

PREFACE

I started working on this project at the beginning of 1974. It was completed long before the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1976 was introduced in Parliament. Due to certain reasons it could not then be sent to the press. The delay eventually turned out to be advantageous in view of the extensive amendment of the Act.

I experienced varied difficulties in procuring statistics from official sources. This I had not anticipated when I took up the project. A few officers in some of the districts in U.P., however, did extend their cooperation. I am grateful to all of them. Nevertheless, the number of districts in U.P. from which the required data could be collected did not exceed twenty-seven. In Delhi the scope of empirical work remained even more limited.

A portion of the empirical data collected for the project, which remained relevant after the enactment of the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act of 1976, has been incorporated in chapter 5 of the monograph. In the first four chapters I have surveyed the history, nature and scope of the civil marriage law and compared it with the various personal laws in force in the country. In the Epilogue I have made some suggestions for the improvement of the law.

Several friends at the Indian law Institute helped me in various ways during the preparation of the monograph. Director S.N. Jain read the entire manuscript and gave many useful suggestions, which I gratefully accepted. At the initial stage of the project, Usha Loghani helped me by collecting cases and other materials. N.S. Nahar diligently attended to editing and printing of the work. I am indebted to all these former colleagues for their valuable help and cooperation without which the project could not have taken this shape.

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