

Chapter 10

Images of Women in a Maharashtrian Village: A Photo Essay

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All the photographs in this photo essay were taken in a village which this author has called Sugao in previous publications.¹ A rather typical village for the region, Sugao, which is located in Wai Taluka, Satara District, has a predominantly Maratha-caste population of peasant farmers. These images were taken during a field trip to the village in the summer of 1989.



Plate 1

Her husband's unexpected, and unexplained, suicide leaves this young bride a frail shipwreck in her marital home.

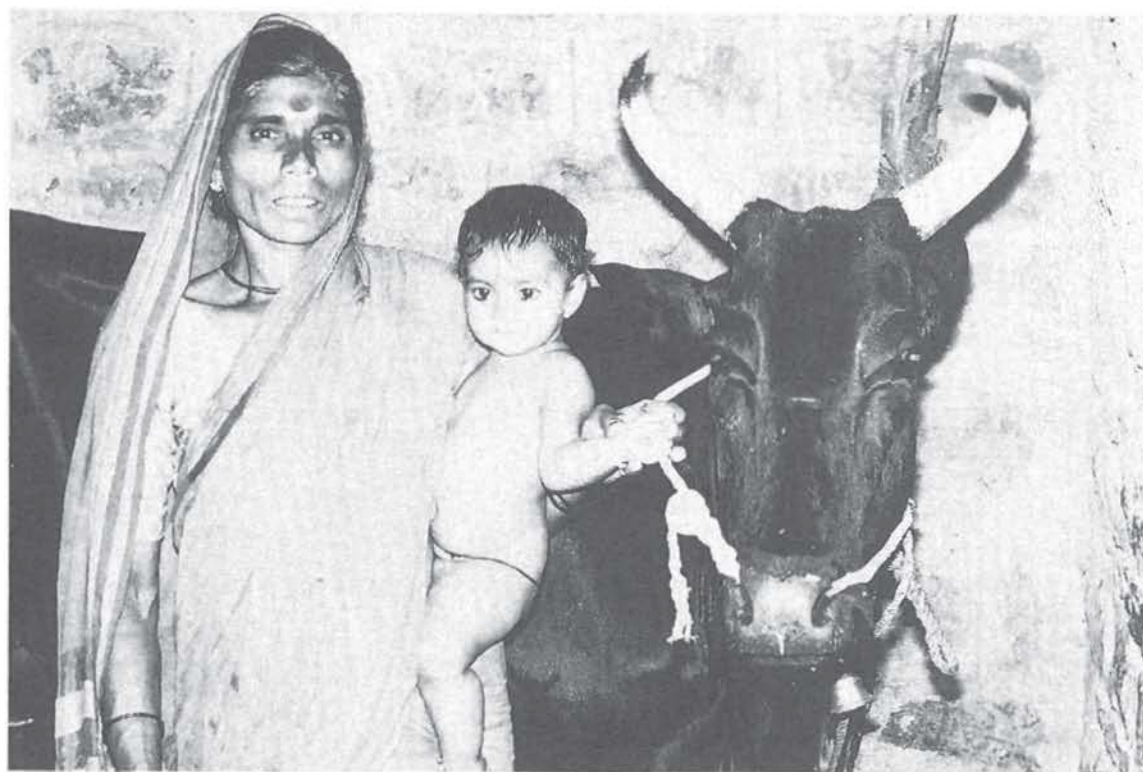


Plate 2

Middle age and an unexpected baby girl complicate life but bring intimacy and joy.

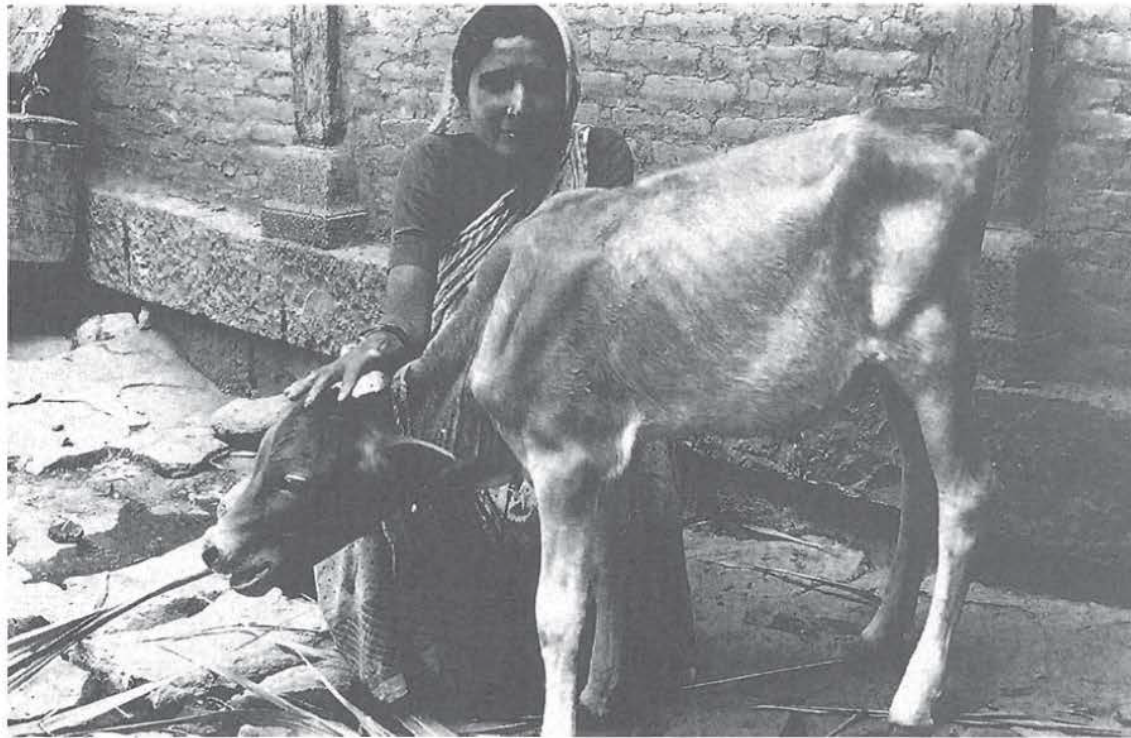


Plate 3

Abandoned years ago as a young bride and returned to Sugao, this woman's mother's support yields some rights to a respectable existence in the village.



Plate 4

No longer young, with a son and daughter who have died, this woman's fun-loving nature is subdued, and she is resigned.



Plate 5

Childless and long widowed, this woman finds that land and a house do little to soften the fact of being alone.



Plate 6
She is fulfilled in her role as wife and grandmother.

NOTE

1. See for example Hemalata C. Dandekar, *Men to Bombay, Women at Home: Urban Influence on Sugao Village, Deccan Maharashtra, India, 1942-1982* (Ann Arbor: CSSEA Publications, The University of Michigan, 1986).