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**Awakening of Relationships: Reframing the Mother-in-Law and  
Daughter-in-Law Relationship in Indian Society**

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**Abstract:**

*The relationship between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law occupies a central yet contentious position within the Indian family structure. Frequently portrayed through stereotypes of conflict, control, and emotional distance, this relationship has often been reduced to a narrative of rivalry between women. This paper challenges such reductive representations by examining the socio-cultural, psychological, and patriarchal forces that shape the mother-in-law–daughter-in-law dynamic. Drawing on feminist sociological perspectives, the study argues that generational differences, shifting gender roles, and internalized patriarchy rather than inherent personal antagonism are the primary sources of tension. The paper highlights how*

*patriarchy sustains itself by encouraging conflict between women, thereby diverting attention from structural inequalities. By emphasizing dialogue, mutual respect, emotional autonomy, and intergenerational solidarity, the study proposes a reframing of the relationship as one of potential alliance rather than inevitable conflict. Strengthening this bond can challenge patriarchal power within the household and contribute to broader social transformation.*

**Keywords:**

*Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship; Patriarchy; Indian family system; Gender roles; Women's solidarity; Intergenerational conflict; Feminist sociology; Domestic power structures.*

