Case Studies
Case No-1

Mrs. B Nayak, 26 a Brahmin, was widowed at the age of 25. Her husband, a driver in the state government service, died of blood cancer. Theirs was a marriage of mutual love without parental approval. They were leading a very happy life with their two small kids, a daughter and a son. The estranged parental family remained indifferent to her problems. On an occasion, she was to go to Cuttack for some official settlement of dues accruing out of the husband’s services in the government. Her uncle-in-law (Brother of father-in-law) accompanied her. They stayed in a hotel, where the uncle-in-law tried to molest her. She came out from the room and left the hotel and came back home alone Sambalpur. At the time of data collection she was a Peon in the Collectorate, Sambalpur and she was staying in her father-in-laws house where she was staying with her husband. Recently the daughter passed matriculation and was married off. The son is in the school.

Case No.2

Mrs. A Nayak is 29 years old. She is brahim and is a mother of 3 children. Her husband was a high school
teacher who died of sunstroke when on election duty. This was 9 years ago when she was only 20 and her youngest child was in the womb. She was staying in her father-in-laws house. Once when she was alone in the house her father-in-law embraced her forcibly. After that she did not want to stay in that house and came back to her parent's house. Afterwards, she tried for a job. She got a peon job in a government girl's high school. Now she stays in the hostel with her children.

Case No.3

Mrs. D. Rath (65), a brahim, married at the age of 11 and was widowed at the age of 23. She had three sons. The death of the husband disturbed her emotionally as well as financially. Her father-in-law sent her to her parental house on the 14th day of the husband's death where she has been staying all these 35 years. Her parental family, however, has been big and poor. Her two sons died largely due to negligence during illness and for want of proper treatment. The third child, a son works as clerk in postal department. She is reconciled to her present state of life and is fairly satisfied.
Case No. 4

Mrs. P. Mishra (66) is a Brahmin and is childless, widowed at the age of 43. They had adopted the son of her husband's elder brother. Her husband died of ascites within 24 hours of the attack of the disease. She has 7 acres of agricultural land and a good house in her village. After the death of her husband, the adopted son ha-rassed her. She was denied proper food and clothing. He used to pick up quarrel on very trifle matters. One day he forced her to take poison. When she did not, she was beaten mercilessly and was driven out of the house. The poor woman now stays in a small cottage near her sister in-law's (husband's sister) house and leads the life of an ascetic (Mataji) and is living on public charity.

Case No. 5

Mrs. R. Tripathy, (80) a brahmin was married at the age of 7 and was widowed at the age of 9. She has no memory of her marriage. After the death of her parents she stayed with her brother's family. She worked there like a drudge - cleaning utensils, washing clothes, sweeping the house, etc., and taking care of the
brother’s children. She was doing all the household chores from morning till evening. But when she became old and unable to do the household work she was forcibly taken out and was dumped in the old age home, where she now lives. Nobody even came to see her since then.

Case No.6

Mrs. R. Panda, 56 is a Brahmin childless widow. Her husband was a farmer whom she lost him at the age of 23. Soon after her brother-in-law sent her to her parent’s house giving Rs.2000/- for her life long maintenance. She stayed many years in her brother’s house. Her brother took her money and her 10 tola gold ornaments and assured her life long support. The sister-in-law however, was not happy with this arrangement. She harassed her. She was not given proper food and clothes. Finally she came to live and work as a cook in the Matha where she now lives.

Case No.7

Mrs. R. Panda, 70 a brahmin widowed at the age of 29. She had 10 acres of agricultural land, 10 tolas gold and 200 tolas silver on the eve of her husband’s death. She had also her own building at Padampur. She is
childless. After the death of her husband, her brother took her to his house, where she was initially treated well. The brother prevailed upon her to transfer her landed property and the building in his favour. No sooner it was done harassment followed. She was finally driven out. She came weeping to Sambalpur to her ‘Guru’s house’. Her guru gave her shelter. She started earning her livelihood by working as a cook with a wage of Rs.20/- per month. When she became old, suffered from arthritis and gastritis, she could no longer work. One Dr. Issan Nayak helped her to be admitted into the old age home where she now lives.

