Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Laws Gopika Solanki Table of Contents <u>More Information</u>

Contents

	List of Figures	<i>page</i> xvii
	List of Tables	xix
	Preface	xxi
	Acknowledgments	XXV
	Abbreviations	xxix
	Glossary	xxxi
1	Introduction	1
	Who Shall Govern the Family? Outlining Two Approaches	5
	Research Questions	9
	Case Selection	9
	A General Outline of the Developments in the Indian Case	11
	The Study in the Indian Context	24
	The Context of Inquiry	25
	Research Site	29
	Methods	29
	Feminist Deliberations	31
	Sampling in State Courts	32
	Data Collection in State Courts	34
	Sampling and Data Collection in Informal Courts	35
	Organization of the Book	37

х

2.	The Shared Adjudication Model: Theoretical Framework	
	and Arguments	41
	Introduction	41
	Theoretical Framework: State-Society Interactions at the	
	Interface of Personal Laws	42
	Arguments	49
	The Indian Model: Juristic Diversity in the Legal Landscape	50
	Formal Legal Organizations and Actors: The Lower Courts	51
	Legal Organizations and Actors in Society: An	
	Overview of Typologies, Structures, and Functions	52
	Formal Organizations	52
	The Doorstep Courts – Informal Associations,	
	Groups, and Networks	55
	Individual Legal Actors	55
	Interactions between State and Societal Organizations	
	and Actors	56
	The Question of Legal and Extralegal Authority and	
	Accountability	56
	An Open-Ended Conception of State-Society Relations	
	among Heterogeneous Legal Actors	60
	The Paradoxical Movement between State Laws and	
	Societal Laws	60
	The Centralization of Law in the Formal Legal System	61
	Fragmentation and Societalization of Law in State Courts	63
	Centralization of Law in Informal Legal Forums	64
	The Decentralization of Law in Society	65
	Characterizing the Legal Landscape: Legal Flexibility,	
	Fragmentation, and Change	66
	Dispelling Myths about Contesting Areas in Hindu and	
	Muslim Personal Laws: Not So Different After All?	66
	Balancing Cultural Accommodation and Gender Justice	68
	Normative Heterogeneity and Cultural Accommodation:	
	Making and Unmaking Religious Communities, the	
	Conjugal Family, and Gender	69

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Laws
Gopika Solanki
Table of Contents
More Information

	Preventing the Ossification of the Boundaries of	
	Religious Groups	69
	Accommodating Intragroup Difference and Facilitating	
	Intersocietal Dialog	70
	Making and Unmaking the Conjugal Family	72
	Hindu and Muslim Personal Laws and the Question of	
	Gender Equality	74
	Conceiving Agency and Its Limit	78
	The Agency of Litigant Women	78
	Individual Women's Agency: Forum Switching and	
	Gender Justice	79
	Structural Change through Individual Agency: Hindu	
	and Muslim Women Litigants and Changes in	
	Personal Laws	80
	Envisaging Legal Change through Collective	
	Socio-Legal Processes	82
	Women's Transformative Collective Agency in	
	Contouring the Socio-Legal Processes in Society	83
	Women's Transformative Collective Agency: Everyday	
	Processes of Adjudication and Visions of Change	85
	The Question of Gender Equality in the Shared	
	Adjudication Model	88
	Conclusion	89
3.	State Law and the Adjudication Process: Marriage, Divorce,	
	and the Conjugal Family in Hindu and Muslim Personal Laws	91
	Introduction	91
	The Functioning of the Family Court	92
	An Overview of Cases Filed in the Family Court	95
	The Disposal of Cases in the Family Court	97
	The Nature of Justice in the Family Court: Consensual	
	Rather than Adversarial?	100
	Adjudication in Hindu and Muslim Personal Laws	104
	Determining "Marriage" – Outlining Boundaries of the	
	Community, Protecting Individual Rights	104

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Laws
Gopika Solanki
Table of Contents
More Information

xii

	Void and Voidable Marriages: Streamlining Family	
	Laws and Protecting Individual Rights	109
	The Provision of Restitution of Conjugal Rights and the	
	Standardization of Hindu and Muslim Personal Laws	114
	The Regulation of Polygyny under Hindu and Muslim	
	Personal Laws	116
	Divorce in Hindu and Muslim Personal Laws	120
	Divorce under Muslim Personal Law: The Debate over	
	Triple Talaq	131
	Divorce under Muslim Personal Law: Issues in Statutory	
	Divorce	137
	Women and Property in Marriage and Divorce Laws	139
	Legal Provisions Applicable to Hindu and Muslim	
	Women under State Laws	139
	Maintenance and Alimony under Hindu Personal Law	141
	Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce)	
	Act 1986	145
	Maintenance under Section 125 CrPC	151
	Implementation of Maintenance Orders	158
	Injunction for Property	162
	Negotiating the Retrieval of Stridhan	168
	Conclusion	172
4.	Making and Unmaking the Conjugal Family: The	
	Administration of Hindu Law in Society	175
	Introduction	175
	Caste Formation and Lawmaking among Meghwals	177
	Migration to Mumbai and the Statist Construction of the	
	"Caste"	178
	Nationalist Movement, Naming the Community, and	
	Attempts at Lawmaking	181
	Exposure to Democratic Politics, Creating Structures of	
	Governance, Constructing Identity through Laws	184
	Democratizing Panchayats, Civic Awareness, and Law	
	Reforms: From the Panch System to the Panchayat	187

