Chapter – 2

Literature Survey
While there are several empirical studies on marriage and marriage related topics, empirical studies on inter-caste marriage are a rarity, much more so with regard to comparative studies on inter-caste and intra-caste marriages. An attempt has been made in this chapter to present a few research studies which may or may not be directly related to the research problem under investigation, as follows:

Burgess and Cottrell in their study “The Prediction of Adjustment in Marriage” in the year 1936 found females to score higher on marital adjustment measures than males.

Katz, Gkucksber and Krauss in their study “Need – satisfaction and Edwards PPS in Married Couples” in the year 1960 found total satisfaction to be positively associated with nurturance and succourance among wives and in husbands, affiliation to be negatively related to total I satisfaction.

C.T.Kannan in his study on Inter-caste and Inter-commuunity Marriages in India (1963) interviewed the spouses of 200 inter-caste marriages and 50 inter-religious marriages and concluded that the prospect for inter-caste marriages in India was very bright and that with the passage of time it would receive more and more acceptance from the society.

Albert .L.Gordon of the United States undertook a study on Inter Marriage: Inter-faith, Inter-racial and Inter-ethnic(1964). The study was so comprehensive that the
attitudes of 5407 college students were analysed besides in-depth interviews of selected inter-marriages. It was found out that the college students appeared receptive to all forms of inter-marriages except inter-racial.

Grayson in his study "Personality and Satisfaction with their Relationship by Married and Cohabiting Couples" in the year 1980 found marital satisfaction in men to be positively associated with achievement, dominance and endurance and negatively associated with succourance and in women, high satisfaction was associated with higher scores on nurturance, affiliation, heterosexuality and deference and lower scores on autonomy and aggression.

White in his study "The Relation of Similar and Complementary Needs to Dyadic Adjustment" in the year 1981 found achievement, aggression and nurturance to be significantly related to marital adjustment, the relation with aggression being negative.

Tiny Tommy and Stella in their study "An analysis of verbal communication pattern in high low marital adjustment groups" in the year 1983 have interpreted that poor communication in couples results in low level of marital adjustment.

Weight D., Carlson, Roberts in their study "Definition of Marital Adjustments and Life of situation" in the year 1984 have found that proper communication is important for marital adjustment.

Chaya in his study "Marital Adjustment of Overlearners" in the year 1985, that age significantly effects the level of marital adjustment.
Mohan and Singh in their study "Marital Adjustment as Related to Personality" in the year 1986 could not find any sex differences on marital adjustment.

Rakesh Kumar in his study (1988) on Effect of Education on the views of Scheduled Caste Women on Social Institutions found out that majority (60%) of the subjects were not in favour of inter-caste marriage.

Research done on the well-known "empty-nest" stage in adult life also found significant influence on marital satisfaction. While observing and researching those adults in the launching stages of parenthood, White and Edwards (1990) found that over-all an empty nest, (the absence of children), has a significant positive effect on marital happiness. This happiness was found to be strongest relatively soon after the last child is launched. Also, the degree of enjoyment couples got out of their "post-launch honeymoon phase" was greater if the child most recently launched was in his teenage years, rather than young or even middle adulthood. The strongest and most repeatedly found reason for these trends seems to be the unavoidable existence of parental stress. "Even the best of children of the most conventional parents tend to be a source of strain in the marital relationship," stated White and Edwards. The fact remains that for most parents, the role of parent continues despite living separately from the children, yet the empty nest stage has proved to positively affect marital satisfaction.

Ted Huston and Anita Vangelisti (1991) did a longitudinal study on the relationship between affection, sexual interest, negativity and marital satisfaction. They interviewed 106 couples over the first two years of marriage. They found that the wives'
sexual interest was related to the husband's satisfaction, but that sexual affection as a whole was unrelated to either spouse's marital satisfaction. Huston and Vangelisti try to explain this in a number of ways. They suggest that the importance of sex for marital satisfaction may not surface until after couples have been married for a number of years. Also, sexual interest, being one of three variables examined, was measured using only two means: who initiated sex, and whether the couple had sex. A related problem in this study was the assumption that the frequency of sexual behavior was the key variable to examine. This study shows that the relationship between sex and marital satisfaction is more complex than originally thought. Huston and Vangelisti admit the need for further research using as many ways of measuring sexual interest and activity as possible.

