged marriage. They have four daughters and two sons. All the daughters are also illiterates and have been married off. Both the sons have studied up to secondary school. The eldest son works in an electric shop. Both the brothers left studies on their own. Chand wanted them to continue. He has been sitting on the same place for the past fifty years. He has been following a very strict work routine of coming in the morning at 7 a.m. for work. In the afternoon he goes home for lunch which is in the nearby Rameshwar Colony jhuggi. He is back after lunch and rest within an hour. He used to sit at this place under the street light till 9 O'clock in his younger days. Now, he cannot see properly after it is dark. Once it is dusk he goes back home. He has been following this routine always. He says he has never had any serious sickness in

1. Chand and Sundari are illiterates engaged in the same occupation all their life. At all places pseudonyms have been used to conceal the real identity of the respondents.

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his life. "May be some cold etc. but then I have not been off from work completely. Even when I got my daughters married, I used to stop work only for 2-3 days." He did not think of changing his job as he earned sufficient amount considering his education. Work as a labourer that requires lots of physical endurance. One is at the mercy of the employer. Hence he preferred his stable source of income. He maintains no direct contact with his place of origin. He has never been to his village as neither he has any kith and kin nor any land. His wife's relatives are also staying in Delhi. Sundari finishes her morning work of fetching water, cooking, washing etc. and is out to work with Chand in the morning. She returns home about 12 O'clock in the afternoon, cooks and waits for Chand to return home. Both of them have lunch together and after some rest she again begins her evening chores. She is the one who gets ration, vegetables etc. Sometimes her son helps her but only when he feels like. She believes strongly that "house work is the wife's study." She says that her husband has never done any domestic work. Earlier her daughters took care of the household. When she went out to work, they took care of the house and the siblings. Now with advanced age at times she feels tired and wishes somebody could help her.

For marriage of the children they consult their relatives and for other things they take independent decisions on their own. Even though most of the work are
attended by Sundari herself but still Chand has a say in it. She talks about it to Chand before incurring any expenses etc. For purchase of luxury items for the house, children and Sundari always decide as Chand is not interested in such things.

Sundari was completely satisfied with her work, Chand was satisfied to some extent. Both were satisfied only to some extent, in both their family life and children. This is so because the sons have not settled properly. The youngest is without a job. In spite of their best efforts they have not been able to improve their younger son. She further remarked "Today's children are very different, they want everything without hard labour. They consider us fools; because we have worked hard all our lives, who will pay them, without working?"

Both of them think that due to their job there could be no mal-adjustments between the spouses. Even if there was a tension beyond reconciliation between two of them they would live together and try to reconcile. One of the reasons being that at this age they do not want to separate and with a few years to live they do not want to spoil it.

Chand has been living in Model Town since he came to Delhi. Both the husband and wife are religious. They do celebrate the festivals of their community at home, but do not take part in functions organised outside the home. They
do visit their place of worship only on special occasions, offer prayers in their home very often.

They feel that work tensions do come home. At times, when they have some problem at their work place and then on reaching home if anything is wrong, they seem to lose their temper or feel irritated for no specific reason. In case, there is a minor argument in the morning before leaving for work and if one of the bungalow people pinpoint that she should be on time etc., she feels like fighting. But Sundari says she has to control herself. There is no point arguing, when one has to work, one should do it peacefully. Chand does not feel there is any problem in both husband and wife earning, in fact, he feels that as a part of their culture. In their caste, women in the villages also go out to work. Sundari felt some problem when the children were small. She generally had to either leave them with Chand or at home.

At times, she had to take leave without informing her employers. She says that they thought she was just making excuses every second day. Once her daughters had grown up there was no problem.

Chand and Sundari represent the typical lower caste and class family of urban India. They have to toil all their lives to even eat properly. Nevertheless, there is a sense
of satisfaction in them which is lacking in the younger generation.

CASE NO.2

Ramesh is a taxi-driver, 35 years old, staying with his wife and children in the jhuggi clusters in Mayur Vihar on the main road. The slums start after Pocket-I flats touches Trilokpuri. He originally belongs to Trilokpuri, his parents and other relatives are still staying. Devi, his wife, is a 28 year old domestic servant. They have four children, one son and three daughters. Ramesh was fifteen years old, when he ran away from home on being beaten by his father for not studying. He reached Nagpur and there, initially for a few years, he worked in a small road-side restaurant as a helper. There he became friendly with a taxi driver. He started working as his helper. Later he drove taxis on hire. It was in Nagpur that he fell in love with Devi, a Maharashtrian Rajput girl and married her. About seven years back they have shifted to Delhi. He came to Delhi as he wanted to be near his parents and opportunities to earn more also exist here. He has bought a taxi of his own now. He now manages to earn more than Rs.2000 per month. He likes his job and feels satisfied due to the income. Ramesh rarely does any of the activities involving children except

2. Ramesh and Devi are literates. Ramesh has changed jobs and places.
for playing with them and helping them in their hobbies. The son is not good in studies, he has a very mechanical mind and is learning to repair scooters in a garage nearby. He continues his studies with the training. He strongly believes that "house work is the wife's duty." He feels that other people ridicule men who do domestic work. They feel pity for him. Occasionally he happened to participate in some domestic work and when ridiculed he used to feel bad and get upset. He is hesitant in doing domestic work for the fear of being ridiculed. In his opinion domestic work is a woman's job. He gets the provisions, does all major work outside the house. Devi generally gets vegetables, milk and some other work outside the house. Shopping is done by both of them. Purchasing of luxury items is decided by all of them together. He has a T.V., a water filter, press, fan and bulbs in the jhuggi. When I pointed at the water filter, Devi said, "the water here is inhygenic. So we brought this filter from the military canteen. My brother is here, he stays in Dhaula Kuan." When she offered water to drink it was from the filter in a good glass. Ramesh has never visited his wife's place of work; hence he does not know her employer nor her other colleagues. He sometimes finds women passenger to be more fussy than men. Women feel they could be cheated so they are very cautious. He feels completely satisfied with his work and family life. He is worried about his children's future. He wants his son and daughters to study, his son is not good in studies. He
realises the importance of education. As his work involves long erratic hours there could be a maladjustment between spouses. Both of them feel that in case of tension they would first try to solve by mutual discussion. Divorce is the last resort as there is no use in continuing tense relationship. He does not have to give money to his parents regularly, sometimes he gives them at his own will. He is not a very religious man as he offers prayers at home only on occasions and visits the temple once in a while, celebrates major festivals at home. He feels that proper understanding between husband and wife can solve problems. Wife should have a part-time job so that she can devote time for home and children. This view is supported by Devi also.

