

## PROBLEMS FACING BY WORKING PARENTS ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN IN NUCLEAR FAMILY

**Prof. Dr. Manjusha Motiram Nalgirkar**

*HOD. Dept. of Sociology*

*Shri Sant Savta Mali Gramin Mahavidyalya, Phulambri.*

### **Abstract**

*After independence transformation process has been took place in all sectors in India. Industrialization, urbanization, and educational expansion lead to a decline in Joint families and complementary rise in nuclear families. In this nuclear family, problems of children were increasing especially when father and mother both are working. Problems like parents don't have time to pay attention towards spouses, nobody to look after the child, feeling of insecurity, dearth of emotional support, problem of socialization, lack of cultural attachment, lack of tendency of sharing and caring were created in nuclear family. I have conceptualized a new family model that is "Conjunctional Family" to solve the working parents' problems about their children. This type of family is become essential in present scenario for the development of children in working parent's family.*

### **Keyword:**

*Working parents, children, nuclear family, conjunctional family.*

### **Introduction:**

After independence transformation process has been took place in all sectors in India. Due to social transformation a large scale of social changes occurred with the social system. Social transformations were affected in social institutions like marriage, family, caste, religion, politics, economics and education etc. Out of these institutions family is the fundamental institute of the society. In today's modern society different types of families are created by transformation. But joint and nuclear family is majorly discovered in Indian society. The traditional joint family system in India has been undergone both structural and functional changes. Industrialization, urbanization, and educational expansion lead to a decline in Joint families and complementary rise in nuclear

families. In this nuclear family, problems of children were increasing especially when father and mother both are working.

This paper is focus on the problems facing by working parents about their children in nuclear family.

### **Transformation in Family (Joint to Nuclear):**

Family is a fundamental social institution in society. Family is considered the primary and most important element of socialization. Family typically consists of a man and woman and their children or two or more people who usually reside in the same and share same goals and values. Traditionally, in all societies, the families have always been as a social institution, that has the biggest impact on society.

Everyone is born into some sort of family, with the family taking the responsibility of nurturing, teaching the norms or accepted behaviors structure and within society, there are many types of families, which can be described as a set of relationships including parents, and children and can include anyone related by blood or adoption.

Family is the most important, "for it is within the family that the child is first socialized to serve the needs of the society and not only its own needs"<sup>1</sup>

To thoroughly elaborate on the institution of family we most look at the family as it was before and how much it has changed over time. The traditional joint family system in India has been undergone both structural and functional changes. The joint family system in India has been disrupted due to several factors. As Kapadia has pointed out, "with the advent of the British, a transformation of the cultural pattern became inevitable by virtue of new economic organization, ideology and administrative system the British brought with them. Capitalism in the economic field,

liberalism in the ideological domain and the principle of equality in the social and political system became the order of the day”.<sup>2</sup> According to him the emergence of capitalist economy and the spread of liberalism have challenged the sentiments maintaining joint family.

In the second half of the nineteenth century a new beginning was made in the means of transport and communication system. Means of rapid communication is has brought remotest parts of the country close to each other. Vast areas were spanned by road, railways, bridges and telegraph.

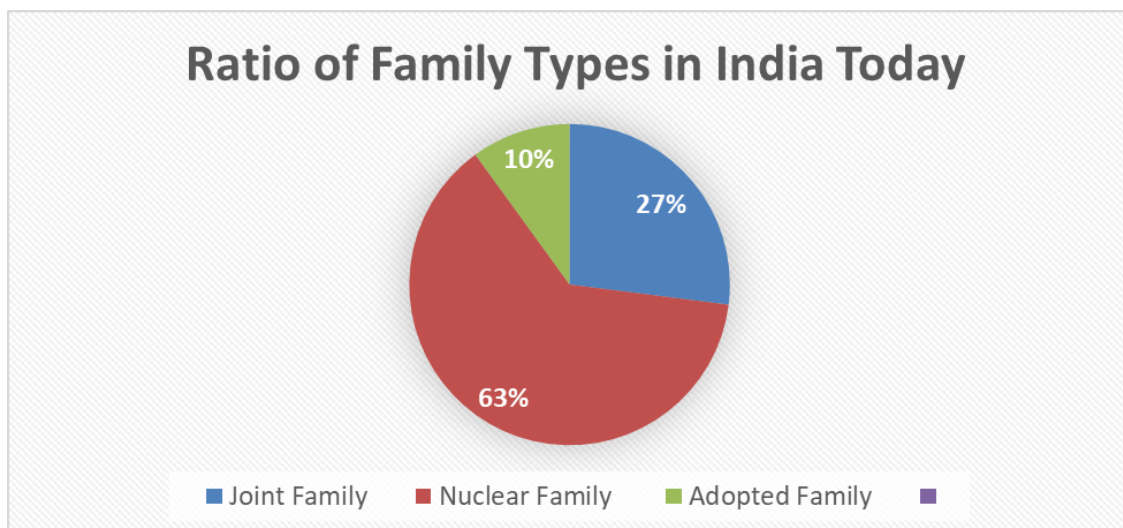
The rural economy became more and more market oriented instead of remaining self-