Case No. 8

Mrs. S. Panigrahi is 26 years old. Her husband, a forest contractor, died in a truck accident a year ago. She has a daughter of 3 yrs old. She is literate upto VIII class. She is worried for her and for daughter future. She feels lonely and always feels the absence of her husband. She is dependent upon her old parents. She is employed as a Peon in a women’s college.
Case No. 9

Mrs. P. Mishra 30 a brahmin, a mother of three children, two daughters and a son lost her husband five years ago. She is emotionally disturbed, looks depressed remains unmindful, and says, "I am alive only for my children". She lives in a room in the house of her husband's elder brother. She works as N.M.R. Peon in the Municipal Girls high school (she is literate up to seven class). She gets a salary of nearly Rs.400/- per month which is not sufficient for her family. She supplements her income by making and selling of paper packets.

Case No. 10

Mrs. S. Padhee 88 is from a middle class Brahmin family, widowed for the last 50 years. Her son is a betel leaf whole-saler. Her husband died of cholera. He was a farmer. He had 5 acres of land. She has two sons.

After the death of the husband, her brother-in-law and father-in-law harrassed and ill-treated her. She was denied proper and adequate food and clothings. Even the harrassment had sexual overtones in early years. They even beat her up. She requested for the husband's share. The father-in-law did not agree to divide the
property. At last she was forced to migrate to Sambalpur in search of a job. She worked as cook at the rate of Rs.20/- per month. This was around 40 years back and her elder son discontinued his studies and worked as a sales boy. The younger was helped through his studies. Her son successfully fought for the agricultural share. Her elder son is a bettle wholesaler and the younger one is a senior clerk in the Indol company of Hirakud. Now she is in comfortable.

Case No.11

Mrs. R. Rath (75) is a Brahmin widow. She became widow at the age of 45. Her husband was a priest and an astrologer. She had a son. Who was a student of engineering. After the husband's death with no other source of income - to support the son's studies she had to take up odd jobs like cooking and domestic chores in well-to-do household to complete her sons studies. In the process she had sold her small house and ornaments. When the son was employed as an engineer her joy knew no bounds. But Alas ! after 3 years he suffered from some kidney disease and died. Now the old widow is staying in a rented hut, no body to look after her and spending her time brooding over her fate.
Case No. 12

Mrs. K. P. Pattnaik (50), a Karana became widow at the age of 24. She had two children, a daughter and a son. The children were in their infancy. Her husband was a municipal clerk. Following his death, she was emotionally upset and rendered poorer financially. In following years her financial condition became precarious. Neither her parental, nor her husband's family, there was no body to support her. So she was getting worried for the children. She lived with her widow mother for a year, who herself was not in a position to feed these extra mouths. She began doing odd jobs, like reciting Ramayana, Mahabharata, Laxmi Puran, in rich households, cooking for marriage parties and such other occasions. She worked as a hired labour for making badi (nuggets) and papad in different houses. This way she met the needs of her children and to educate them. The daughter is now a matriculate and the son a graduate. Now she is staying with her son comfortably who is a clerk in the Municipality office. The daughter is already married.
Case No.13

Mrs. S. Mishra is a 50 year old brahmin widowed at the age of 22. Her husband was a post master. He died of tuberculosis. She has three daughters. At the time of her husband death her youngest daughter was 2 months old. In her father-in-law's family no one took care of her and her children. So her father, a doctor took her along with her children to his house. They are 12 brothers and sisters and she was the eldest among daughters. She helped her mother in cooking and child care. She was denied the right over the property of her husband. Her father helped her to get as teacher's job in the Municipal M.E. School for she was denied the right over the property of her husband she stayed for about 35 years with the parents. Now her first daughter is a Doctor, the second a teacher and the third is a lecturer. Timely parental help could save her and ensured the future of her children.