Devi was only twelve years old when she got married to Ramesh. Initially, her parents were very angry with her because she had married a Punjabi. With time they reconciled. For the past two years her father is staying with her. He works in Delhi only. Basically he is here for her sake. Her husband has been troubling her for the past few years from the time when her younger child was born. In spite of prices roaring, he gives her less money for house-expenses even though he earns good amount. Once or twice he has been violent also. She has been working in four houses as a domestic servant for the past six years. She only faces difficulty in managing children, her father is there to help her. He even does some domestic chores for
her which her husband would not even touch. Her children also help her in household activities. All the children study in the nearby Trilokpuri government school. She is the only maid working in the houses hence he has no problem. Her employers give her leave when the male members are alone at home. She takes her home tensions to her work place. Whenever, there is some problem at home due to which she cannot go for work and if her employers are not co-operative, naturally she feels bad. Devi feels that with such soaring prices unless both the spouses work they cannot manage the household. Women should work so that they do not have to depend on their husbands totally. At the time of the interview there was tension between. On my later visits to the area, after a month, I came to know that Ramesh is staying separately. He has taken a room on the other side of the road and has opened a small garage also. Yet, he gives money to Devi for her household expenses. He normally meets the children on their way back from school but since the day he has left the house he has never come back. Devi feels that it is because of Ramesh's mother who wants that Ramesh should give all his earnings to them. They still have not been able to accept her. Devi is a very religious woman, who prays everyday, she feels that with God's grace one day her good days shall return.
CASE NO. 3

Binny, aged 50 years, is a retired Havaldar from the core of signals of the Indian Army. He was recruited into the army at the age of 14. Before retirement he also worked as an instructor for three years. He retired from the army in 1986. Since then, he has been working as a cook with a foreign diplomat. He has been applying to the Directorate of Resettlement, Defence Headquarters, till today he has not got a positive response. This job also he had seen in the papers at Jabalpur. Both he and his wife are Tamilians but belong to Jabalpur as their families have settled down here. A large number of Tamilians are resident in Jabalpur. His wife, Kalra was not working earlier. She has also started working as a domestic help only after his retirement. They have two daughters and a son. The elder one is a graduate, working as a teacher in Jabalpur. The younger daughter is doing her graduation from Jesus & Mary College in Delhi and the son has just completed his higher secondary in commerce. Binny and Kalra have been able to take advantage of the opportunities they get in the army to educate their children. As she realises the importance of education she wants her son to settle down with either a job in some reputed private company as they feel government jobs are

3. Binny and Kalra are Christians, literates and have changed both job and place.
difficult to get these days. They like their present work it is not strenuous and both of them work together. When one sees the other is overloaded with work they help each other. They have not told their kin back home about the type of work they are doing in Delhi. They have told them that they are working in a factory and are not allowed to have guests at their residence as it is inside the factory. Their elder daughter also helps them economically. The younger two stay with him here and help in all the domestic chores. As the children are grown-up now they do not have to bother much about the children. When they were small sometimes Binny helped Kalra with the activities involving children. Binny is the one who does all the work outside the house. In case Binny cannot do, their son does it, as Kalra rarely does anything outside the house. She is happy maintaining her home and cooking. Kalra strongly believes that "house work is the wife's duty." Binny is of the opinion that whoever has leisure should do it. Both are of the opinion that people look down upon men doing domestic work. They feel very upset and sad. They cannot do anything for fear of society.

Binny had no women colleagues in the army, here both husband and wife work together. Other than them there is a guard, and a lady sweeper. They never had any problem among their colleagues. All of them have their work area distributed properly. In the house, the lady diplomat stays
alone. Kalra keeps her interaction with the other people to only the minimum required courtesy. Binny feels there could be some tension between spouses due to work. In case of some tension, beyond reconciliation they would still like live together. But Kalra is of the view that there can be no tension due to the nature of their work. They are not at all satisfied with their present work. They would like to have something permanent. But they are completely satisfied with their family life and children. For the marriage they consult their relatives but on other problem they solve on their own. They do not have to send money regularly, but they take gifts along with them while visiting parents.

Both of them are devout Christians and go to the church every Sunday and take part in the celebration at the church. They offers prayers or read Bible only on special occasions at home.

The other members of their extended family envy them for their cordial relationship between spouses. Even their children are educated and can support themselves. Both of them feel that there should be no problem with employed couple provided minor adjustments are made. They should treat each other with some human consideration i.e. any person can feel tired at times due to overwork and in that case the other person should take it in the right spirit.

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CASE NO.4

Balu, a paper hawker aged 34 years is completed only the eighth standard. He is a Garhwali Rajput who has migrated to Delhi. He is the youngest child of his parents. He has two elder brothers. Devika, his wife is also a Garhwali, matriculate. They had an arranged marriage. They have two daughters, later they were blessed with a son. Balu has been working for the past 16 years. Initially he came to Delhi with his paternal uncle and started working in a foam factory. He soon realised there was no scope for future growth. He started dropping newspaper in the morning, before going to factory. He used to earn an additional amount of Rs.30 per month. Then he started picking up the paper himself and dropping it. Today he is the sole hawker in Model Town. He manages to have a turnover of Rupees two lakh per year. His wife was also working before marriage in a factory. After marriage he set up a telephone booth later they arranged for two more phones. Now they have both ISD/STD facilities, in addition to fax. In the front portion of the house they have the booth. It is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is easy for Devika to manage both home and work. During leisure Balu helps Devika. From their earnings they have bought this one room set house in Model Town III. He likes his job due to the nature of work and income. He is

4. Balu and Devika both are literate and wife more educated than husband. A typical case of small family enterprise.
his own boss. He does not have to bother about the bickerings of the employer. He devotes at times more than 12 hours to work. He has to reach latest by 4 O'clock in the morning to the depot to collect his newspaper, he distributes them and his back home by 9 - 9.30 a.m.. After sometime, he attends to work like paying bills, collecting bills etc. After completing his work he manages the booth. Both his daughters go to school at present. In the afternoon they come back and sleep. When he is at home he does all the activities related to the children. Whereas Devika feels he does it only sometimes not regularly. He rarely gets grocery items vegetables but always pays the bills and goes for major shopping. Devika manages to get ration and vegetables. Rarely she goes to pay the bills. For some major shopping both of them go together. Whoever finds time manages to do the miscellaneous work outside the house. Purchase of luxury items are decided by both by mutual consent. They have bought a small black & white T.V., otherwise they try to spend the money in expansion of various facilities at the booth. Balu have no fixed notion that "housework is the wife's duty". Whenever children are sick both look after them. He interacts with women as both clients and executives of various newspaper. He has not faced interacting with people of opposite sex. His wife has no colleagues. She has to deal with clients. Devika is sometimes uncomfortable with hooligans or known bad characters. Balu does not feel there could any tension
due to his work. In case of tension between spouses reconciliation is possible, otherwise he would rather separate and live peacefully. In sharp contrast to Balu, Devika would never try to talk about it and live together. They are completely satisfied with their work and family life and to some extent satisfied with future of their children.