Jyothi Alturi in her study on the Factors Affecting Marital Adjustment (1991) interviewed 72 spouses (36 husbands and 36 wives), by using Purposive Sampling method. Gender difference, Socio-economic status and Need for Achievement and Marital Adjustment were the variables chosen for the study. The main aim of the study was to search the factors influencing marital adjustment. It was found out that there was no significant association between the socio-economic status and marital adjustment; it was also found out that marital adjustment was significantly better observed in those subjects whose need achievement was higher than those whose need achievement was lower.

A study performed by Denise Donnelly (1993) analyzed sex within marriage more specifically. She interviewed 6,029 married people to determine which factors are related to sexually inactive marriages and if sexually inactive marriages are less happy
and satisfying than those with sexual activity. Sexual intercourse was not the only measure of sexual activity because Donnelly feels that couples can still be involved sexually without having intercourse. Donnelly measured nineteen independent variables including: life satisfaction, religious fundamentalism, gender, role, traditionalism, individualism, marital interaction variables, and marital happiness. She found that marital happiness and shared activity are inversely correlated with probability of separation and sexual inactivity. In other words, the lower the marital happiness and shared activity, the greater the chance of sexual inactivity and separation. Sexual inactivity was found to be associated with old age, the presence of small children, poor health, and in males, duration of marriage. Donnelly ends her discussion by saying that sexually inactive marriages are not happy, satisfying marriages. The fact that the couple is not having sex could be an indicator that there are other problems within the marriage. Sexual inactivity may indeed be a good warning sign that something else is wrong.

Patricia Morokoff and Ruth Gillilland (1993), also seeking to answer the question of how sexual activity and satisfaction relate to marital satisfaction, conducted a related cross-sectional study. The relationship between stress, sexual functioning and marital satisfaction was examined. They surveyed 165 men and women, measuring background, medical history, life experiences, life hassles, marital adjustment, and sexual functioning. Morokoff and Gilliland found that marital satisfaction is closely related to several aspects of sexual functioning. Most significantly, sexual satisfaction, perception of spouses sexual satisfaction, and frequency of sexual intercourse are positively correlated with marital satisfaction. However, the greater negative emotional
reactions and dissatisfaction with frequency of intercourse, the less satisfaction with the marriage. Sexual dysfunction was not related to marital satisfaction. This may support Donnelly's idea that couples can be sexually active without having sexual intercourse.

Four types of premarital couples were determined for study by Fowers and Olson (1996), and titled Vitalized, Harmonious, Traditional, and Conflicted. All couples of each type completed a PREPARE inventory 3-4 months prior to their marriage, and again 2-3 years later. The purpose of the PREPARE inventory was to assess and identify strengths and weaknesses related to relationship issues, such as expectations, communication, personality, and conflict resolution tactics. The Vitalized couples had the highest degree of overall marital satisfaction, with strong communication abilities, strong satisfaction concerning affection, sexuality, shared time, finances, and a strong belief in religious importance. Harmonious couples were moderately satisfied with their marriages overall. These individuals shared and related well with each other and each other's family and friends, yet the decline in satisfaction seemed to be caused by their unrealistic view of marriage and child-related issues. Traditional couples had moderate dissatisfaction, although they were the least likely to divorce, and Conflicted couples showed distress and high divorce tendencies. The important influence on marital satisfaction found in this study can be seen through the greater amount of emphasis placed on marital satisfaction by Harmonious couples, than that placed on stability by Traditional couples. Thus communication and relationship satisfaction did result in greater marital satisfaction and did prove to be influenced by premarital views.
In a study on Separation-Individuation from Parents and Marital Adjustment in Newlywed Couples (1996), Wendy Amstutz-Haws, and Brent Mallinckrodt, surveyed 25 heterosexual couples who were 18-30 years old and had been married between 6-13 months on how much they felt they were psychologically detached from their parents and have established themselves as distinct individuals. Each spouse was also asked whether they felt they got along as a couple, whether they were satisfied with the marriage, whether they received enough affection and whether they agreed enough on various issues. It was found out that husbands' lack of independence from both his parents', was the biggest predictor for both spouses not adjusting very well to the new marriage. Both spouses reported higher levels of adjustment and satisfaction in their marriage when the husbands were free from excessive guilt, anxiety, mistrust, responsibility, inhibition, resentment and anger in relation to their mothers. The couples were also better adjusted in their new marriage when the husband possessed a greater ability to manage and direct practical affairs without the help of their fathers. It was also determined that the difference between how men and women separate themselves from their parents and how that affects the marital relationship. Wives' adjustment to marriage seemed to depend on how well the husbands separated from their parents, whereas husbands' adjustment to marriage depended on how well both spouses separated from their parents' influence.

