CHAPTER-V

Case Studies
The case study is an indepth comprehensive study of a person, a social group, an episode, a process, a situation, a programme, a community, an institution or any other social unit.

It is one of the most popular types of social research methods. Its purpose may be understood as the life cycle of the unit under the study or the interaction between factors that explain the present status or the development over a period of time. A case study aims at studying every thing about some thing rather than that some thing about every thing.

Under this chapter, the researcher provides some detailed case studies of Mathammas to bring about their family backgrounds, superstitions, beliefs which are still prevalent and promoting this social evil. Following are the some of the case studies of Mathammas in Chittoor district in the state of Andhra Pradesh:

Case Study – 1

The present case study is about Chengamma, daughter of Patluri Mathaiha which is really heart burning example of Mathamma’s life conditions prevailing in the remote village. She resides at the interior village Panduru of Varadaiah Palem Mandal in Chittoor district. At the age of six months, when her parents suffered from fever, unfortunately, the religious superstitious nature imbided in their mind made their own daughter to change as Mathamma in the name of Goddess Mathamma. When that girl matured, all the men started teasing her and exploited. At the time of grazing the cattle in the forest, each and every male member exploited her physically and she became pregnant. Immediately, she got aborted. After five years, when she
was returning from the labour work from the agricultural fields, when a man by name Maraijah obstructed and asked about her, she replied that she was Mathamma. He expressed his opinion that he was fond of her and willing to marry her. But that poor girl was once again cheated and became a victim. She again became a pregnant and delivered a baby. Then her Parents killed that small child. Then the other man Chintalaiah used her as keep and shared his life with her to whom she became a victim for some more period without marriage. The same old story repeated, she got pregnancy and at that moment she got aborted. Still she continued her physical relationship with so many people in that village and gave birth to two children also. The great aim of infanticides continued by her parents. No body in the village including her relatives preferred to talk to her and treated her as a prostitute. Finally, she loved a person named Mani and decided to marry him. But her parents refused in her opinion. Hence she approached one NGO's by name Mothers Educational Society for Rural and Orphan and Government to make a right justice to her life by providing financial assistance in ending a happy marital life.

The Government has sanctioned Rs.10,000/- and deposited this amount as Fixed Deposit in the nearest bank i.e., Sri Venkateswara Grammena Bank at Varadaiahpalem Mandal headquarters in Chittoor District. Now, she is leading a happy married life.

**Case Study – 2**

The following case study of Patluri Mathamma, belonging to Thunduri Society in Varadaiah Palem Mandal in Chittoor district brings out the superstitions, customs and beliefs which have their impact on the children.
Patturi Mathamma is the daughter of Lakshmaiah, an agricultural labourer. She is thirty years. She was not educated. When she was at the age of one year, she fell ill and was very critical i.e., suffering from motions and vomtings. The parents thought that she might be going to die and vowed her to Mathamma if she recovered. Then she was recovered from illness and she was offered to Goddess Mathamma. Since then, she has been called child Mathamma.

The Government has also deposited a fixed deposit of Rs. 10,000/- in the nearest bank i.e., S.V. Grameena Bank at Varadaiah Palem mandal in Chittoor district.

Case Study – 3

Srilekha born at Akkarampalli village in Tirupati urban Mandal in Chittoor district became Mathamma in her childhood because of her ill health and her parents’ vow. Now she is 32 years. Though everybody in the village teased her, she faced their teasing with patience and prospered in her education in the first year Intermediate course at Sri Padmavathi Junior College, Tirupati. She was compelled to dance in Mathamma Jatara. She overcame the pressure which was put upon her and continued Intermediate Second Year in the same college. This was a bubble of her success because, the elder person of the village succeeded in stopping her education and brought her back to the village. They made every arrangement for her to continue the same dancing occupation. But she raised her voice against the superstitious belief and got succeeded. She married her sister’s husband who was childless and gave birth to a baby and now she is leading a respectable warden life in Mahatma Pooley Vidya Kendram run by RISE, one of the voluntary organizations in Tirupati town in Chittoor District.

The Government has also deposited a fixed deposit of Rs. 10,000/- on her name in the nearest bank i.e., Bank of India at Tirupati
Case Study – 4

Nagamma is one of the two daughters to her Mathamma mother. She has one brother also. She was 18 years old.

Like this the poor families in the rural communities without any means to earn a living such as land or employment, together with illiteracy and superstitious beliefs forced to take the evil profession of Mathamma.

The families which send their girls for this type of profession also found it easy and convenient since the procurers financed the initiation rites in the form of an advance and later the girls with them and took care of the safety of the girls and also sent whatever little money the girls earned, promptly and also regularly. Further the safe return of the girl was also assured since the procurers needed reinforcement every now and then and from these villages and families. This also helped the family later, since after returns a Mathamma became a religious mendicant and again earned for the family.

Case Study - 5

Renuka was one of the daughters of Venkataiah who was herself a ‘Mathamma’. She lived in Varadaiah Palem mandal, Arundhatiwada, in Varadaiah Palem Mandal. Renuka had four brothers and one sister. Of the two daughters of her father, she was the eldest daughter and therefore she was dedicated as a Mathamma. At the time of the field work, she was 12 years old.

