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MODERNITY AND CHANGE IN THE INDIAN FAMILY :
A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS



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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to analyze the Modernity and its impacts on family have been discussed for more than half a century. It is clear from the literature reviewed above that the road to modernity in each society may not be explained in the length of an article since it definitely affects our society in every aspect of human social life. As some social scientists have remarked, we connect changes in the family to the development of modernity because society is undergoing certain profound changes at least partly due to the rapid advancement of science and technology and increasingly fierce international competition between the strengths of nations. family

system is founded on the concept that the older parents have enormous authority and power over other family members through control of land and property. However the status of elderly people tends to be declining in a modern industrial economic system, partly due to the loss of control over means of production and to changes in production methods. As more and more people live separately from their parents after marriage, the traditional arrangement which required living together and providing instant care and support for family members appears either unrealistic or impossible. Instead, new forms of old-age family support and care have been emerging as an adaption to provision of support for older members in the society.

KEYWORDS : Family, Modernity, structures, Function, Global trends, Prospects, Issues.

INTRODUCTION :

According to the National Societies have generally assumed that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit and is entitled to protection by society and the state" (United Nations, 1948). From different disciplines and perspectives, study of the family has always attracted scholars and policy makers, even at times lay persons. The reason underlying such great interest in study of the family may be attributed to the close relationship between society and everyday aspects of life. This study seeks to explore the impact in Indian as modernity affects the structure of the family and changes its function as regards family support for elderly people. The purpose of the study is to understand why and how changes in family structure and function take place with the rise of

modernity. Using exploratory approach, the research employs historical review and multiple-case study methodology to illustrate the phenomena under examination. It has turned out that the recent studies provides a much more refined version of modernity and that this could be used to illustrate changes in the family brought about by modernity. In this view, both convergence and divergence in modernity should be considered since interdependence between the two is the key for a better understanding of this process and Function change in the family. Thus, if the impacts of modernity are examined, visible changes should be evident both at a universal 'macro-transformative' level where the structure of the family will be seen moving from a larger size down to smaller sizes, such as from extended to nuclear or to asymmetrical, and at a specific 'micro-adaptive' level where the family should come through different processes of adaptation to meet the demands made on it by corresponding socio-economic and cultural conditions. From the literature, it can be seen that in pre-modern families, family is a somewhat larger notion than that of the present day nuclear family . For this reason many social scientists refer to this kind of family as "extended". Typically, the extended family consists of parents, their children, and the parental parents, the people who pass on the farm to the next generation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:

- * To know the modernity and Indian family.
- * To analyze the impact modernity on Indian family.

METHODOLOGY:

This research paper focus on modernity and change in the Indian family : a sociological analysis This research paper is based on secondary source. data are drawn classified from the Publications of books, monthly journals, article, magazines, produced by the State Government, comprising literature review.

Concept of Family:

The family is perhaps the most vital personal care network in human society. From different perspectives many people have tried to define the family but failed to give a definition that could be applied to all societies. For example, George Murdock (1949) indicated that the family is a social group which includes at least two adult members who live together, share resources, work as a unit and rear children. Kathleen Gough (1971:760) defined family as "a married couple or other 20group of adult kinsfolk who cooperate economically and in the upbringing of children, all or most of whom share a common dwelling." However, it has been argued that such norms are too narrow and vary between peoples. For example, some argue that the upbringing of children is no longer the main function of the family, thus is not the purpose for building a unit. Others would see the family as providing the most important emotional support in society. In addition, since many new family types have begun to emerge, such as single-parent families and couples without children, the definition of family is rather complex and situationally diverse. As Diem (1997) has said, "the definition of family depends on who answers the question". He enumerated concepts of family given by social scientists, the state and ordinary people, and concluded that differences among them can be due to the inclusion of many factors and purposes. Thus norms vary across cultural and historical demarcations. Consequently tremendous population mobility has changed population distribution in different areas. Politics, which at first glance has not changed much of the structure and the essential nature of the political system, has not followed the same development as in most western democratic countries as they experienced

the processes of modernization. sometimes known as the classic extended family, is often found in some traditional peasant societies. From the literature, it can be seen that in pre-modern families, family is a somewhat larger notion than that of the present day nuclear family . For this reason many social scientists refer to this kind of family as "extended". Typically, the extended family consists of parents, their children, and the parental parents, the people who pass on the farm to the next generation.