As their parents are alive, marriage is decided in consultation with them. Except in case of buying and selling of property Balu decides. The rest is decided by both of them. Balu still sends money to his parents. His parents have land in the village. They are farmers. Devika does not send any money to her parents. His elder brothers are also staying nearby, in the same colony. Devika keeps all the money and informs Balu about the expenses. Both are religious, they go to the temple once a week. Balu takes part in religious celebrations in the temple. Only on special occasions he offers prayer at home.

The elders in their family feel happy about their job, family and household. The main problem is of domestic work and children. They feel that the children are neglected. Devika feels especially when they are sick. During the sickness of children, in case Balu has to go out the booth has to be closed. There is no earning on that particular day.
CASE NO. 5

Puru and Silvia are Keralite Christians living in government accommodation in Vasant Vihar. Puru is a personal secretary in a private company, aged 45, is the youngest of his six brothers and sisters. He did his matriculation, learnt typing and shorthand and came to Delhi with his cousins, who were already employed here. Initially for a few months he worked on job-basis as a typist later he joined as a stenographer. Silvia, his wife is 39 years old, and the second child of her parents' eleven children. She has also done her matriculation and after that learnt typing and shorthand. Puru was disinterested in studies so he sought a job whereas Silvia was not good at studies and even after higher secondary she would not have a professional course. Silvia's elder sister was already working as a nurse in Delhi, hence Silvia shifted with her to Delhi. They have two daughters, studying in a convent school. The girls are studying properly.

Puru has learnt computers and is waiting for a chance to change to a job with better opportunity. He is in a private job, and always on the look out for greener pastures. His wife who is a stenographer with the Central

5. Puru and Silivia are a typical case of working couples with one of them engaged in government service.
Bureau of Investigations (CBI), has passed her departmental exams for promotion. For both of them income is the reason for job-satisfaction. They have fixed working hours. Puru is entitled to overtime. When the children were small they used to be dropped at the creche. Now they go the school. After returning from school they stay at home with a relative. At present, Puru's niece is staying with them. She works in the nearby Modern Bazar. She comes to have lunch every afternoon with the children, after that she locks them up from outside. When Silvia returns at 6 in the evening she opens the lock and allow children to go out to play. During illness whoever can stay at home to look after the children, Puru always helps the children in their studies. In the other activities, he is rarely involved. Silvia does not help them in their home work. She takes care of remaining work. Puru rarely feels that the children are neglected due to their job. Silvia has reverse opinion. Her children also help in her domestic work as her elder daughter is able to cook now. Both of them disbelieve that "housework is a wife's duty". Relatives staying with them do help in the domestic work. Silvia has no problem in asking her husband to share some domestic work. Both of them feel that men doing domestic work is no problem, nobody need ridicules or comments about it. Puru does all the shopping of the household, while Silvia does it rarely. Only for some major shopping the two of them go together. Luxury items are brought with mutual consent. They do interact with
colleagues of opposite sex. Visit their house also in case of certain celebrations etc. Silvia is staying in her official colony hence they are neighbours also. They maintain a cordial relationship with them. Puru claims that he does not carry his work tensions home or home tensions to work. Silvia is unable to keep them apart. They feel that due to the nature of their work there would be no maladjustment between spouses. In case of tension beyond reconciliation between the spouses Silvia would never talk about it as she feels the situation would not improve. Whereas, Puru would try to reconcile separation is the only solution as it is of no use to live under tension. Both of them are satisfied with their work and family lives. In case of marriage and buying and selling of property both of them consult their elders and relatives but in other things they decide on their own. Silvia does not have to help her parents, but yes they economically help Puru's parents when required. Silvia keeps some amount of money for her pocket expenses and gives the rest to Puru. He incurs all the expenses. Both of them are religious and in addition to offering prayers or reading religious scriptures everyday at home, they go to church every Sunday. They do take part in religious celebrations organised at the church. Puru even attends the Kerala association meetings regularly.

They face problem as dual-earner couples with children. They have no time to go out and play. Due to various types
of crime on the rise they have to lock them up inside. Both of them are too tired to listen to the stories or things that the children want to share with them.

CASE NO.6

Vijay and Padma are Brahmins from Manglore in Karnataka state. Vijay, aged 45 years works as a manager in the Syndicate Bank of India. His wife, Padma works as a stenographer with the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI). Vijay is a graduate from Manglore. After graduation he appeared for an exam and was selected as a probationary officer. Later through promotions has become a manager now. Padma after her higher secondary learnt typing and appeared for the examinations. She was appointed as a Lower Division Clerk in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Through departmental examination she has become a stenographer. Vijay is the eldest among five siblings and Padma is the second among four siblings. They have two sons, eldest goes to school and the younger one is only two years old.

Vijay experiences job-satisfaction due to the nature of work whereas Padma is happy with the income. Both of them have government jobs and Vijay's job is transferable. For three and half years Vijay was in Jaipur while Padma was

6. Vijay and Padma are working, middle-aged couple engaged in different transferable jobs.
staying in Delhi with her sons. Vijay used to come to Delhi every weekend. Managing everything alone was difficult for Padma. In addition, maintaining two separate establishments also means more expenditure. Both of them have fixed working hours.

Generally Padma takes care of the children. During his stay in Delhi Vijay helps her to a great extent. He generally takes charge of the children to enable Padma to attend to household chores and take rest. Vijay feels children do not get neglected, while Padma feels they demand attention. The children are too small to help her in anyway. Both believes that "house work is the wife's duty". Nobody minds these days if the husband doing domestic work. People tend to appreciate it. Especially in their colony with most of the couples being dual-earner it is socially accepted. Vijay generally does all the household work outside the house, Padma does it very rarely. Only for some major shopping do they go out together. For purchasing luxury items both of them discuss about it, final decision rests with Vijay. They interact with colleagues of opposite sex but mostly on the professional level.

They visit their colleagues on social occasions. Vijay has professional problems with his junior women staff who he feels are not serious about their job. Both of them feel that due to their jobs there could be tension between
spouses. Tension beyond reconciliation leads to divorce and separation. They are completely satisfied with their family life whereas job satisfaction is only to a certain extent.