sufficient. Cities and towns began to rise. Western type of education followed a bureaucratic organization. This process of socio-economic change in nineteenth century and various social legislations deep affected the traditional joint family system in India. Scholars traditionally argued that industrialization, urbanization, and educational expansion lead to a decline of Joint families and complementary rise of nuclear families.

“A nuclear family is a family group consisting of a pair of adults and their children”.<sup>3</sup>

When we think about the ratio of joint and nuclear family we get the following information.

### Ratio of Family Types in India Today



(Source- <https://www.haikudeck.com>)

According to the above diagram the ratio of nuclear family is more (63%) than joint family (27%). The numbers of nuclear families are increasing day by day in today’s society. No doubt that nuclear family gives us more freedom, self-identity and individual approach. But it creates some major problems about children specially in working parent’s family.

In our country, India, where universalization of marriage and childbirth is a norm, most educated youth, irrespective of their work designations get into wedlock and become parents without realizing the actual meaning and expectations from this role. Employment stresses on the one side, compounded by the

burden of travel on the other side, due to easier affordability of dwelling units in the outskirts of the metros, make parenting a challenge in most households.

Parenting is a full-time responsibility, which demands not only the physical presence and social commitment to the family; it also mandates the emotional connectivity with the children.

The younger generation of both men and Women today are highly qualified and ambitious. That’s why, in today’s nuclear family, both the husband-and-wife work. These working parents are facing following problems about their children.

**Parents don't have time to pay attention towards spouses:**

It is observed that parents are in a great worry about their Childs sustainable growth as both of them mother and father are out of the home for 6 to 8 hours and more also. The elder responsible person is not available in the family who will take care of the child. This will increase the anxiety about the Childs well upbringing leading to not concentrating the work in the offices to the parents. In a nutshell this worry troubles a lot to the parents.

**Nobody to look after the child:**

All parents pass through this phase. When the child is left to fight the sickness all alone emotionally. Guilt, regret, disappointment and frustration at not being able to giving time either to work or as parents, pushes many young parents into high level of stress. Whenever the responsibilities of the child increase, they think, there been someone elder of the family along. Not only the guidance would have been gotten but the proper upbringing of the child could have been possible too. Parents too could have focused on their work without getting worried over on the score of the children.

**Feeling of insecurity:**

In nuclear family, parents always keep on worrying over their children and their home. Sometime the thought of some costly article kept in home being stolen, sometime the stress of the child not returning back home on time after the school time is over and many such similar things keep on eating at the mind of parents. These things are though small but essential also. This is the reason the cases of murder and theft are on the rise in the nuclear families. Criminals deem it fit to fight with a few people living in a nuclear family than to go fight in a joint family.

**Dearth of emotional support:**

Children, as they grow up get used to self-engagement like watching videos instead of interactive inputs from adults around and thus lose on the normal developmental milestones. Parents may also have to deal with attention-related problems which are usually by-products of nuclear family systems, where the child, finding both parents absent and no one else

from the family, usually resorts to attention seeking behavior. Being sad, insolent, and reclusive among other things.

There comes often in life such times when our children and we feel totally broke, lonely and forlorn. Then we remember our elders and their support. Their guidance works like sanjeevani. Sometimes the guidance of elders in the event of the clash between the couple comes handy, because they understand the situations better and also have the experiences of handling the situations also.

**Problem of Socialization:**

Socialization of children is good in joint family. They learn social culture, values, norms and responsibilities from their grandparents. In Ajay Kumar's Study he stated that, boys from joint families are better socially adjusted as compared to the boys from nuclear families. The joint family with grandparents and other adults plays a vital role in Socialization of the adolescent boys and preparing them for their future responsibilities at a right time and in a better way than a nuclear family.<sup>4</sup>

**Lack of cultural attachment:**

There are several things in our traditions which are essential to know. There are several moral lessons which are attached with our festivals and functions which have lots of valuable lessons to be taught to us. But all these are only possible when the elders live with our children. We remain bereft of this in a nuclear family.