Concept of Modernity:

The term "modernity" has a long history and is central to sociology. According to Giddens, "modernity" refers to "modes of social life or organization which emerged in Europe from about the seventeenth century onwards and which subsequently became more or less worldwide in their influence" (Giddens, 1990:1). The interpretation and analyses of the modernity and emergence of modern social institutions were diverse. Different explanations of these processes have been produced from divergent views and perspectives from Marx (1818-83), and Durkheim (1858-1917), to Weber (1864-1920), all of whose thoughts are still influential and have laid the foundations for modern social theories. For example, Durkheim proposed that there were two basic types of society, the "traditional" and the "modern", the latter creating a new pattern of organic solidarity. This contrasted with the former which had been based in mechanical solidarity (Durkheim, 1984). Weber (1971) explored the emergence of industrialism and capitalism in Western Europe and also draws a distinction between traditional and modern society, particularly in terms of their contrasting patterns of ideas, attitudes and values.

Changing Trends in Indian Families:

Nowadays, traditional roles are changing, especially in urban areas. There are important values shared and followed by most Indian families. But today's young generation who is into the modern age, don't seem to like the traditions and family practices that have been followed by their families for decades. They are more inclined towards western culture and lifestyle. Indians generally hold family progress, unity and support, in high regard throughout their lives. Lately, more and more people are opting for 'live-in' relationships, a concept that is borrowed from the West. The discussion on family life in India can be continued further, as there are many more interesting things about it. In its entirety, it would suffice to know that the people in India look up to family life, and this is evident in the dedication of every member within the family.

Global trends:

While India moves from a traditional joint family to a more modern one, families in the west are moving from strict individualism to embracing the "multigenerational household". said that more than 50 million (or one in six Americans) live in a household with at least two adult generations (either adult children living with parents, or elderly parents moving in with children). increase in multigenerational households. A 2010 study shows that 32% of European men aged up to 34 lived with parents. While recent economic conditions and immigration have been very influential, among those living together, many of them say that the experience has brought them closer together as a family while also helping them financially. Popular television shows like Duck dynasty that feature a regular family meal with 4 or 5 family units together also add credit to the extended family system.

Change within the Indian Family:

The impacts of modernity are indirectly related to changes in family structure and function. The various forms and functions of the family depend on people's various adaptation strategies. At the macro level, industrialism and capitalism have greatly accelerated economic development and this is reflected in a rapid growth in GDP, an innovative commercial capitalist system, adoption of new technology and so on. Urbanism changes the proportional structure of the labor force in some modern cities in Indian. More and more young people in the countryside have left their hometowns for cities to seek out better opportunities. Consequently tremendous population mobility has changed population distribution in different areas. Politics, which at first glance has not changed much of the structure and the essential nature of the political system, has not followed the same development as in most western democratic countries as they experienced the processes of modernization. However, considerable changes in the substance and processes of politics have greatly affected the relationships between individuals in society. A wide variety of government policies have influenced marriage and the family. For example, China's restrictive birth planning policy promoted late marriage and late childbearing and, even more importantly, has contributed to a drastic decrease in the birth rate.

Modernity" and Its Impacts on Family:

As mentioned above, a definition of the term "modernity" presents many difficulties as a social scientific concept because of the various disciplinary understandings that over economic, political, and philosophical sphere. Much recent discussion however relates to a somewhat narrower definition focusing on changes in specific areas. Today there are many new trends in family form but it cannot be said that these are all due to modernity. Yet modernity is definitely one of the important reasons (Cheal, 1991; Giddens, 1992; Morgan, 1996, 1999; Stacey, 1996). In order to understand the impacts of modernity on the family it needs to be made clear what the family in modern society is being compared to.