Nancy S. Marioles (1996) of St. Mary's University and five other researchers interviewed 426 married and pre-married couples to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator which measures people's preferences on how they relate to the world. The
authors then compared each type with each spouses' marital satisfaction. A person can have four different types that determine how they deal with the world. One can be either extroverted or introverted. Extroverted people prefer to relate to people in the outer world rather relating to the inner world of ideas which Introverted people prefer. A Sensing person likes to have known facts to make decisions whereas an Intuitive person prefers to look for possibilities and relationships that aren't apparent to make decisions. Thinking types like to base their judgments on interpersonal analysis and logic, and Feeling types like to base their judgments more on personal values. Finally, Judging types like a planned, decided and orderly way of life compared to Perceiving types who like a flexible, spontaneous way of life. The couples were monitored over a seven-year period to determine marital behavior and predictors of satisfaction and divorce. The authors examined how many times each person was married, the length of the marriage, changes of marital status and sources of marital satisfaction and irritation. It was found out that the couples, were most satisfied in their marriage if they both could confide in their mate, share outside interests, calmly discuss and exchange ideas.

Prof.K.P.Pothen in his study titled “A Sociological Study of Inter-religious Marriages in Malwa (M.P)” collected data from 200 spouses (either husband or wife). Following were the major findings of the study : of the spouses studied only one was an illiterate and all the other subjects were Doctors, Engineers, Postgraduates, Graduates in diverse subjects etc.
A great majority (80%) were from upper and middle economic class.

The major contributing factor for inter-religious marriage was Love.

Half of the subjects (50%) reported that their marriages were arranged through civil courts.

An absolute majority (94%) lived in nuclear families.

The average age at marriage for the husbands was found to be 29 years, while it was found to be 24 years for the wives.

A dimensional analysis done on past and present satisfaction, proved that concerning many different domains, current and past relationship satisfaction can predict over-all marital satisfaction. This study done by Plechaty, Couturier, Cote, and Roy, (1996) hypothesized that spouses' personality and living conditions as a couple, namely intimacy and communication, would be the most frequent sources of satisfaction or dissatisfaction accounting for much in the relationship. A preliminary correlation analysis showed that age and the number of children a couple had did significantly correlate with marital satisfaction, yet the two domains of spouses' personality and living issues (including intimacy and communication), were the major influences on marital satisfaction.

Other influences on happiness and satisfaction in marriages were found to be autonomy and relatedness by Rankin-Esquer, Burnett, Baucom, and Epstein (1997). Autonomy refers to spouses' perceptions of the extent to which partners encouraged a
sense of independence and individuality for each other (Rankin-Esquer, 1997). Relatedness, in this study, referred to a spouse’s perceptions of the amount of closeness that their partners provided. The findings of this study did differ for males and females, specifically in that females found relatedness to be important in determining the standards of their relationship, held by themselves and their husbands, and that no relationship was found between male’s views of standards, or their interpretation of their wives’, and relatedness. It was found through this study that autonomy and relatedness were not only significantly positively correlated with each other but also with marital adjustment and satisfaction in both males and females.

A study conducted by Ruth Matthias, James Lubben, Kathryn Atchison, and Stuart Schweitzer (1997) suggests that marriage is a greater predictor of sexual activity than sexual satisfaction. They interviewed 1,216 elderly people to determine the strongest predictors of sexual activity and satisfaction in old age. For women, the greatest predictor of sexual activity in later adulthood, was marital status. Women were more than 24 times likely to report sexual activity if they were married than if they were not, while men were only 1.4 times more likely to report sexual activity if they were married. This may be due to the sexual double standard that this cohort experienced. Men were allowed sex outside of marriage, and women were not. This effect is present in younger generations, but to a lesser degree. The greatest predictors of sexual activity for men are age and education. The greatest predictors of sexual satisfaction for both men and women are being sexually active and in good mental health. If sexual activity is a good predictor of sexual satisfaction, and marriage is a good predictor of sexual
activity (at least for women), then marriage has an indirect impact on women's sexual satisfaction. It would be interesting to conduct a similar study involving younger adults.

It may be noted that empirical literature on the research problem chosen for the present study are not available adequately and hence the researcher embarked upon exploring the research problem.