Case No.14

Mrs. S. Mishra, 40 years is a childless brahmin widow, widowed at the age of 15, just after one year of marriage. Her husband was a police constable and was
killed in a road accident. She lives in father-in-law's house where she is made to work like a servant. The provident fund money which she got after the death of her husband was taken away by her father-in-law. Her elder brother brought her to his house. The father-in-law did not give any thing for her maintenance. The brother helped her to be trained as a Dhai. After 2 years training she is now employed in the Head quarters Hospital, Sambalpur.

Case No.15

Smt. S. Kumari Behera (46) a middle aged Brahmin widow. She looks pale and emaciated. Her husband was one of the famous photographers of the town. They had a very comfortable life. The husband died of a liver disease after prolonged and expensive treatment. She has three daughters and a son. Smt. Behera works as a messenger in the Ladies Hostel of the G.M. College at a salary of Rs.100/- per month. Her first daughter, employed as a teacher in a High school, got married on her own. Her second daughter is a handicapped child. Now they are leading a life of poverty, living in a small broken rented house. The third daughter discontinued her study and working as an Ayyâ in a Nurshing Home at a
salary of Rs.200/- per month. She does not get any support either from her husband’s family or her parental family.

Case No.16

Mrs. S. Nayak (35) a Brahmin, was widowed at the age of 29. Their financial condition was sound. Her husband was a forest contractor. He suffered from cirrhosis. He was hospitalised and died after prolonged treatment in which they had to spend all their savings as well as the jewellery. Following the death of her husband she faced the financial constraints and found it very difficult in bringing up her three children. She was denied the benefit of her husband’s parental property. Her elder sister came to help initially. She took up a Peon’s job in a school with a monthly salary of Rs.500/-. which is not sufficient for the maintenance of the family. She couldn’t pay the tuition fees for her three children. So, the elder child a daughter, was forced to discontinue her studies.

Case No.17

Mrs. S. Panda (48) a middle aged brahmin widowed lost her husband two years ago. The husband was a
farmer. They had 5 acres of land. She is a mother of four children, two daughters and two sons. The husband died of tuberculosis after 3 years of suffering and treatment. In the process the family had to sell the land and the ornaments. She is now leading the life of "poverty" working as a maid servant at the rate of Rs.50/- each in two houses. She could not effort to keep her children at their studies. The eldest child, a son is only 14 years old working as helper in Private Bus.

Case No.18

Mrs. B. Dasi is 55 years old. She is a Brahmin childless widow. She belongs a high socio-economic background. She had married at the age of 14. The husband died of cholera only 2 1/2 months after marriage. Immediately after the funeral ceremony, she left her father-in-law's house for ever. Everybody in her family became depressed especially her parents, she being their only daughter. To adjust to her widow diet of strict vegetarian the entire family turned vegetarian. Soon after the death of the parent's, the brothers became indifferent. She then decided to renounce the world. Two years back she took to 'Sanyasa' and joined a Matha as an inmate.
Case No. 19

Mrs. S. Pradhan is 68 years old. A Karana by caste, she is childless. She was married as a child at the age of 10. The marriage was consumated when she was 14. After 4 years her husband, a cultivator died of tuberculosis. Soon after she was harassed by her brother-in-law. They did not give her enough food made her work in the field and at home like a servant. She was also to clean the cow-shed. To save her from these harassments her father took her to his house. The husband’s family denied her due from landed property of her deceased husband. When the father died she was forced to sell her ornaments one after another for her day to day expenses. When that was over she depended on her brother for some time. Now she is Mataji in a Matta.

Case No. 20

Mrs. M. Mata now 80 years old was widowed at the age of 11. A brahmin by caste she was the only daughter of her parents. Her father predeceased her mother. After the death of her mother she became the deciple of Sundermani mata and began leading the life of an ascetic or Mataji. There was none to support her nor she had any
property. So she came to live in the Mata Matha. She has no memory of her marriage or of her bridegroom. She only remembers that one day on returning home from play she heard that Daitari, her husband died. As an inmate of the Math she is dependent on public charity supplemented by a monthly old age pension of Rs.40/-. She spends half of every year at Brundaban.