About marriage and property they consult their parents and relatives. Otherwise for remaining problem mutual decision is taken. Padma does all the expenses. Both of them earn. They do offer prayers every day, in their home, visit temple once a month or so. They are not active in celebrations outside the house. At times they do attend their community meetings also.

Their relatives and elders feel that it is good that they are earning. The only thing that they find problematic is working in two different departments. Working in the same department would have helped her have transfers to the same place. His wife has to manage everything. Sometimes their parents stay for brief period. They are not of much help to them.

CASE NO.7

Ashok owns a ration shop in Model Town, aged 43 years is the only child of his parents. Parents, are active, and stay with him. His wife Alka is the third child of her parents, she has three sisters and two brothers. Her parents are also staying in Delhi

7. Ashok and Alka.
in Arjun Nagar. Ashok and Alka have one son and one daughter. They belong to the Baniya (Vaishya) caste. Traditionally also they were engaged in trading and most of them still continue to do so. Ashok is only higher secondary pass, where Alka has done her post-graduation and B.Ed. Ashok generally invests in shares etc. whereas Alka buys UTS, NSC etc. They have been married for 15 years now. Alka was working before her marriage also. She took up a job because all the marriage proposals preference was for a working girl. As she done her post-graduation and B.Ed. In teaching, she feels she will be able to serve the society; in addition it is a good career for ladies. All that the society has given her she will not be able to repay back everything, at least some part of it. After joining her job, she has not made any effort for occupational mobility, as it is time-bound and no other qualification is required for further promotions.

Unlike Alka, Ashok started working with his father by the time he had done his matriculation, even before that as a boy of ten twelve he used to go and help his father in the shop. By the time he did his higher secondary he started looking after the shop completely. Actually his father had fallen ill and there was no other person to help. Even after the illness, his father could not recover completely. Although he had planned to do graduation through correspondence that could not complete. Now, he feels he did not make a serious attempt to continue his education.
From the ration shop only he manages good earnings. His father sold only rations, a few years back Ashok even started business of whole-sale food-grains and supplies it to the retailers of the area. No extra manpower is required for the job as people come and pick up from his shop. At times when there is an extra work load especially in first week of the month or when things have to be counter-checked, his father helps him. He feels job satisfaction due to the income in his business without much of risk and investment. He devotes about 8-12 hours per day for work whereas his wife has to devote fewer than 8 hours. As children are grown-up now she goes almost with them and comes back also together. Their mother is there at home to look after the children. Ashok, except for playing with them or helping in their hobbies, rarely does any other activity related to the children. It is Alka who manages everything. Only when the children are seriously ill does Alka have to take a day off from work otherwise her mother-in-law looks after them. Ashok strongly believes that "Housework is the wife's duty" Alka only partly believes in the statement. They have a male servant to do the job outside the house and a part-time maid who does the cleaning, washing etc. Her mother-in-law does not approve of men doing domestic work. Alka feels that nobody ridicules men doing domestic work, it is just psychological whereas Ashok feels that people do make fun of husbands doing domestic work. All the work outside the house is always done by Ashok. Only, for some major shopping Alka
goes out sometimes. For purchasing of luxury items decision rests with her husband and father-in-law. Ashok has no female colleagues only female clients who come to take ration. He does not have any problem. Most of them are his customers for years now. Alka interacts with colleagues of opposite sex only at the school level. She never had any problem with them. She along with Ashok visit her colleagues on social occasions. Ashok feels he cannot separate the two spheres work and family. He carries back work tensions to home. Alka claims that she separates the two spheres. She does not let one effect the other. She says that the moment she walks out of the house she forgets what happens there. Both of them feel that due to the nature of their work there could be tension. They differ in their view on in case there is a tension between the spouses beyond reconciliation. Ashok feels he would go for divorce as the last option. In contrast, Alka feels she would stay together for the sake of her children. Both of them are completely satisfied with their work, family life and growth of children. Alka seems to be not satisfied in case of children. The major decisions in the family are taken by Ashok’s parents even though everybody is consulted. Only in regard to education of children and holidays both of them plan on their own. They do not have to send money to anybody. Alka keeps all her income with her and is not obliged to tell his parents. Ashok also is not obliged to tell his parents. They have been living in Model Town and most of Ashok’s paternal uncle
and their sons are in the neighbourhood. They maintain strong filial ties with them. Both of them are religious. Alka goes to the temple once a week and offers prayer everyday at home. Ashok also offers prayers at home, goes to the temple once a month. Both of them do not take part in religious celebrations outside the home, not any community association meetings etc. Ashok's parents attend them. Ashok's parents are happy and satisfied that he is continuing their job. They also feel happy that his wife is employed due to which he can have a constant source of income. Both of them do not feel any problem due to dual-earner couples. For Alka it is a good change she has secured from the drudgery of household work. She feels that she is able to cope with both the things as her in-laws are at home. They were of great help especially when children were small.

CASE NO.8

Shyam, aged 50 years is a Kayastha from Nainital district in Uttar Pradesh. He is working as a teacher of Biology in a Delhi administration school. He had done his M.Sc. and B.Ed. before shifting to Delhi. His wife, Asha is a M.Sc. in Chemistry and is working as a Post Graduate Teacher in

