

Case Study: Saniya (Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh)

A) Case Background and Family Structure

Saniya belonged to a **landowning Muslim Jat family** in Paladi village, while Sagar came from a **Harijan (SC) Hindu family** that worked as daily wage labourers. A clear caste and community hierarchy existed between the two families.

B) Incident Summary

Saniya was allegedly **murdered by her family** after they discovered her relationship with Sagar. According to villagers, the relationship was not accepted due to caste and community differences. Following the incident, **six members of Saniya's family were arrested**, and no bail has been granted. During the visit, Sagar's house was found locked, and only his uncle and aunt were present.

C) Key Analysis Points

- Strong caste and community divisions influenced the family's reaction.
- Relationship challenged local social norms, leading to honour-based violence.
- Previous similar incidents in the village show a pattern of caste-based control.
- Sagar's family remains fearful and vulnerable.

D) Conclusion

The case is a clear example of **honour-based violence** rooted in caste, community dominance, and social control. With six accused in jail, the legal process is ongoing, but the situation highlights the urgent need for protection, support, and advocacy for young people exercising choice in relationships.