Renuka was dedicated as a ‘Mathamma’ at the age of twelfth month as she suffered with infection in ears. The dedication was done at the temple of Mathamma, where an annual fair, popularly called as ‘Jathara’ or ‘Kolupu’ was held.
Case study - 6

The present case study was a good representative to the Mathamma in crossing many obstacles and became a role model. Her name was Parvathi, born at Bailakudambedu Arundhatiwada, in Nagalapuram Madalam in Chittoor district. In the remote village, the people prayed to the God and they sacrificed their female children by converting to Mathammas if they had chicken pox at the childhood. Similarly her parents turned Parvathi as Mathamma at the age of 11 years when she was attacked by chicken pox. Fortunately Shree Sakti Sanghatana, an N.G.O and, Mr. Karikala walawan, joint collector, Chittoor moved forward to avoid the Mathamma system and to uplift their lives. She came out that system and changed the Mathamma name as Parvathi with their helping hands. Afterwards she had given birth to two children and named them as Venkateswarulu and Chammundeswari whose names were different from the Mathamma children. Now she is a member of Shree Sakthi Sanghatana (SSS) and started many welfare activities. She abled to stop the Mathammas dancing at Jatharas. She also provided credit to purchase cattle and housing loans to 65 Mathammas with the co-operation of Shree Sakti Sanghatana. She herself started earning by installing petty shops. Till now, she conducted 25 Mathammas marriages. She was elected as a ward member in Bailakudam, village and she initiated so many activities like road construction, providing electric street lamps, water taps, and bore wells etc. Presently, she was very happy that all the village leaders, elders and officials were receiving her very well and also offering the seat. She received the ‘Indra Ratna award from Indra Ratna trust at Chennai’. One of the findings was that she was rendering her sincere services to eradicate Mathamma system in Chittoor district for eight years, in fact she was Mathamma.
Case study - 7

Venkatamma was changed as Mathamma at the age of three months baby as she got swelling. Her father’s name was Desaiah and mother Subbamma. She had one brother and one sister. She was the only one person turned as Mathamma in her family. At the time of field work, she had 17 years. She joined in 1st standard at the age of 9 years in the school of Mahatma Pooley Vidya Kendram, at Jeevakona, in Tirupati town. When she came to home in summer holidays during 5th class, her parents fixed her marriage with their own nephew. She got married immediately.

Gradually the in-laws and husband started harassing in many forms like not properly doing the cooking work or household work. Also, they sent her for agricultural labour work, and had taken amount from the landlords as she was a hard worker. When her mother came over there, she started weeping and told about her problems. Later the in-laws family obstructed her mother also to visit the daughter. Slowly her mother realised her daughter’s problems and brought her back to home. Now she attempted 7th class exams. She again started her schooling and won prizes not only in the educational field but also in singing. She was also learning tailoring apart from the education. Her desire was to settle as social worker and to stand on her own feet and to look after her family members without doing traditional dancing occupation. She said that she was very thankful to the school of Mahatama Pooley Vidya Kendram. She felt that in future she would like to lead an idealistic life.
Case Study – 8

Lakshmi belongs to Madiga, one of the sub –castes of Scheduled Castes and aged about 27 years. Her parents were Venkataiah and Chiralamma residing at Srikalahasti in Chittoor district. She had two elder sisters and one younger sister. She was the only one person converted as Mathamma in her family as she got swelling in ears at the age of one year. She was supposed to do dancing in Jatara forcibly. All the members in the village teased her terribly, except the family members. The village elders used to take her for Jataras around the surrounding places. She was married to her second elder sister’s husband. Now she received a loan of Rs. 20,000/- for cattle rearing and started earning. Presently she stopped in attending the Jataras as dancer. Currently her health condition is normal and leading a normal life in the village.

Case study-9

Madhavi was changed as Mathamma at the age of three months baby as she got chicken pox. She had father, mother and one brother. She was never sent to the school, but was sent to dancing to earn money. She says that she has to dance for five or six hours in a day. And she says that at the time of dancing, men tease her and call out her to do sexual movements. All the villagers watching about her dancing. She says that even her friends make fun of her.

Case study – 10

Yellamma belongs to a landless ex-untouchable caste family. She has two sisters. When she came of age eight months she became a Mathamma because of her parents’ vow. By her twenty fifth year, she was over-used, became sick person and returned home with Venereal disease. With this what
the little income she earned and brought to the family for family maintenance came to an end. On asking, she was told that everyone teased her and made use of her in life. Now she is a member of Sthree Sakthi Sanghatana standing upon her own legs. Now she is participating in many welfare activities. She received a loan of Rs. 20,000/- from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and started her own petty shop. Now, she is leading independent, comfortable and peaceful life in the village.

Case Study – 11

The following case study of Vimala, belonging to Nagalapuram Mandal in Chittoor district brings out the superstitions, custom and beliefs which have their impact on the children.

Vimala is the daughter of Mani, an agricultural labourer. She is 22 years old. She was studied up to the seventh class. When she was at the age of tenth month baby, she fell ill and became very critical. Her parents thought that she might be going to die and vowed her to Mathamma if she recovered. Since she recovered from illness, she was offered to Goddess Mathamma.

The Government has deposited a fixed deposit of Rs.10,000/- in this nearest Bank. i.e., Sri Venkateswara Grameena Bank at Nagalapuram, in Chittoor District.