8. Shyam and Alka are a case of middle-income group couple engaged in the same occupation.
Kendriya Vidyalaya. Both of them belong to Uttar Pradesh. Most of their relatives and parents are still staying in Uttar Pradesh. Initially Asha worked in The Geological Survey of India, later on she shifted to Central Drug Research Institute at Lucknow. Subsequently she worked as a lecturer in a college at Kanpur. After marriage she resigned the job to join her husband who was in Delhi. After a break of five years, she again joined Kendriya Vidyalaya as a PGT. She sought employment before marriage as she had to support her family; besides she was keen on taking up a job. She likes her job because it gives her a sense of satisfaction that she is doing something fruitful. After joining Kendriya Vidyalaya, she does not have to acquire any further degree for her promotions. It is the nature of work due to which she experiences job satisfaction. Shyam did not have specific reason for choosing teaching as his career a it was by chance that he got this job. He feels teaching is a job of intellectuals. Thus nature of work is the reason of job satisfaction. He has not made any effort for occupational mobility as in his job once a person is a PGT there is no further promotion in scale. Promotion to the principal post is by experience. Both of them devote fewer 8 hours to their work. When the children were small they had a maid-servant to look after them. Now as they are grown-up, and go to school. By the time they return Asha is back. Shyam's school is in the afternoon shift. He goes at about 11.30 a.m. and is back by
6 p.m. Initially in Delhi he used to give tuitions only. Later, he got his present job. Shyam is of the view that among the working couples one should have a full time job and the other should have a part time job. Asha says that in case part time jobs also pay sufficiently then she would not mind doing private jobs. When the children were small or even now, it is Asha who always does everything for them occasionally Shyam also helps. Both of them feel that children's education is due to their jobs. During the exam time they cannot stay at home in order to help their children. The children also help them in the domestic chores. Both of them neither believe or disbelieve that "Housework is the wife's duty". They have a servant who does the washing, cleaning etc. If Asha has any problem in doing domestic work she takes the help of her husband. Both of them feel that nobody ridicules men, if they do domestic work. The couple are staying alone. In that case, husband has to help his wife. Except getting vegetables, the other household related work outside the house is always done by Shyam, whereas Asha gets the vegetables always. For some major shopping both of them go out together. As such they have got all modern gadgets in their house. In case some luxury item has to be purchased, they decide about it on consultation with the children, as children are grown-up and aware of latest technology. In case of children's illness either of them stay at home. They interact with their colleagues of the opposite sex at the place of work. Both of
them have no problems with their colleagues. Shyam feels that women are very lethargic and always offer excuses for not doing a particular work. Some of Shyam's colleagues are their family friends. They even visit Asha's colleagues on some social occasions. Both of them feel that there could be no tension due to their job. In case there is a tension, Shyam would keep silent about it. He does not wish to increase the bitterness whereas Asha would decide depending on situation. They were completely satisfied with their work and family life. They do not seem to be happy with the children's education. They felt their children were not paying enough attention to education. Shyam was of opinion that on all matters including marriage, property etc. both husband and wife decided about it, whereas Asha felt that they should consult their relatives. With regard to marriage they do not have to send money to their parents or siblings of course, they maintain close ties with them. Neither of them has to give his complete income or expenses account to the other, however money is contributed by each to meet the household expenses. Asha is religious she does prayer everyday at home go to the temple once in three months they rarely participates in celebrations outside their home. They sometimes attend meetings organised by their community. Shyam never goes to the temple nor takes part in religious celebration outside the home, and offers prayers everyday at home.

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Initially they were staying in Delhi on rent in Malviya Nagar. Now they have bought a Middle Income Group flat in Mayur Vihar. Their elders feel happy and satisfied as both of them have a respectable government jobs and are earning enough to run the family properly. There is no problem as dual-career couples. Earlier Asha was not working, as the children needed her personal care.

CASE NO.9

Ravi, aged 44 is a senior Scientist with the National Physical laboratory at New Delhi. He had done his doctorate in Physics and Post Graduation in both Physics and Chemistry. He belongs to the jat community. His parents are farmers in Narela village of Delhi. He is the eldest among their five children. His wife, Sudesh aged 41, is a Post Graduate teacher in a government school. Presently she is doing a specialised course of language teaching. She has also done her Post Graduation in Hindi and M.Ed. Sudesh is the only daughter of her parents and has three brothers. She belongs to Bawana village of Delhi. Ravi and Sudesh have three children, two daughters and a son. Their elder daughter is student of Medicine in Russia, son is also

9. Ravi and Sudesh are a typical example of couple who were married early and continued their education with the family support.
planning to do engineering from Russia. The youngest daughter is in the eleventh class.

Sudesh's father was a Subedar Major in the Indian Army. He always wanted his daughter to be educated. Her parents also own land and ancestral property in Bawana. She did her matriculation from the village school where there was no provision to continue her education in science. She was very fond of science. She shifted to Arts as that was the only course available in the school. Later with the efforts of her father, Science courses were also introduced. While both were studying only they got married. After their marriage Ravi gave his final graduation exam. He was staying in the hostel, and used to come home only on weekends. Sudesh used to help her in-laws in agricultural activities and the free time she utilized for studying. Sometimes at night she would study with the help of a candle. During her exam time only if she was breast-feeding a child, she would keep that child with her or else she would send them to her mother's house. Still Ravi was doing his Ph.D. only when she got her job. For a few months she used to commute from Narela as she was expecting her younger child. Finally she took a house on rent and stayed in Delhi and went to Narela on weekends. Later Ravi got a flat from NPL where they stay. Still they continue with the practice of going to Narela on weekends at least for few hours.
Both of them sought employment after marriage as they were married early and had not completed their education. Both of them have made efforts for occupational mobility, without breaks in their career. Ravi while doing his post graduation decided that he would take up research as a career as he had interest in research and found it to be challenging. Sudesh decided about teaching after her pre-university. She enjoyed teaching and she believes that it is a form of social service. Ravi had not foreseen any problem when both are employed, Sudesh was aware of the problems as she was bringing up the children also along with her studies. Ravi devotes about 8 hours to his work at times more while Sudesh devotes fewer than 8 hours to her work. Children accompany Sudesh to school and she returns home before them. Sometimes when Ravi was at home he helped her in looking after the children when they were young. He always took care of children studies, Sudesh did everything. Now that the children are grown-up they help her in domestic work. The younger daughter helps with cooking also. Both of them believe that "Housework is the wife's duty." They have a maid who does the washing, cleaning etc. In case of crisis Ravi helps in domestic work. Both of them are of the view that nobody ridicules or comments when men do domestic work. Generally both of them go out on Friday evenings or Saturday morning and get the grocery items and vegetables and also attend to other miscellaneous work outside the home. Even
for some major shopping both of them go out together. In case some luxury items are to be bought the whole family decides about it. The children are more influential because they are interested most in it. Bills are paid through cheques, in case it has to be deposited, Ravi does it, rarely it is done by Sudesh. In case one of the children falls sick it is always Sudesh who takes leave and stays at home.

Sudesh has no male colleague in her school as it is a girls' school. Ravi has no problem with colleagues of opposite sex. They stay in Ravi's official colony hence his colleagues are their neighbours. They do interact with them. Some of Sudesh's colleagues also stay in the same colony and whose husbands are Ravi's colleagues. They visit them often and have very close interaction. The others also they do visit them on social occasions. They manage to keep both the work sphere and family separate. Sudesh concentrates on only one thing at a time. In case there is tension between spouses beyond reconciliation Sudesh prefers not to talk about it because it would unnecessarily increase the tension, whereas Ravi says he would live together for the sake of children. Both of them are completely satisfied with their work and family life and the mental and physical growth of their children. Except in matters of marriage and property which is decided in consultation with relatives in other matters, the husband and wife decide mutually.
They give a fixed amount of money every month to Ravi's parents. Ravi brings home a certain amount for household expenses. Sudesh's salary is a form of saving which is used in emergency or for some better purpose. They do not have to give their detailed expenditure to anybody. As both of them are deeply religious, they offer prayers everyday at home and go once a week on Tuesdays to the temple they do not take part in celebrations outside or in community association.

