

© Kamla-Raj 2000

PRINT: ISSN 0972-0073 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6802

Anthropologist, 2(3): 153-159 (2000)

DOI: 10.31901/24566802.2000/02.03.03

Patterns and Process of Conflict with Affines and Consanguines – An Examination of Social Well-being of Rural Widows in Western Tamil Nadu

C. Aruna, T. Chandramohan Reddy and U. R. Kaliappan

Department of Sociology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore 641 046, Tamil Nadu, India

KEYWORDS Family Life. Widowhood. Rural Communities. South India

ABSTRACT The shape and character of family life undergo change or transformation to a large extent through social networks, specifically after traumatic life events like widowhood. Widowhood destabilises normal life in the absence of the core supporter and stability is restored by substitutive networks. Under these circumstances the type of network supportive or disruptive, or loss of network has a vital role in the well-being of widows. Though information pertaining to supportive network and its freight in various dimensions has been well documented in the literature prevalence has been well documented in the literature, prevalence of kin relations and the issue of conflict particularly with available obligatory kin – affinal and consanguineous kin in rural communities remains unexplored. The paper focuses on the patterns and processes of conflict prevailing between rural widow's and their affinal and consanguineous kin. An attempt is also made to identify the importance of finer distinctions in the measures of conflict. The data utilized for the paper is drawn from a larger study on 'Rural Widow's Social Support and Network'. The study was carried out in two rural block of Western Tamil Nadu with multicrop farming. By using purposive sampling technique 307 widows were identified and interviewed with the help of a schedule. Village Administrative Officials and Agriculture Extension workers were the main source of informants for identification.