

Case Study: Vikram Dadasaheb Gaikwad

A) Case Background and Family Structure

Vikram Gaikwad (30), from a Dalit family in Bhor, Pune, was in a long-term relationship with Sneha, who belonged to a Navbodh caste family. The couple had been together for eight years and got married secretly on **09.09.2024** as per Hindu rituals. Sneha did not inform her family, and once they discovered the marriage, they allegedly threatened Vikram due to the inter-caste union.

B) Incident Summary

On **08.02.2025**, Vikram went to meet his friend Anuj (also known as Babu Manihari Chauhan), who had called him regarding money he owed. Later that night, Vikram went missing, and around 2:00 AM, the family was informed that he had been murdered — stabbed **18 times**. The family alleged that Anuj acted in coordination with Sneha's family, who strongly opposed the inter-caste marriage.

An FIR was registered, and Anuj was arrested.

C) Analysis of the Case (Key Points)

- The case has strong indicators of **honour-based violence**, as Sneha's family had openly opposed the marriage.
- Victim belonged to a **Dalit community**, while Sneha's family belonged to a caste with higher social standing, contributing to tension.
- Threats made earlier by Sneha's family suggest a **pattern of intimidation** linked to caste-based discrimination.
- The murder occurred soon after Sneha's family discovered the marriage, supporting the family's suspicion of their involvement.
- Sneha later denied her family's role, stating that the couple planned to divorce, which contradicts the family's statements.

D) Conclusion

Vikram's murder reflects the intersection of **inter-caste tensions, honour-based motives, and personal conflict**. While Anuj has been arrested, the family continues to seek action against Sneha's relatives, believing they influenced the crime. The case is still under investigation, and the family remains engaged in the legal process with support from advocates and solidarity networks.