Case No.21

Mrs. K. Dasi (60), a brahmin, widowed at the age of 29, is now a mataji. Her husband was a head clerk who died of fever. She has a daughter and a son. She has 7 acres of agricultural lands. After the death of her husband, she maintained, educated her children and duly arranged their marriages with the income from the land. Now her daughter is the principal in a college and her son is an executive engineer. Her daughter-in-law is a doctor. When she felt neglected at her son's house and could not adjust with their living style she left home and came to live in the Purnima Matha. Now she is the head of the Matha and leads the life of an ascetic.
Case No. 22

Mrs. S. Panda (58), a brahmin retired U.P. School teacher was widowed at the age of 22. She has two daughters. After the death of her husband she was taken by her parents. Her parents family is educated. Her younger sisters are all graduates. She is the eldest of the sisters. Her educational qualification was only upto V class. Her father helped her to get a job as a teacher in the Municipal U.P. School. She stayed almost 35 years in her parents house and educated her two daughters upto graduation. Then her mother expired and her only brother got married. Soon after the brother's marriage, she faced the adjustment difficulties allegedly because of the 'misbehaviour' of her brothers' wife. Consequently she left her parental house and came to live in a rented house with her daughters. Her daughters are now married and work as teachers. Now she lives alone.

Case No. 23

Mrs. C. Bati (60) is an old rich widow. She is of very simple nature. She is childless. She has 20 acres of irrigated agricultural land. She had adopted her brother-in-law's (Husband's brother) son when her
husband was alive. After her husband's death, the adopted son requested her many times to make a 'will' in his name. She innocently did so. Soon after he started quarrelling with her in trifle matters and forcefully took all her gold ornaments and beat her and finally drove her from the house. Now she lives in her sister's house.

Case No. 24

Mrs. S. Dash (35) is a young brahmin widow. She has four children - two daughters, two sons. Her husband was a business man (grocery). They were leading a happy and comfortable life. Her husband died of blood cancer. She spent seventy thousand rupees within 1 year for treatment but in vain. After the death of the husband she faced financial difficulties. Her brother-in-law (husband's younger brother) helped her to run a grocery shop again. Her fourteen years old son now runs the grocery shop and there is no body to look after her family. The income from the shop is insufficient. The elder daughter and the elder son discontinued their studies. She is very much worried for the future of her children.
Case No.25

Mrs. R. Mohapatra is a widow of 36 years old. She is literate up to primary level. Her husband died of kidney stone. She is staying with her four children in her own house. So she is staying in one room of that house and rest is let out on rent. She gets a rent of Rs.800/- per month from that house. With that amount the family lives on. She has no other source of income. She is in acute financial difficulty. Her husband had a book shop jointly with his elder brother who did not give her husband’s share nor did he help the family. The children are in school. She is worried for their future.

Case No.26

Mrs. D. Pattnaik is a Karana widow of 39 years, literate up to primary level. She was widowed at the age of 35. Her husband, a junior government officer died in a jeep accident, staying in her small mud house with her four children. She gets Rs.130/- per month as widow pension. She has no other sources of income. Initially for a period of a year or two her father supported her. Following his retirement and old age could not continue the help. With the small amount of pension she finds it
extremely difficult to maintain her four children. Her eldest son dropped from the college and joined his late father’s office on daily wage. The eldest daughter also could not study. She is worried for the children.

Case No.27

Mrs. S. Pattnaik (60), a Karan, was widowed at the age of 55. She has 5 acres of agricultural land at her village. Her husband died of cholera. She has two daughters and a son. Soon after the death of her husband, her son and the daughter-in-law ill-treated her. They even did not give her proper food and clothing. They used to quarrel on every trifling matter. One day her son asked her to hand him over all her jewellery. When she denied she was dragged her out of the house and pushed her to the street. She came weeping to Sambalpur from her village to her daughter’s house. She stayed there some days. Now she is serving as a cook in a Doctor’s house for a monthly wage of Rs.150/-, food and shelter.