

THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL WORK

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Aims of the present paper

- Social work and family
- Changes in family structure
- Defining family problems
- Empty-shell family
- Parenthood is difficult phase
- Parents are the prime givers
- Maturity of younger generation
- Indian situation
- Marriage and relationship
- Indian women are traditionally housewives
- Sense of family responsibility
- Indian mother and family peace.

Social work and family

- Social work exists because the family is less than perfect
- Social workers are not satisfied with this imperfect family
- Family sends too many children to bed hungry at night
- Declared too many older people useless
- Women and children to be physically and sexually abused
- Single parents trying to raise children in substandard housing without enough money for proper nutrition and food
- Emotionally and intellectually disabled people lives because they behave or learn differently from the majority in the society

Change in family structures

- The size of the family is shrinking
- High rate of divorce, separation, out of wedlock birth and remarriage are affecting the normal growth of children
- Some children are living with one parent family
- Parental divorce or separation inevitably, worsens the economic situation of the child and mother
- Children grow with step-parents, step-siblings and step-grandparents
- Children have traumatic experience related to divorce, separation etc.

(A) Family problems

- Armand L. Mauss, suggest that those who identify family problems can be divided into two groups
- Traditionalists and Challengers
- Traditionalists believes that much is wrong with modern family life
- Traditionalists are equally shocked by increasing rates of illegitimacy and abortion
- They are baffled by women who would rather work than be full time wives and mothers and they have a hard time accepting the sexual freedom of today's young and unmarried
- To them, all these more or less recent developments symbolise the breakdown of marriage and family life

(B) Family problems

- Challengers agree that much is wrong the family, but they define the problem quite differently
- To them, the notion is that people should get married primarily to rear children and should stay married for better or for worse are outmoded
- They deplore the custom of the life-long marriages that are frequently difficult, expensive and embittering
- Most importantly, they see marriage (especially for women) as an instrument of oppression

(C) Family problems

- At this point of time, we will try to look at those problems in a new light, asking our self such question should marriage be forever?
- Are increasing divorce rate necessarily bad?
- Should unwed mothers be encouraged to keep their children?
- Emotional control is a constant thereat
- Out break of violence in family.
- Conflict between parents and children are age old problems.

Empty-shell family

- Couple continues to live together and to play their roles, as breadwinner and house keeper respectively
- Couple rarely shares their joys and sorrows with each other and they not look to each other for companionship
- Many couples avoid divorce for the shake of their children; it is popular notion in our society that the children are irreparable hurt when their parents divorce
- Thousands of couples live together even if they are not particularly happy with each other simply because they don't know what else to do, or because they cannot find good enough reasons to part ways

Parenthood is a difficult phase

- There are no problem children, only problem parents are very true
- Parents should be consistent in their behaviour, be conscious of avoiding duplicity in their relations with each other as well as the child
- Parents have to discipline themselves sacrificing many-a-times every legitimate means of self-indulgence
- To strike a balance between the old ways and beliefs of their parents and new ways of children
- Parenthood means giving more than receiving, loving more than being loved creating a generation with out an expectation of returns

Parents are the prime givers

- Within the family sphere there is a flow of these values in all directions
- Family are expressed in what we needs, how we seek to get it and what we are willing to give in return
- What we do if we do not get it and how we responds to the needs of others
- It is apparent that children experience both love and hate towards their parents
- Family does two things
- It insures physical survival and builds the essential humanness of individual
- The family may be fairly regarded as a kind of exchange unit, the values exchanged are love and material goods

Maturity of younger generation

- Globalisation has changed everything
- Younger generation are learning a lot from the internet
- Raising issues on what they deem important
- That's really very encouraging. It shows their maturity
- Younger generations are our future and they are learning a lot from their experiences
- This will go on to shape up well the tomorrow we all are waiting for

Indian situation

- In India, many difficult problems are associated with marriage and family life
- Dowry becomes an important issue in India
- Family disorganization due to marital conflicts, desertion and child marriage are quite common
- Sunday newspapers are filled with engagement, and wedding
- A wedding is almost always regarded as a very special occasion in India
- Marriage and family are still a very prominent part of India life

Marriage and relationship

- The quality of the emotional relationship between a couple now determines the success or failure of their marriage
- There is no relationship between human beings which is more tender, more kind and loving, more intimate and delicate, more touching, more beautiful, more sublime, more heavenly and earthly, more spiritual and physical
- A spouse is expected to provide friendship, erode experience, romantic love ego support etc. Therefore, the family is the main source of the supportive elements so crucial for mental well-being

Indian women are traditionally housewives

- India has the largest number of professionally qualified women
- This includes female workers at all levels of skills – from surgeons, pilots to bus conductors and labourers
- Women work roughly twice as much as men, combining home and workplace
- They have a lot more responsibilities and accountability at home than men
- Mothers are working and will continue to work outside home
- But life is more than just a job – women are ready to accept lower pay for flexible working hours and part-time work to balance the twin challenges of home and work

(A) Sense of family responsibility

- What is the nature of the individual's obligation towards his family?
- For example 'child labour' – the poor parents want their children should earn money to smooth functioning of their family
- On other hand government of India prohibit the children to work in Factories and Mines
- Nearly 10 Million children are working in small and ill organized sectors to help their family economically
- This is a double standard in Indian Society
- Government wants to prevent child labour to go for work without any suitable policy
- These families should be identified for providing family allowance and children allowance

(B) Sense of family responsibility

- The disabled children, the dependent parents should also be provided financial assistance
- It would be wrong to propose that any new form of state provision could on its own radically alter a pattern of family life but a change in social policy is one of the steps which would be necessary before alternatives
- Social policy would allow alternative patterns of living and give working class people a freedom of choice they do not have now
- Social policy can never determine the quality of family life in direct way
- Provision of social and financial assistance for social security of each members of the family.

(A) Indian mother and family peace

- Thin line that differentiates a “super mother” from an “ordinary mother”
- Modern young women who go one step further
- Learn driving so that they can take their children to various activities after school hours
- They are computer literate, they guide their children in computer use
- Prevent them from getting unwanted knowledge by surfing the internet
- Update general knowledge by reading newspapers and journals
- Up-to-date on politics, health, education and other matters
- Intention is to provide proper guidance to their children so that they become competent citizens to face up to the challenges of a competitive world
- Mothers are a great asset and become role models for their children for the peaceful family life

Thank you