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# Impact of Family Structure on the Overall Development of Youth

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## Abstract

*When we look around us at home we find we are surrounded by members of our family. We treasure their love and affection. We know that whenever we need anything we can ask our parents, we can go to our grandparents when we want to hear stories, mother is always ready with a hot and tasty meal for us. In short, almost all our needs are fulfilled within the family itself.*

## Introduction

### What is a family?

Family is universal and typically consists of a married man and woman, and their children.

Take a look around, you will find that people do not live by themselves. They live in families. Even you live in a family. And it is not just in India that we live in families. This is the case everywhere. The fact is that family is universal. In other words, it is found in all societies, all over the world.

### Functions of the family

Let us now see what different functions a family performs.

#### 1. Protection

At birth, the young child is totally depends upon adults for all its need. Survival would be difficult without adequate care given by the family members. In fact the family looks, after not only the children but all the other members too.

Caring for and giving protection to the children, the sick and the old is an important function of the family.

#### 2. Emotional bounding

The affection and love received from parents and other family members is essential for the proper development of children. The emotional bounding which close family ties give, make children feel wanted and loved. They grow up to be better adjusted adults than those who have not felt close family ties.

#### 3. Education

The family is the first school of the child- where the do's and don'ts of society are learnt. Learning how to

interact with others learning to respect and obey elders, learning to be honest, etc, starts at home. The traditional skills are also learnt at home and the child is prepared for future roles and career by the family.

#### 4. Financial security

The family acts as a provider for all its members. It provides the food, the shelter and the cloths that everyone needs other requirements of the family members are also fulfilled.

#### 5. Recreation

Family acts as companions to one another. There is always someone to play with or talk to. Also, celebration of festivals and events in the family like birth or marriage, etc, provide recreation to members.

### Types of family

We generally see two types of families in India- the nuclear and the joint family.

#### 1. The nuclear family

The nuclear family generally consists of a married man and woman and their unmarried children. In some cases, however, one or more additional persons may be living with them, for example, the father's unmarried or widowed sister.

#### 2. The joint family

The traditional joint family generally consists of a man, his wife, his unmarried daughter, his sons and their wives and children. If the grandsons are married, then their wives and children are also a part of the same joint family.

You will notice that a joint family is made up of a number of nuclear families living together under the

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same roof. They share a common kitchen and hold common property. The oldest male member is generally the head of the family and the decision maker for the family. But the woman is also play a significant role in decision making as they influence the male members to a large extent.

### **Advantages of nuclear and joint family**

#### Advantages of living in a nuclear family

1. It encourages initiatives, independence and self reliance among its members.
2. It encourages decision making among the children, which gives them greater self-confidence.
3. There is considerable privacy and opportunities for the members to interact with each other. This result in deeper emotional ties among the members.

#### Advantages of living in a joint family

1. It encourages family members to be cooperative and accommodating.
2. In the event of death of parents, a child finds adequate emotional and economic support.
3. It cares for the old, the helpless and the unemployed in the family.
4. There is more financial security.

### **Rationale**

The research is done to know the impact of joint family and nuclear family on the overall development of student. How family effect to the overall personality of student

### **Objective**

To analyse the impact of joint family and nuclear family on the college student's overall development

### **Literature Review**

**Donna Ginther (University of Kansas) & Robert Pollak (Washington University in St. Louis) et.al. (2005)** found that School achievement higher for children in nuclear families than for children in blended or single-parent families.

Educational outcomes of children in stable blended families are substantially worse than those of children reared in traditional nuclear families, according to a study published in the most recent issue of the journal *Demography*.

Both stepchildren and their half-siblings who are the joint children of both parents achieved at similar levels, well below children from traditional nuclear families.

Policymakers have focused on the differences between two-parent families and single-parent families, but this study finds that a crucial distinction is between children raised in traditional nuclear families (families where all children are the joint children of both parents) and children reared in other family types (single-parent families or blended families).

"Popular discussions often begin with the fact that children from single-parent families experience worse educational outcomes than children from two-parent families, and jump to the conclusion that this difference in educational outcomes was caused by the difference in family structure," says Pollak, Ph.D., the Hernreich Professor of Economics in Arts & Sciences and the John M. Olin School of Business. "Our results call into question this causal interpretation of the correlations between family structure and outcomes for children. Honest policy debates must rest on beliefs about causal relationships, not just on correlations."

Ginther and Pollak examined achievement test results and levels of educational attainment (high school completion, college attendance, college graduation) of 11,064 children tracked up to 15 years in two large national studies -- the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics.

They found that stepchildren and their half-siblings who spent their childhoods with their two biological parents achieved at virtually similar levels, significantly below children from traditional nuclear families.

