

Husband's mother's brother

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 variants were noted in different regions of Maharashtra to refer to 'husband's mother's brother': *mamsasre, mama, kaka, sasre, wəḍil, baba, bap, culta, moṭʰa ba, bʰako, mawla, mawle sasre, ajja pʰuysaka, bʰaswayri*, etc.

The words used to refer to the kin relationships provide an insight into different marriage customs in India. 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 some regions, it is also a customary practice to get one's daughter married to the mother's brother. In cases where mother's brother is a potential groom, any male who is addressed by the kin term *mama* can also be a potential groom. In regions where it is culturally acceptable for the girl to marry mother's brother or father's sister's son, the words *kaka, bap, culta, wəḍil* are commonly used to refer to the husband's mother's brother. This is because the husband's mother's brother is regarded as a father-like figure for the girl. The words *mama, sasre, mamasasre, mawle sasre* were reported in families where such matrimonial relations are considered taboo.

Following variants were observed for this concept in the SDML survey:

The word *mamesasare* was widely observed in districts other than Nandurbar in northern Maharashtra. It was reported more frequently in districts other than Gadchiroli and Chandrapur in Vidarbha region. It was reported infrequently in the southern districts of Maharashtra. It was reported sporadically in Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, Solapur and Osmanabad districts. Phonetic variations of this word include *mamsasra, mamsasre, mamsasrə, mama sasre, mamesasra, mamesasre, mamesasur, mama sasra, mamə sasra, mama haro, mama səsru, mamas sasra, mamesasros, mamusasre, mame səsro, maməsusro, mamne səsro, mamaḷi sasre, mamasas*, etc. The word *mamusasre* was observed only among members of the Konkani Muslim community in Raigad district.

The word *mama* was more frequently reported in Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Sangli, Satara, Raigad, and Palghar districts. It was observed infrequently in Ahmednagar, Osmanabad, Latur, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Jalna, Buldhana, and Washim districts. It was reported rarely in northern districts such as Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, and Nandurbar. Phonetic variations of this word include *mama, mamañji, gʰowače mama, mamu, nəwryače mama, mamaḷi, mamji, mamaḷi*, etc. The word *mamu* was reported by respondents of the Muslim community in Nandgaon, a village in Sindhudurg district while the word *mamañji* was reported by respondents of the Muslim community in Ratnagiri district. The words *mamaḷi, mamji, mamaḷi* were mainly observed in Vidarbha region. The word *mama* was noted along with the honorific suffix '-ji' as an address term as well as a kinship term in Nagpur, Amravati, Wardha, Bhandara and Gondia districts. Additionally, the word *mamaḷi* was reported infrequently in Jalgaon, Thane, Beed, Chandrapur and Parbhani districts.

The word *kaka* was mostly observed in Kolhapur, Solapur, Osmanabad, Nanded and Hingoli districts. The word *kaka* was also reported widely along with the word *mama* in these regions. It was also noted infrequently in other districts of Maharashtra. This word was reported in Mahadev Koli and Katkari communities of Pune district; Mahdev Koli, Katkari, M-Thakur, etc. tribal communities of Palghar, Thane, and Raigad districts. Phonetic variants of this word include *kaka, kakas, kakaḷi*, etc. The word *kakaḷi* was reported in Vidarbha region. The word



kakas was observed among members of the Warli and Kokna communities in Jawhar taluka of Palghar district, and the Katkari community in Mulshi taluka of Pune district.

The word *sasre* was mostly found in Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur, Palghar, Thane, and Nanded districts; was reported infrequently in other districts of Maharashtra. Phonetic variations of this word include *sasre*, *sasra*, *sasrə*, *sasrebuwa*, *susər*, *sasrebə*, etc.

The word *wəḍil* was reported infrequently in all regions of Maharashtra.

The word *bap* was observed in Solapur, Osmanabad, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad and Dhule districts while the word *baba* was noted in Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Jalgaon, Thane, Buldhana, Raigad, Parbhani, Palghar, Beed and Satara districts.

The word *culta/čulta* was reported infrequently in Solapur and Sangli districts which are adjacent to Karnataka state border, and in Latur, Osmanabad, Nanded districts of Marathwada region. It was noted very infrequently in Pune district. Additionally, it was also observed in Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Palghar, and Nashik districts along with other words.

In addition, some more words were reported infrequently: the word *mōṭʰa ba* was observed among members of the Warli community in Goldari village of Nashik district whereas the word *mōṭa baba* was reported in Bhandara district. The word *mawḷa* was observed in Kasgi village of Osmanabad district while the word *mawḷe sasre* was noted in Kumbhawade village of Ratnagiri district. The word *atye sasre* was reported in Gaudgaon village in Barshi Taluka of Solapur District. The word *pʰuysaka* was reported by respondents of the Katkari community in Raigad District while the word *bʰako* was observed among members of the Bhil community in Navapur taluka of Nandurbar district. The word *ajja* was reported along with the word *baba* in Nashik district whereas the word *bʰaswayri* was reported in Buldhana district along with the word *baba*.