Their elders feel proud about their job, as both of them are well educated in their age group. Now people are becoming aware of education and educating their children. They feel happy seeing both of them live happily. Children are studying, they too enjoy going to the village. They do not see any problem as both are career-oriented. It is a great help for Sudesh to have both her in-laws and parents nearby who could come assist her in the hours of need.

CASE NO. 10

Raja and Molly are Nairs from Kerala. Both their parents live in Kerala. Raja, aged 42 is an engineer and has changed jobs and now is working with the Indian Oil Corporation as a senior manager.

10. Raja and Milly are professional couples while both of them engaged in different professions.
He started his career with J&K Synthetics later on shifted to Delhi Cloth Mills at Hyderabad and finally Indian Oil Corporation at Delhi. Molly who is a doctor has been shifting places along with her husband, finally she has settled down in Delhi. They possess a High Income Group flat in Mayur Vihar. She has set up her clinic in her house. For a few years she used to work in other private clinics. They have two sons who are studying in one of the reputed public schools of Delhi. Both of them have to devote more than 8 hours to their work. They have a male servant and an maid-servant to do all the domestic work.

Both of them were working before they got married. Raja decided about this particular occupation while he was doing his engineering as he had a technical qualification. He has changed jobs in order to achieve occupational mobility, but he has never faced any problem in his career. He likes to continue with his work as it is a well-paid job and perks are also good. Molly's chose her occupation as a doctor because her father always wanted her to be a doctor. By the time she reached her matriculation she too was interested in doing medicine. She has made efforts for occupational mobility and in spite of her husband's job being transferable she never had a problem in her career. She likes to continue with her work as it is a service to society. Both of them like their work due to its nature. They were aware of the problems of dual-career couples as in their family every couple is dual-career. When the children
were small they used to stay with a maid-servant at home, once grown-up they go to school. When the children were small, most of their basic activities was always done by Molly, sometimes by Raja. It is their studies that Raja always took care of. Because during their study-time she is generally in the clinic. Whoever is at home helps them in their hobbies or used to play with them. The children are big enough to take care of their belongings and also procure little items from the market. Both of them have no preconceived notion about housework. In addition to that they feel nobody ridicules or comments if men do domestic work. Otherwise also Raja has no hesitation in doing domestic work. Generally they get the monthly grocery once and store it to avoid problem. Whoever finds time does it, generally both of them go out together. For paying bills it is always Raja who arranges for somebody to go and deposit them. The servants attend to the miscellaneous work outside the home in which direct supervision is not required. Sometimes they themselves do it. In case some luxury items are to be brought both of them along with the children discuss and decide.

Raja does interact with colleagues of opposite sex which is mostly confined to the official level. He has problems with some of his women junior staff who he feels are not serious about their job. Occasionally he interacts with colleagues of his spouse. He does not carry work tensions home or tensions of home to work. He claims that while leaving home he leaves the problem of home at home
same is the case with office problems. Molly too interact with members of opposite sex. She never has any problem with her compounder, but with some patients.

Once a drunken man came to her and wanted to be examined by her. On examination, she found he was normal which he was not ready to accept. At that same time there was an emergency case which he would not allow her to attend to. He was creating nuisance with the result crowd had gathered to see what was happening. Finally, one of his relatives came and took him away. After this incident, she keeps her gates closed and entry is by permission, Entry is regulated by one of her staff. Unlike Raja, Molly is not able to separate the tensions of the two spheres. They affect each other. Both of them feel that due to their jobs there could be no maladjustment between them. In case of tension beyond reconciliation between spouses Molly would still live together, separation for Raja is the last option. They are completely satisfied with their work, family life and the physical and mental growth of children. Decision in all matters is finalised by the husband and wife. For marriage relatives are consulted. They have bought a plot in Noida and constructed a house. They just bought it and later they informed their parents. They do send some money to their parents. Molly's brother is sill studying medicine so she sends him some money at times. The household expenses are shared by both. They do not have to give their complete
income or expenditure to each other or anybody else. Raja's parents live in Kerala and are landlords whereas Molly's parents were in the service. Raja shifted to Delhi as better job opportunities are available here. Both of them offer prayers everyday at home visit their place of worship only occasionally and do not take part in celebrations outside the home. Only Raja attends the meeting of the Kerala association. Their elders feel proud that they are successful in their respective professions, and are managing the household and children properly. Raja faces no problem as dual-career couples Molly has to restart her practice everywhere fresh. Professionally adjustment took time otherwise there is no serious problem.

CASE NO.11

Sudhir, aged 53 years is a doctor. He did his specialisation from London and later went to Libya for five years. Sudhir is a Kayastha from Bihar. He is the second child of his parents who had two sons and one daughter. His father was the Principal of Patna Science College, one of the premier institution of Patna University, and later became Vice Chancellor of that university. He maintains close ties with his siblings and parents. Somaya, his wife aged 49 is the third daughter of her parents among only four sisters. Her father was posted

