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Changing Family Structure and Its Impact On Society

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to identify the impact comes through the changes in the family structure. The main source which leads me to select this topic is that how economical changes in family leads to social changes like nowadays we all are passing through it. Firstly, I included the general economical social structure of our ancient time, and contradiction of its with modern economical structure, In this general that one can through a light on the contradiction. Secondly I would discuss its positive and negative effects on our Socio Economical Structure Thirdly, The laws which helps us to fight against the society. And lastly what should be our prospective to this change whether we should accept or not.

INTRODUCTION

The last two decades have drastically changed Indian scenario. The structural change that move society through the development process. A sudden shift from joint to nuclear to single parent or childless families. In such a situation dealing with financial, social and moral obligations becoming harder for the earning members family. In India, the old traditional joint family system has undergone drastic change in response to development in terms of industrialization, education and urbanization. Industrialization and urbanization, leading to accelerated rate of rural-urban leading to accelerated rate of rural-urban migration, diversification of gainful economic activities and individual friendly property laws, have had consequential impact in terms of drastic reduction in the size of family in the country.

The family as a social institution has been undergoing change. Both in its structure and functions changes have taken place. In India, as in many traditional societies, the family has been not the center of social and economic life, but also the primary source of support for the family members. The increasing commercialization of the economy and the development of the infrastructure of the modern state have introduced significant change in the family structure in India in the 20th century. Specially, the last few decades have witnessed important alterations in family.

A family environment refers to the surroundings of a group of people affiliated by co-residence. A family environment affects a child's development and growth, in addition to other genetic factors, inherited from the parents, which could still be modified by the family environment.

PRESENT SCENARIO OF FAMILY STRUCTURE IN INDIA

India's fertility rate has fallen, and couples have begun to bear children at a later age. At the same time, life expectancy has increased, resulting in more elderly people who need care. All of these changes are taking place in the context of increased urbanization, which is

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separating children from elders and controlling disintegration of family-based support systems.

Many of the reported effects of parental separation on child wellbeing are based on observations that are taken in the short term. However, other studies have examined effects over longer-term durations, some into adulthood. While there is evidence that many of the difficulties that children encounter as a result of parental separation decline as time passes. There is also evidence that some effects are persistent and enduring.

First, children whose parents separated do worse than children who have experienced a parental bereavement. Compared with children of widowed mothers, children of widowed mothers, children of divorced mothers had significantly lower level of education, occupational status and happiness in adulthood.

TYPES OF FAMILY

Nowadays we can see, different type of family structure previously it was joint family culture tradition was there. Then nuclear family came into existence. But, presently the family structure is now being totally changed. The different types of family are as follows.

1. Joint family – Family structure compared to the previous decade and recent years, the changes are very fast and unpredictable. A family was usually set after a marriage and every member of the family including the grandparents and the siblings were each and everyone an important asset of the family.
2. Nuclear family- The family of today varies from house to house, it is very complicated to define a family of today, it has different biological parent's children and sometimes both parents don't have any biological connections with the children but still are formed as family with adoption system. The nuclear family consists of two parents and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children. Children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults.
3. Single parent family- The single parent family consists of one parent raising one or more children on his own. Often a single parent family is a mother with her children, although there are single fathers as well. The. Single parent family is the biggest change in the society has seen in terms of the changes in family structure. When only one parent is at home, it may be a struggle to find child care, as there is only one parent working. This limits income and opportunities in many cases.
4. Extended family – The Extended family structure consist of two or more adults who are related, either by blood or marriage, living in the same home.

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This family includes many relatives living together and working towards common goal, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties.

5. Childless family-While most people think of family as including children, there are couples not to have children. Childless families consist of husband and wife living and working together. Many childless families take on the responsibility of pet ownership or have extensive contact with their nieces and nephews as a suitable for having their own children.
6. Step family- When marriages end in divorce, many individuals choose to get remarried. This creates the step or blended family which involves two separate families merging into one new unit. It consists of a new husband and wife and their children from previous marriages or relationships. Step families are about as common as the nuclear family, although they tend to have more problem such as adjustment periods and discipline issues.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

Now the present scenario of families in India are undergoing vast changes like increasing divorce and separation rates, domestic violence, inter generational conflicts, social problems of drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc. These changes indicate the inability to cope with the pressures of the modern life. Yet, the majority seems to have demonstrated a unique strength in keeping together despite the growing stress and strain.

1. The number of nuclear families increased in absolute terms, from 135 million in 2001 to 172 million, but at a slower pace than the overall population.
2. The census has also thrown up some interesting data regarding the size of households. According to the government yardstick joint families meanwhile, fell substantially to from 19.1% (3.69) to (4 crore).

In recent decades family studies have undergone several developments. Family studies in India are viewed within the institutional framework of particular society. In each society, families vary in their extent of adjustment to accept norms owing to the family interaction pattern and external forces.

In a joint family, the child gets multiple parents and many adult figures for his or her identification. In these families children are overprotected and sheltered and as a result, self-non-self segregation is hampered. In a nuclear family, the child has a limited set of adult models to emulate as a result; he or she develops a strong sense of personal bond with the parents, with a greater scope of developing clear-cut self identity. Children brought up in single parent families have only one adult member in the family and often lack kinship and community support. These children develop early independence with added responsibilities. A majority of single parent families being the poorest of the poor cannot adequately meet

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their children's needs. A large number of children in institutions and on streets come from single parent families.

Thus, to enhance the impact of child development, direct work with children is not adequate. The family life and the family's environment also have to be enriched. A strong family unit would promote child development and prevent child destitution.

The changes in the family and society might have improved and benefited individuals according to their living circumstances. A nuclear family is presently said to be ideal for the benefits of the children, both parents are responsible more emotionally and blood related to their children.

In today's case parents are not always the biological mother or father of the child who leads to lack of concentration and observation in the children. Children don't get the basics such as care, love, proper food, medication and education. It can be proven in many cases where single parents struggle to manage the family and don't cope with problems and their children.

There is an involvement of society with family also. The issues about marriages and living together were once not accepted among the society even if the law wasn't objecting, the society still was strong enough to refuse others on their view on marriages. But now the elder generation disappears or becomes weaker to comment the younger generation takes the lead and changes the society. According to their wishes and the law is also a strong asset to fight against the society.

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