When the researchers took into account family income and mother's education, the relationship between family type and children's educational outcomes weakened substantially and was often statistically insignificant for children living with a single-parent.

"Family structure may be associated with other factors that contribute to how well children do in school and whether they go on to college, such as limited time and money," says Ginther. "Or parents in traditional nuclear families may differ in ways we don't fully understand from parents in blended families and those in single-parent families." For example, the presence of stepchildren could be a source of stress, affecting

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educational outcomes for joint children in blended families.

These findings should make policymakers cautious, Ginther argues.

"Policies that are intended to improve children's well-being often focus on promoting two-parent families, which is easy to observe and, some believe, relatively easy to influence through tax and welfare policy, couples' counseling, or laws governing marriage, divorce, and child support," says Ginther. "If the relationship between educational achievement and family structure is influenced by variables other than family type, then policies that seek to affect family structure may have little or no effect on outcomes for children."

**P.K. Nanda & Asha Chawla et.al.** has investigated in their research impact of age and family type on emotional maturity of urban adolescent girls

In the present circumstances, youth as well as children are facing difficulties in life. These difficulties are giving rise to many psychosomatic problems such as anxiety, tensions, frustrations and emotional upsets in day to day life. So, the study of emotional life is now emerging as a descriptive science, comparable with anatomy. It deals with interplay of forces with intensities and quantities. Emotional maturity is not only the effective determinant of personality pattern, but it also helps to control the growth of adolescents development. The concept 'Mature' emotional behaviour of any level is that which reflects the fruits of normal emotional development. A person who is able to keep his emotions under control, who is able to brook delay and to suffer without self pity, might still be emotionally stunned and childish. According to Walter et.al. (1976) emotional maturity is a process in which the personality is continuously striving for greater sense of emotional health, both intrapsychically and intra personality. Emotional stability is one of the seventh important indicators of mental health. It simply means being grown up so that one may be able to personally manage his/her desires and feelings and may be better able to cope up the adverse life situations in a most benefiting and socially approved manner. The most outstanding mark of emotional maturity is ability to bear tension. The emotionally mature is not one who necessarily has resolved all conditions that aroused anxiety and hospitality but it is continuously in process of seeing

himself/herself in clearer perspective, continually involved in a struggle to gain healthy integration of feeling and thinking action. Adolescence is the period of heightened emotionality. It is the most demanding periods in one's life- a period of storm and stress because accurate portrayal of self to others, which is an identifying criterion of healthy personality, is in the process of establishment during this period. Considering this stage as a crucial, stage of emotionality, the present study was planned with an objective to study the impact of age and family type on emotional maturity of urban adolescent girls.

It was satisfying to note that there was no illiterate father in both the age groups. Majority of fathers i.e. 41.66% were graduates and 25% were post-graduates. 28.33% were either matriculate or above. Regarding mothers' education, no mother was found to be illiterate and 46.66 % were graduate followed by matriculates and above (41.66%). 66.66% of adolescent girls belonged to nuclear family, where as a small percentage of 33.33% belonged to joint family. It was surprising to note that 46.66% of younger adolescent girls were found to be emotionally stable than the older ones (40%). A drastic difference was observed in moderately stable category of the two groups, older girls scored higher (46.66%), whereas just 30% fell in this category belonging to younger group. No respondent of older group fell in the category of extremely unstable, whereas 3.34 per cent girls were there in this category belonging to younger group. Emotional instability was less in older group as compared to younger ones. It was interesting to note that no girl was found to be placed in extremely unstable category in the older group, whereas 3.33% girls were there in extremely unstable category belonging to younger group. Results indicated that 60% of girls belonging to joint family fell in 1st category i.e. emotional stability, whereas just 45% girls belonging to nuclear family were in this category. On the other hand, more percentage of girls of nuclear families scored higher than the other group and were placed in moderately stable category. It was very much satisfying to note that very less percentage of girls belonging to joint family were placed in unstable categories of emotional maturity. The percentage of instability was quite high in adolescents of nuclear family. No girl was found to be extremely unstable in joint family system, whereas 2.5% of girls were there in nuclear family.

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From the above results it is very clear that type of family definite has impact on emotional maturity. Joint family system has a positive impact on emotionality because maximum percentage of girls was found to be stable and no girl was found to be externally unstable in the joint family. It might be due to the reason that in joint family system, there are more members in the family wherein there are more chances of disclosure of pent up emotions, there are more number of adults advising young ones during their stressful period where as such intimacy is not found in nuclear family, where the number of family members is very less and majority of mothers are working. It can be concluded from the results that emotional maturity is affected by age, as adolescents grow in age there comes more stability in their emotions. Level of instability and extremely instability decrease with increase in age. Joint family system plays a significant role in emotional maturity and stability of adolescent girls.