11. Sudhir and Semaye are example of a couple where the wife has made compromises for her husband's career advancement.
in various high positions in Delhi like Director, CSIRL, Hindi Directorate etc. Even though her mother was a housewife she wanted all her daughters to be well-educated and have a career of their own. Somaya holds a Post Graduation and M. Lit. degrees and is a lecturer, in Kalindi College of Delhi University. They have 2 sons aged 15 and 12 years. Somaya had children late as her husband had gone to London after marriage to complete his studies. She stayed back in India during that period. Both of them were employed before marriage. Sudhir had to acquire few years of experience for further studies and for better placement. Since childhood he wanted to become a doctor as meritorious students were joining medicine course. Medicine was the most sought after profession of that time. He has made efforts for occupational mobility. On his return from Libya he spent a few months with his family and then worked out various intricacies of setting up a clinic. He likes to continue his work because apart from acquiring money and prestige he is serving the people. He has started a private clinic and he feels satisfied due to the income; nature of work is the second in priority for the reasons for satisfaction. He devotes more than 8 hours to his work. He feels that when both the spouses are working one of them should have a part-time job especially the wife. As she was already qualified enough to take up a job her father wanted her to work. She enjoys teaching hence she likes to continue with her work. She has made no special
effort for occupational mobility like doing a Ph.D. etc. As her husband was away she had to look after the children all alone and managing dual responsibility was a difficult job for her. Otherwise she participates actively in college activities like admissions, invigilations etc. She has been promoted to the reader's grade. Somaya was aware of the problems of dual-career couples even before marriage. She knew she would have to face problems regarding the family the birth of children and their upbringing. She devotes about 8 hours to work. When the children were small they had a maid servant to look after them. One of the parents also stayed at home at times. Somaya feels that both of them together took care of the children. Sudhir's view is that he only did things for the children when they were small. Somaya does feel sometimes that the children get neglected due to her job she feels that the children always like their mother to be at home. The children do help in the domestic work by doing little things in the house or going to market etc. Sudhir neither believes nor disbelieves that "Housework is the wife's duty" whereas he feels nobody ridicules if men do domestic work. Somaya strongly felt that "Housework is the wife's duty." Men can do domestic work is a surprise for some. They have a servant to help Somaya in domestic work. He does most shopping for grocery items, vegetables etc. Both of them go for major shopping. Purchase of luxury items are decided by both the spouses in consultation with children. Somaya has no male colleagues at
her work place. Both of them interacts with colleagues of each other in social gatherings. Sudhir interacts with colleagues of opposite sex at the professional level; he has problems with some women patients. They do not take the medicine on time or do not act as advised and expect a magical cure by the doctor. Sudhir does not carry the tensions from work place to family and vice versa and there could be tension between spouses due to the nature of his job. Somaya feels that sometimes she carries the work tensions home and there could be no problem due to the nature of her job. In case there is tension between the spouses beyond reconciliation Somaya would live together and sort it out whereas Sudhir would separate as there is no use in continuing. Both of them are completely satisfied with their work and family life. They are not fully satisfied with the physical and mental growth of their children. The final decision in all matters rest with the husband and wife. In case of marriage and buying and selling of property they do consult their relatives. They do not have to send money to their parents or dependents nor do they invest at their place of origin. The resources are pooled to run the household expenses. They are not required to give their detailed expenditure to each other. Both of them are religious of course mode of worship differs. Somaya goes to the temple everyday as it is on her way to the college and she takes active part in some functions organised in the temple. Only on occasions she offers
prayer at home. Whereas Sudhir offers prayer regularly and seldom at home goes to the temple or takes part in celebrations. Both of them do not take part in their community or state associations. The elders of their family are satisfied about their job, family life etc. Sudhir has no problem with both of them working where as Somaya feels there is a problem in regard to children. One has to make certain adjustments for the children.

CASE NO.12

The couple Bipin and Anju are doctors. They were married two years back. Bipin, aged 32 has done his M.B.B.S. from Guwahati and M.D. from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and is employed as a Health Officer with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. He comes from a farmer's family of Assam and Anju is a M.B.B.S., aged 24 and is doing her residentship in Hindu Rao Hospital. Her father is also a doctor in Assam. Both of them belong to the Rajput community. They have no children. Bipin has fixed hours of work but Anju has to work in shifts she does night duty for 15 days in a month. They are staying in the official accommodation which Bipin was allotted. Bipin opted for job to earn money for setting his own clinic. He likes to

12. Bipin and Anju are typical example of a young couple engaged in their professional career.
continue in his work as in a government job as there is security. He never had a break in his career as not made any effort for occupational mobility as the nature of his job is administrative. He gets job satisfaction as he plans for an independent work in future. He has to devote about 8-12 hours to his work. He was aware of the problems of dual-career couples as during his medical college days he had come across a number of such cases in the marriage counseling clinic.

Anju sought employment after marriage as she could complete her internship only after marriage. She wanted to become a doctor since her childhood and her parents helped her achieve it. She had no break in her career nor has she made an effort for occupational mobility. She likes to continue with her work as it fulfills most of her expectations related to her job. She derives job satisfaction from the prestige associated with her job. She has to devote about 8-12 hours to her work. The main problem is the lack of time for family. Bipin has no fixed views about "Housework is the wife's duty" whereas Anju disbelieves in the above statement. They have no servant or relative to help in domestic work responsibilities are shared by both. Bipin feels that people do make fun of men doing domestic work which he just ignores. Anju tries to convince people that as in any other work here also they should co-operate. Normally they try to do the major shopping together otherwise whoever has time does the rest.
of the work. In case of luxury items also both of them discuss about and the final choice is of Bipin. Both of them interact only at the professional level with colleagues of opposite sex without any problems. Bipin has never interacted with Anju's colleague and Anju's role is also limited to being a hostess when his colleagues visit them. Anju tries never to get her work tensions home or home tensions to work place, on the other hand Bipin is not able to keep them apart. He gets his work tensions home especially during excess load of work. Both of them are of the view that there could be tension between spouses due to the nature of their work. In case there is a tension beyond reconciliation Anju would most probably try to live together, whereas Bipin will decide depending on the situation. Regarding holidays etc. decision of Bipin is final. Bipin only sends some money to his parents. Both of them are earning and they spend from their respective salaries for personal expenses and keep some money for household expenses. Both of them do not ask each other for detailed expenses. Anju goes to the temple once in a year and offers prayers at home occasionally. She neither takes part in religious celebration nor her community or state association celebration. Bipin offers prayer everyday at home and goes to the temple once in six months to take part in religious celebrations outside the home and even attends state association meetings during leisure. Bipin informed that elders of the family feel proud about his job and are
happy about their family life, whereas Anju responded their reaction is just satisfactory. Both of them find managing the household as a major problem and also repairing of the house. They are not able to get a full time reliable and economical domestic help.

CASE NO.13

Santosh aged 29 years is the son of a senior police officer and mother is a housewife. He is the eldest of the three children; one brother and one sister. At the time of interview all the siblings were married and settled. He is an engineering graduate and management trainee from Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. After finishing his engineering he worked as a Lecturer in his own college for six months later for a year with Gujarat State Electricity Board. He left that job and joined IIM. His wife Neeru, aged 28 is daughter of an established industrialist parents. She is the eldest of their three daughters. She is an economics graduate and has done her management from Xavier's Labour Research Institute, Jamshedpur. Before her marriage she was helping her parents in their business. They have a daughter about a year old. Santosh took up employment before his marriage as he had finished his basic education and he

13. Santosh and Neeru are example of a couple settled very early in life, ambitious and adventurous.
wanted to be independent. Even after doing his M.B.A. he has changed jobs frequently. He decided about a career in marketing only after engineering as he feels it suits his personality and better prospect in it. He derives job satisfaction from the nature of work. He has to devote 8-12 hours per day to his work. He was unaware of problem they would face as dual career couples.