**Lack of tendency of sharing and caring:**

The joint family taught us to share and care with each and every member of the family on any occasion. But in a nuclear family, neither the child nor the elder can learn the attitude. The result is, they become self-cantered and selfish.

Joint families are like the first training grounds, where a child learns interpersonal skill. Children in Joint families learn lessons of patience, tolerance, cooperation and adjustment. They learnt to share more easily, learnt to co-operate and adjust under practically every circumstance. When a child lives with his/her grandparents and other older members of the family from the time he/she is born, they grow up appreciating, admiring and loving them. They also learn to adjust more easily with

different kinds of people and learn to be more flexible.

In a Joint family a child learns and is reared by a number of people, thus dividing work, saving time and creating a spectrum of exposure and awareness. And for working parents, it's a blessing to have reliable trustworthy caretakers for your child.

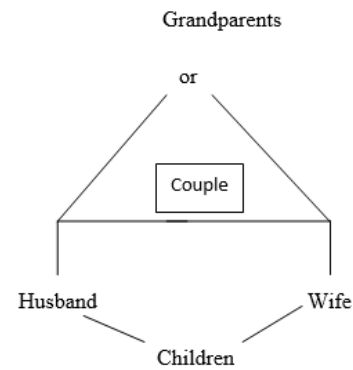
“The decline in nuclear family is against the expected direction,” says TV Sekher, a professor at the International Institute of Population Studies in Mumbai.

Of the 35 states and union territories for which comparable data was available for both time periods, 20 showed declines in the share of nuclear families of up to 7.6 percentage points. This included four states that lead the way in economic activity: Gujarat (6.05 percentage points), Maharashtra (4.11 percentage points), Karnataka (3.33 percentage points) and Haryana (2.58 percentage points). Tamil Nadu, another leader in economic activity, led all states and union territories with an increase of 5.38 percentage points.

In another surprise, the share of nuclear families has declined by 1.84 percentage points in urban areas, but grown by 0.32 percentage points in rural areas. TV Sekher puts it down to pressures of urban infrastructure and urban jobs. “In urban areas, with scarcity of housing, there is a tendency of families to stay together,” he says. “Also, increasingly, we see a new kind of nuclear family, where both the wife and the husband are working. So, they don't mind having one of their parents living with them to balance taking care of children and work.”<sup>5</sup>

Joint family and nuclear family these are two fundamentally different models of family and our efforts should be to make a synthesis of the two and create a new family model to solve the working parents' problems about their children.

### **A New Model of Family “Conjunctional Family”**



I have conceptualized a new family model that is “Conjunctional Family”. Conjunctional family is the family in which a couple lives with their children and their own parents including husband's parents or wife's parents. This family is connected the relations between three generation. This family type is not expanded like joint family and small like nuclear family. This is a balanced family having limited persons (Couple, children and their grandparents). In this family type wife's parents are also acceptable to live with their daughter. If women are getting equal rights in their parents' property. Then women should take their parents responsibility also. All family members should communicate openly and honestly with one another. The elders in the family must take the initiative and create the right ambience and environment for open communication. Mutual trust and the willingness to listen will help family members to open up to one another.

This type of family is become essential in present scenario for the development of children in working parent's family.

The new family model “Conjunctional Family” will address the following problems.

- Aged parents in the family will not feel lonely and left out and will be able to participate in social activities.
- Working couples will benefit immensely as aged parents can look after the kids at home, eliminating the need to send kids to crèches.
- Children get love, affection and care from their grandparents who can impart right values.

- Working parents will get social recognition in upholding traditional values.
- There will be enough scope for useful discussion on common problems, mutual understanding and sharing a sense of emotional security with your immediate family member.

This model family will go on a long way into making of an acceptable social order, which will have all the ingredients of a traditional joint family, where every member of the family can enjoy his or her space and freedom and lead a cheerful and happy life.

### **Conclusion**

- After independence transformation in family has been took place in India. Industrialization, urbanization, and educational expansion lead to a decline of Joint families and complementary rise of nuclear families.
- Working parents in nuclear families are facing problems like Don't have time to pay attention towards spouses, nobody to look after the child, feeling of insecurity, Dearth of emotional support, Problem of Socialization, Lack of cultural attachment,

Lack of tendency of sharing and caring about their children.

- To solve the working parent's problems, we should create a new family model that is "Conjunctional family". In which a couple lives with their children and their own parents including husband's parents or wife's parents.
- This type of family is become essential in present scenario for the development of children in working parent's family.

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