The changing structures within the family:

Anthony Giddens (1997) distinguished three main types of pre-modern society, hunting and gathering societies, pastoral and agrarian societies, and non-industrial civilizations. For example, among the people of non-literate societies, such as hunter-gatherers, the position of leader descends from a common ancestor of the group. Quite often such groups are very large and include more than two generations. Older members of the group have more status and influence than younger ones. Another form of pre-modern family, sometimes known as the classic extended family, is often found in some traditional peasant societies. From the literature, it can be seen that in pre-modern families, family is a somewhat larger notion than that of the present day nuclear family (Young, 1975). For this reason many social scientists refer to this kind of family as "extended". Typically, the extended family consists of parents, their children, and the parental parents, the people who pass on the farm to the next generation. Such a family also incorporates any unmarried brothers and sisters.

The changing functions of the family:

though the structures of family vary, over time, within a social system, or across cultures, for some sixty years the family has been claimed to be universal and to have at least six core functions: reproduction, protection, socialization, regulation of sexual behavior, affection and companionship, and provision of social status (Ogburn and Tibbits, 1934). It is also clear that when family structure changes (almost invariably to a smaller size) to fit the demands made by urbanization, industrialization

and other factors, its functions also change. When Functionalists, such as Parsons (1965), argued that the predominant nuclear family structure relates to the industrialization process, they also explained loss of functions formerly performed by the family. In the theory of "structural differentiation", as performance of work moved outside the home, institutions such as schools, hospitals, welfare organizations, and businesses became specialized social institutions providing services and the family gradually changed over time from a production unit to a unit of consumption.

Changing Family Structure and Function in India:

The traditional Indian family, with its strong Confucian norms and highly differentiated status hierarchy, is normatively extended. They indicate that the emphasis on filial piety in Confucian doctrine plays a key role in regulating social and family relationships in traditional Indian society and that these thoughts are primarily taught and practiced within the family. Beyond providing filial care for aged parents, all children are expected to obey and respect their parents absolutely. The emergence of modernity, however, has produced tremendous economic, political and social changes which have altered the earlier relatively static picture of the Indian family. Several field studies have shown that the extended family, the number of single person families and empty nest families had increased in some modern cities, even though the prevalence of the nuclear family type was maintained. Tang recorded changes in family support for elderly people and believed that there had been a change in the power relationship between elderly parents and their children, thus influencing filial support for elderly family members. This view is also supported by Wang. By comparing the 1982, 1990 and 2000 census data, Wong noted the continuous decline of the nuclear family between 1990 and 2000, together with a significant increase in childless families. Perhaps the most interesting finding is the increased proportion of stem family households, a different trend from that exhibited in modern Western societies.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This study reveals that Modernity and its impacts on family have been discussed for more than half a century. It is clear from the literature reviewed above that the road to modernity in each society may not be explained in the length of an article or even a book since it definitely affects our society in every aspect of human social life. As some social scientists have remarked, we connect changes in the family to the development of modernity because society is undergoing certain profound changes at least partly due to the rapid advancement of science and technology and increasingly fierce international competition between the strengths of nations. He describes the reasons as follows: as societies around the world experience similar socio-economic conditions, they undergo "similar cultural changes in politics, economics, sex and gender norms, and religion". This kind of understanding also can be used to explain the changes that happen in families. From the historical review and comparisons of the development of the family, it has been found that family structure also follows a similar path from extended to nuclear to diverse types. Families, placing increasing emphasis on development of technology and science. Today the nuclear family has become the most prevalent type in Indian. Industrialization and urbanization have changed the Chinese family towards smaller, nuclear and diversified forms and this has given rise to changes in the traditional Indian family system is founded on the concept that the older parents have enormous authority and power over other family members through control of land and property.

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