

Father-in-Law

The lexical variants presented in the note below are arranged according to their frequency of occurrence in the survey data—from most frequent to least frequent.

The following words were noted in different dialects of Marathi for the concepts ‘ego’s husband’s father’ and ‘ego’s wife’s father’:

sasra, sasre, sāsro(s), sasros, sasrebuwa, sāsūr, sog, sāsūrjī, susrajī, susro, susār, susra, sasrā, mama, mamajī, mamajīnu, maw, mao, p^huwajī, yāhi, dālla, hāro, hahāra, haora, hawro, ākkādsasra, etc.

Dhongde (2013: 75) has noted the kinship term *sasra* for this concept. In the SDML survey, the word *sasra* was reported in almost all districts of Maharashtra. Phonetic variations of this word include *sasra, sasre, sāsro(s), sasros, sasrebuwa, sāsūr, sog, sāsūrjī, susrajī, susro, susār, susra, sasrā, etc.*

The customs regarding who can marry whom in a consanguineous marriage vary across southern, central, and northern regions of India. In many of the southern regions, it is a customary practice to get one's father's sister's son/daughter married to the mother's brother's daughter/son. In such cases, the words used to refer to ‘ego’s husband’s father’ and ‘ego’s wife’s father’ provide an insight into different customs of the Indian marriage system. In Karve’s (1953: 165) view, the word *sasra* is derived from the Sanskrit word *śwāśūr*. The SDML survey shows that the word *mama*, which is typically used to refer to ‘ego's mother's brother’, is also used to refer to ‘ego’s husband’s father/ ego’s wife’s father’. Apart from the word *mama*, alternative words such as *mamajī, mamajīnu* were also reported in the present survey. The word *mama* is used to refer to the kin relationship ‘father-in-law’ in Nanded, Latur, Solapur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Palghar, Nashik, Jalgaon and Buldhana districts. The word *mamajī* was mainly reported in villages adjacent to the Hindi speaking region. This word was occasionally reported in Dongaon village of Solapur district (Taluka: North Solapur). Additionally, the word *p^huwajī* was reported only in Dhanora, a village adjacent to Gujarat in Nandurbar taluka of Nandurbar district. The word *sāsro* was observed in Dagad-Dhanora, a village in Ner taluka of Yavtmal district; and Pimpalkhuta, a village in Aurangabad district.

References

Dhongde, Ramesh. 2013. *Maharashtracha Bhashik Nakasha: Purvatayari*, Mumbai: Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha.

Karve, Iravati. 1953. *Kinship Organization in India*. Pune: Deccan college Monograph series 11.

