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## **Collateral Impact on Family Patterns as a Function of Social Change**

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**Abstract:**

*Society is not stagnate it is dynamic. As there is change in nature, there is variation in norms, values, beliefs, customs and traditions resulting towards change in family matters. Family is the unit of Society. There are interactions and inter-relationship among members of society, variations in these social processes and social organization actually results toward social change. In present study four groups were selected, First group- Age (22-25 yrs.) Unmarried belonging to business class living in joint family, Second group- Age (22-25 yrs.) Unmarried belonging to service class living in a nuclear family, Third group- Age (45-50 yrs.) Married belonging to business class living in a joint family, Fourth group- Age (45-50 yrs.) Married belonging to service class living in nuclear family.*

*Self designed questionnaire was distributed to 20 members of all the four groups. The results were obtained 84 % unmarried girls of aged 22-25, from joint family business class and from nuclear family service class want to marry a boy of their own choice. In contrast to this, 76% unmarried girls aged 45-50 years have shown their inclination towards marrying as per the wishes and customs of their family and family patterns. This shows that there is a drastic change in the attitudes of new generation towards the selection of mate.*

*Second inference is related with living in group and enjoying and celebrating festivals in groups. This concept has not shown any significant change in two generations.*

*Third variable which has been identified is that 64% girls of age 22-25 years who have been reared in joint family prefers to live in joint family & in contrast girls of nuclear family want to live in a nuclear family.*

*This ratio is high in women aged 45-50 years. Nearly 88% of the women of this age group strictly want to follow their family patterns, their customs and traditions.*

**Keywords:** *Dynamic, Social Processes and Social Organization, Generation, Tradition.*

“It is impossible for a man to step into the same river twice with the same views.” - HERACLITUS.

### **1. Introduction**

Society is not stagnate it is dynamic. There are many obstructions, restrictions and suggestions imparted on human beings that bring change. As there is change in nature, there is variation in norms, values, beliefs, customs and traditions resulting towards change in family matters.

Incessant changeability is the very inherent nature of the human society. Individuals may strive for security and stability. Societies may foster an illusion of permanence and the belief in eternity may persist unshaken: but ultimate fact that there are many forces and factors that cause change in the society.

Avramov D. [Impact of social changes and migration on family and household structure] found

- Changing marriage patterns
- Consensual Unions
- Fertility rate
- Economic Conditions
- Industrialization
- Urbanization
- Internal migration
- Women's status and cultural values as the important factors causing change in family patterns.

### 1.1. Social Change

Family is the unit of Society. There are interactions and inter-relationship among members of society, variations in these social processes and social organization actually results toward social change. It is a temporal & environment concept that creates chain reactions. Eg. Change in rights, privileges and status of women that result towards a series of change in home, family relationship and structure.

Giddens (1996), noted significant changes which clearly inform notions of “new” life styles not least the trend to independent living and to new family matters. Strain and conflict in interest among members of family and community brings social change. There are certain hidden, internal [latent] deficiencies that results towards social dynamism.

Gale and Cengage (2004), defined family patterns [Encyclopedia of children and childhood in history and society] and found “size and composition of the family has effect on children’s lives.

The principal household structures are:

- Nuclear family
- Extended family
- Blended family

**Nuclear family**- contains only two generations – parents and their children.

**Extended family** – families are multi generation and includes kins and servants also.

**Blended family** – The result of divorce or the death of spouse followed by remarriage as a result, a new generation of children, mothers and fathers can be both biological parents and step parents simultaneously. He also found that time of marriage, inheritance practices, land and property can also bring change in family patterns.

Arnold Thorntom / Hui Sama Lin. studied families of Taiwan and viewed that over the last four decades, Taiwan has moved from a society in which almost all facets of people’s lives were structured by their family members, to a society in which now people are more able to decide by themselves, how to structure their daily lives on their own.

The main cause investigated through study was

- Changing dating patterns
- Timing of first marriage
- The recurrent incidence of divorce
- Timing of child birth & no. of children

Stephan hart (1986), studied religion and changes in the family patterns and observed that the change in family patterns worldwide is due to spread of western culture, western ideas of romantic love of centralized government. Other reason is large scale migration from rural to urban areas making nuclear family system stronger and traditional external system weaker. Cultural innovations also contribute to social change. Diffusion viz. introduction of a behavior or modification from one culture to other is also responsible for a change. Considering the views of diffusionists and inventionists responsible for social change in family patterns present study has been taken up.

Philip. A. Cowan found that birth rate have risen markedly since late 1980’s. There are even evidences that men are increasing their share of household responsibilities (Gold Schieder & Waile, 1991)

Katherine Newman (1988), observed the impact of sudden downward mobility due to job loss. Schneiberg & Goldenberg (1989), examined impact of shrinking economic opportunities on young middle class adults in the process of leaving house.

Mc. Lloyd & Flongan (1990), reported effects of economic stress on family and children. An overview of the impact of social change on family patterns in many decades has provoked investigator to undergo study entitled.

### 1.2. Present Study

Coming to the title of this paper i.e. Collateral impact on family patterns as a function of Social Change,

For this study, a modern concept of GENERATION GAP has been highlighted regarding the change of attitude of women towards lifestyle in joint and nuclear family system of the two generation. Sample for the present study:-

- First group- Age (22-25 yrs.) Unmarried belonging to business class living in joint family.
- Second group- Age (22-25 yrs.) Unmarried belonging to service class living in a nuclear family.
- Third group- Age (45-50 yrs.) Married belonging to business class living in a joint family.
- Fourth group- Age (45-50 yrs.) Married belonging to service class living in nuclear family.

## 2. Methodology

For the present study self designed questionnaire was distributed to 20 members of all the four groups. Questions were related with their views and attitudes towards joint family system and nuclear family system.

For analysis two point rating scale was developed. Attitude analysis towards various variables was also done.

## 3. Result and Analysis

After analyzing the four relevant groups the following has result has been obtained.

- 84 % girls of Group I aged 22-25 years unmarried from joint family of business class and also from Group II aged 22-25 years unmarried from nuclear family of service class wants to marry a boy of their own choice. In contrast to this, 76% of the Group III and IV aged 45-50 years have shown their inclination towards marrying as per the wishes and customs of their family and family patterns. This shows that there is a drastic change in the attitudes of new generation towards the selection of mate.

- Second inference is related with living in group and enjoying and celebrating festivals in groups. This concept has not shown any significant change in two generations. The reason may be gregarious instinct with which human beings are equipped.
- Third variable which has been identified is that 64% girls of age 22-25 years who have been reared in joint family prefers to live in joint family & in contrast girls of nuclear family want to live in a nuclear family.
- This ratio is high in women aged 45-50 years. Nearly 88% of the women of this age group strictly want to follow their family patterns, their customs and traditions.

Finally the inference drawn from the study is that family patterns will continue but with some changes.

#### 4. Conclusion

There is a correlation between patterns and social change. There is always a variation in norms, traditions and customs as a result of which change in family patterns shall also continue.

HAPPY IS ONE WHO KNOWS THE CAUSES OF THE THINGS - LUCRETUS

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