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The Impact of Nuclear and joint family system on the academic achievement of secondary school students in Karachi

Social life is a part of human nature, who forms colonies and villages by rehabilitating themselves nearest to each other and all these together create a city. Because of various reasons society is divided in rural and urban areas. Similarly. Pakistani society is also divided in rural and urban society. Prior to creation of Pakistan, the joint family system was very much liked, but today the world social changes also affected Pakistani culture, that is why with joint family system the tendency of nuclear family system is advancing, but Pakistani society is an Islamic society which gives emphasis upon children's rights in particular. The prophet peace be upon Him when ordered to parents to edify and provide better education and moral training to their children, also asked the children to display excellent behaviour towards their parents.

Earlier in Pakistan the Joint family system was enforce but nowadays because of advancement in science and industry, the tendency towards nuclear family system is advancing, The advancement of nuclear family system paves healthy effects on one side but on the

other it paves unhealthy effects and all these become the root factors for destruction of a society .All these factors affect secondary school students. Therefore, the researcher felt great need and importance of this issue and intend to conduct research on the Following problem.

The Impact Of Nuclear And Joint Family System On The Academic Achievement Of Secondary School Students In Karachi The objective of this research was to evaluate the effects of nuclear and joint family system upon male and female students at secondary stage of education in Karachi. In addition to that some preliminary objectives were also be accomplished. In order to achieve these objectives, the researcher had arranged some important null hypotheses; few of them are as under: 1. There will be no significant difference in moral manners between male and female students relating to joint and nuclear family system. 2. There will be no significant difference in educational achievement between male and female students relating to joint and nuclear family system.

The present selected problem is concerned to all Pakistani nuclear & joint family system at secondary stage male and female students but due to limited resources figures from all Pakistan cannot be collected, therefore, for research purpose, the male and female students of secondary stage education from Karachi were included who belonged to joint and nuclear family system. After a piolot study through random sampling from three towns of Karachi 71 schools were selected.528 male and female students were selected. Two hundred parents of these male and female students were also selected, (one hundred from nuclear family and one hundred from joint family). One hundred ninety teachers of these male and female students were selected, ( one hundred female teachers and ninety male teachers). As a whole survey technique was adopted and in order to collect data, questionnaire and interview schedule was arranged. After collection of data it is presented in tabulated form to assess the results. The parametric "t" test was used. In non - parametric, the Chi square was used. Percentage method was also used.

It was concluded that there is relationship between family system and academic achievement of secondary school students. In the light of findings several recommendations were made for families, teachers and to improve educational system.

## Research Methodology

### Research type

- Exploratory research

### Population

- All college students of Indore

### Sample size

- 100 students from joint family
- 100 students from nuclear family

### Sampling method

- Convenient Sampling Technique

### Tools for data collection

- A self structured questionnaire was used for collecting primary data.

### Tools for data analysis

- Z test was used for data analysis.

## Result and Discussion

The data was collected with the help of questionnaire. Z test was used for comparing the factors which are responsible for overall development of an individual of Joint family & Nuclear family. There are nine common factors of individuals which are responsible for overall development and then subject to test in order to identify that hypothesis made would be accepted or rejected.

### Conclusion

From the above results it is very clear that type of family definite has impact on overall development of

youth. On the basis of data collected we can conclude that there is significant impact of structure of family on decision making and interpersonal skills of youth and there is no significant impact of structure of family on Confidence, Health, Communication Skills, Personality, Leadership, Coordination and Creativity. It might be due to the reason that in joint family system, there are more members in the family wherein there are more chances of disclosure of pent up emotions, there are more number of adults advising young ones during their stressful period where as such intimacy is not found in nuclear family, where the number of family members is very less and majority of mothers are working.

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Factors	Nuclear Family			Joint Family			Z	Accept	Reject
	$\bar{x}_1$	$\sigma_1$	$n_1$	$\bar{x}_2$	$\sigma_2$	$n_2$			
Decision Making	4.17	0.649	100	4.37	0.733	100	2.041	×	✓
Confidence	4.19	0.595	100	4.35	0.669	100	1.78	✓	×
Interpersonal Skills	4.49	0.656	100	4.23	0.691	100	2.37	×	✓
Health	4.12	0.739	100	4.18	0.497	100	0.067	✓	×
Communication Skills	4.18	0.606	100	4.1	0.592	100	0.944	✓	×
Personality	4.2	0.566	100	4.2	0.616	100	0	✓	×
Leadership	4.11	0.720	100	4.23	0.646	100	1.24	✓	×
Coordination	4.33	0.775	100	4.15	0.622	100	1.182	✓	×
Creativity	4.12	0.828	100	4.18	0.654	100	0.571	✓	×