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Laws
Gopika Solanki
Table of Contents
More Information

Attempts at Repoliticization and the Conflict over Caste	
Constitution	189
The Decade of the 1990s: Consolidating the Caste	
Identity, Social Regulation, and Lawmaking	192
Summary of the Constitutional Provisions: Commonalities,	
Continuities, and Discontinuities	195
The Gendered Sphere among the Meghwals	198
Innovative Legal Process: Democratic Participatory	
Justice	200
Structure and Organization of the Meghwal Caste	
Panchayat	202
Process of Adjudication in the Meghwal Caste	
Panchayat and the Provision for Appeal	202
Similarities, Dissimilarities, and Hybridity in State Law	
and Nonstate Law	203
Who Is a Hindu, Who Is a Meghwal?	203
Consent	205
Differing Conceptions of Marriage and	
Divorce: Marriage as Fixed or Fluid?	209
Validity of Marriage	211
Procedural Aspects of Defining Valid Marriages	212
Divorce in Caste Laws	213
Economic Rights within Marriage and upon Divorce	216
Interactions between Diverse Societal Organizations and Actors	218
Contestations among Informal Legal Actors	218
Women's Organizations as Informal Forums of	
Justice: Implementing State Law without Litigation	220
Women's Organization as Moral Watchdogs: Women's	
Organizations and Caste Authorities	221
Bargaining for Women's Rights vis-à-vis the State and	
the Caste	222
The Caste Panchayat among the Sai Suthars	224
Internal Governance of Family Matters among	
the Sai Suthars	224

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment	
978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Law	s
Gopika Solanki	
Table of Contents	
More Information	

xiv

	The Gendered Sphere among the Sai Suthars	227
	Fragmented Caste Panchayat and the Adjudication of	
	the Family within the Caste	229
	The Caste Is the Public Sphere and the State Private	231
	In the Shadow of State Law and Courts	232
	Justice through "Other Means"	232
	Women's Experiences in State Courts	233
	Dual Patriarchies of the Family and the State	234
	Struggles for Legal Autonomy in Family Matters among	
	the Kutchi Visa Oswals (KVOs)	237
	The KVOs and the History of Migration to Mumbai	238
	Forming a Panchayat	239
	Family, Capital, and Religio-Cultural Organization	242
	Gendered Sphere within the Caste	244
	Protecting the Good Woman: Denial of Divorce in the	
	Family Court	245
	Rubber-Stamping Informal Settlements	247
	Social Movement around Marriage and Divorce –	
	Reaction to State-Led Reforms	251
	State-Society Encounters in Law: Comparison of	
	Caste-Based Legal Forums	252
	Other Societal Legal Bodies: Women's Organizations	254
	Legal Actors in Society: Notaries, Lawyers, Middlemen	259
	Leveraging Authority: Strongmen and Political Parties in	
	the Adjudication of Hindu Law in Society	261
	Conclusion	265
5.	Juristic Diversity, Contestations over "Islamic Law," and	
	Women's Rights: Regulation of Matrimonial Matters	
	in Muslim Personal Law	267
	Introduction	267
	The Nature of Muslim Personal Law and the Classification	
	of Legal Actors and Institutions in Societal Arena	268
	Individual Legal Actors and "Private" Divorce	269

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Laws
Gopika Solanki
Table of Contents
More Information

CONTENTS	xv
Interlawyer Negotiations	273
The Clergy	274
Strongmen	276
Organized Legal Bodies, Doorstep Courts, and Processes of Adjudication	278
The Administration of Muslim Personal Law in the Dar	
ul Qaza	278
Residential Committees	281
Civil Society and the Administration of Muslim	
Personal Law	284
The Doorstep Courts	290
Dispute Resolution among Organized Sects: The Khojas	292
Sociopolitical Changes in the Community between the	
1950s and the 1990s	295
Family Laws among the Ithana Ashari Khojas	296
Interaction with Other Forums	298
The Question of Representation: Who Represents the	
Community?	300
Divergent Opinions on the Establishment of Religious	
"Courts"	302
Conflict and Convergence between Statutory Muslim	
Personal Law and Societal Laws	303
Agency and Its Constraints: Muslim Women's Rights in the	
Legally Plural Sphere	312
The Campaign around Nikahnama: Reforms from Within	316
Competing Ideologies and Interests among Socio-Legal	
Actors and Institutions	320
Conclusion	323
6. Conclusion	325
What Factors Would Bring About a Change in This Model?	333
The Shared Adjudication Model Compared to Other	
Proposals for Accommodating Communities and	
Ensuring Gender Equality	335

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-107-00610-2 — Adjudication in Religious Family Laws Gopika Solanki Table of Contents <u>More Information</u>

xvi CONTENTS Discussing Law Reform in Personal Laws 343 Conclusion 346 Appendix 349 Bibliography 351 Index 387