Neeru was also working before marriage as he had completed her education and was career-oriented. She was unemployed for six months after marriage. She has changed jobs as Finance Executive before setting up her own factory. When she was working in the exports division she realised her potential and decided to set up her own factory. She derives satisfaction from the nature of work and has to devote about 8-12 hours to work. They have a reliable maid servant and a male servant. The maid servant is to looks after the child exclusively and the male servant takes care of the household work. Her parents provided them the services of two servants. Since their child is small bathing etc. is done by the maid servant. In case of child's illness one of the parents with less of work takes leave. They enjoy playing with the child after working hours. Both of them disbelieve that "Housework is the wife's duty" and nobody ridicules men doing domestic work. Most of their household shopping and work is taken care of the male servant. Only for some major shopping do both of them go
together. They go every Sunday morning to the whole sale market and buy vegetables for a week and store them.

Purchase of any luxury items decided by both the spouses. Both of them interest with colleagues of opposite sex at their work place. In fact, Neeru's all workers are men. Santosh has no problem with his colleagues Neeru had some problem with them initially as they would not take her instructions seriously. They maintain close contacts with each other's colleagues. They are completely satisfied with their work and family life.

Santosh tries to keep both the sphere apart whereas Neeru is not able to do so especially when some work at the factory has to be completed at short notice on time and she has to come back home due to her daughter's illness. She feels that there would be no problem between spouses due to her job but Santosh feels it could happen. Both of them would try to live together even in case of tension beyond reconciliation as they believe all solutions can be worked out by talking. They do not have to send anything to their parents or dependents. Both of them get some money for the household expenses and they are not required to give detailed expenditure to each other. Both of them go to the temple once in six months and offer prayers at home on special occasions. They neither take part in religious celebration nor in state associations etc. Their elders
feel proud about their job and happy that they are managing their family. Both feel that the main problem is child-rearing.

CASE NO.14

Ram, aged 35 years, is a Vaishya and whose father was a ration-shop owner in Model Town. They live in a joint family with his three younger brothers. They have their own three-storeyed house. All their close kins are staying in this area only. Kanta, his wife aged 33 is also of the same caste and is from Haryana she also belongs to a business family. She did her M.Phil in Sanskrit before getting married. They have two sons. Ram after his graduation was not interested in studying further and started his own business as he dislikes working under someone. He has not faced unemployment at any time. Lately he has expanded and modernised the factory. His wife Kanta started working only when he incurred a heavy loss in business. They needed some income to even run the household and at that time need for some stable source of income was felt. She worked on leave vacancy initially. Now she is a research associate at the Sanskrit University, has no time for doing Ph.D. Due to the nature of work they derive satisfaction. Kanta devotes

14. Ram and Kanta are example of a couple in whose case the wife had to seek employment a few years after marriage due to economic crisis.
less than 8 hours to her work but Ram takes longer. The children go to school and at home grand parents are there to look after them. He rarely does anything associated with the children and they are Kanta's sole responsibility. Both of them believe that "Housework is the wife's duty". They have servants to help. They feel nobody ridicules men participating in domestic work. Outside work is attended to by Ram and rarely by Kanta. For major shopping they go out together. Luxury items for their use are decided by them only. Ram has no colleagues of opposite sex. Kanta has males working with her and faces no problem. Both of them visit their colleagues on social occasions. Kanta manages to separate work from family, where as Ram carries his work problem home. Due to their work Kanta feels there could be no tension in the family whereas Ram feels on the contrary. They would live together even in case of tension beyond reconciliation. They are completely satisfied with their work, family life and growth of children. Major decisions are taken by their parents. Only for education of children, holidays. do both of them take decision. Everybody is economically independent. However, on occasions they help their parents. Both of them do not ask each other for detailed expenses.

Both of them are religious, offer prayers everyday at home and go once a week to the temple, seldom do they take part in religious celebration at the place of worship. They
do not take part in community associations etc. Ram and Kanta feel they have no problem as they are staying in a joint family and children are being looked after properly.

CONCLUSION:

After a detailed look at the various facets of life of the couple, it reveals that the couples who are old i.e. nearing 60 are more traditional in outlook than the younger couples irrespective of the social class to which they belong. Individuals are engaged in ancestral occupation which means an occupation in which even their father and grandfather engaged in. The older couples did not change their occupation or job frequently, only when the situation demanded like retirement from a previous job. The younger couples change jobs frequently. One of the respondents who was only 28 years old at the time of the interview had changed about four times in seven years, each time with a better salary and position. Most of the respondents had migrated from different other cities of India. Some were from the rural background and others had migrated from urban areas. Very few people were from Delhi itself or from nearby Delhi. In certain cases, individuals stayed in one or two other urban centres before shifting to Delhi.
Education has a bearing on the income and occupational status barring a few cases. In one case the individual being only a higher secondary pass was able to earn Rs.15,000 per month from his business. In certain cases the wives were more educated than their husbands. This had an effect on the family and children. They were able to organize things better and aware about various things and brought up their children independently. Extended type of family was most common, but nuclear family and joint family also existed. In the nuclear family, the couples had a problem of domestic work and bringing up of children, whereas in joint family and extended family, this problem was reduced. As some older member was always there to look after the household and children. In case of no servant to help, men tended to help their wives in domestic work. This androgynous behaviour was common among young, educated men. But most felt ashamed doing domestic work. They were brought up by their parents in such a way that they believed "house work was the wife's duty". In families where the father helped the mother, their was no problem. The problem of men not doing domestic work was more pronounced in the present of a relative or the parents of the men.

Most of them by and large had only two children irrespective of the sex of the child. Everybody was aware about children's education and wanted their children to be well-educated. Even in case where the parents were
illiterates, they wanted especially their sons to be educated. All of them send their children to the best schools that they could afford and spend sometime on their education regularly.

In cases where the husband and wife had transferable jobs, in all the cases except one, the wives kept changing with the husbands. In only one case where the wife too had a government job and could not manage a transfer with the husband, stayed back in Delhi for 3 years till the husband managed his transfer back. Not only that in case of professional wives they had to re-establish their practice at a new place in a new way. The wives placed their career at secondary level to that of their husband for the husband's advancement and family peace. For some of the women staying in joint families felt that going for a job is a good form of recreation for them. There is a change in their moods for a few hours. Except in joint families, where the final authority rests with the male members in all other cases women had gained power to be the decision-maker in most of the cases. In cases where women took up employment on their own will they feel satisfied with their job and are able to manage things. Whereas, in cases where women sought employment due to some compulsions, they feel a burden to carry on with both work and family.