Contents

List of Tables	vii
List of Plates	ix
Acknowledgments	κ
Introduction	1
1. Prostitution as "Tradition"	19
2. The Making of a Bedia Prostitute	34
3. Bedia Women and "Love Marriage"	59
4. Prostitution as Family Economy	76
5. Prostitution and the Indolence of Bedia Men	120
6. Prostitution and the Marriage Economy	141
7. The Morality of the Bedia Economy	186
Conclusion: Patriarchy and Prostitution	210
Appendices	216
References	235
Index	246

List of Tables

4.1	Bedia family size and number of kin women engaged in prostitution in each unit	83
4.2	Distribution of Bedia families in Category A and B on the basis of size	85
4.3	Internal composition of Bedia families	88
4.4	Age-based break-up of women engaged in prostitution in each family unit	91
4.5	Parentage of women engaged in prostitution	106
4.6	Non-kin and distant kin women engaged in prostitution to support Bedia families	114
5.1	Income possibilities for agricultural workers/workers in the informal sector/petty business keeping	129
6.1	Marital and non-marital relationships of Bedia men and women	142
6.2	Clans and divisions among the Bedias	151
6.3	First category of Bedia wives in Nagla	157
6.4	Second category of Bedia wives in Nagla	160
6.5	Third category of Bedia wives in Nagla	165
6.6	Generation-wise distribution of wives in Nagla	166
6.7	Time-based distribution of marriages in Nagla	166

List of Plates

1.	Three generations of unmarried Bedia women with their brothers' wives	5
2.	Photographs of a Bedia woman and her long-term patron	7 3
3.	Two Bedia women await clients in their open-air shed	7 9
4.	A male-centered Bedia family	105
5.	A young Bedia man with his new scooter	134
6.	Two Bedia women with their brother's child-wife	178
7.	Veiled Bedia women sit in their open-air kitchen	200
8.	Ramsanehi	223