

## FACTORS AND CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEARIZATION OF FAMILY AT HAYATABAD PHASE-II, PESHAWAR

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### ABSTRACT

Nuclearization is the process of movement and shift from joint family system to nuclear family system. Nuclearization is not automatically happening rather a lot of factors are responsible for its occurrence. To search for the factors and consequences of Nuclearization the researcher introduced the basic concepts of the topic and gave the relevant theoretical framework to highlight the basis of the topic. To understand nuclearization process, causes and consequences, the researcher developed a schedule and then selected 80 heads of the household through accidental and purposive sampling basis. Data was collected from 80 male heads of the households through interview schedule in Phase-II Hayatabad, Peshawar. After collecting the data the study went through data analysis, interpretation, and conclusion and at the end the researcher extended certain suggestions to overcome the problem.

**Key words:** Hayatabad, Families, Nuclearization, Pakistan, Peshawar, Post natal, Pre natal

### INTRODUCTION

Some prominent social scientists have categorized “a family” into three types namely, (i) nuclear family system, (ii) extended family system and (iii) joint family system. This study deals only with the nuclear family system therefore; a brief overview with special reference to Pakistan and NWFP is presented.

Nuclearization is the process of movement and shift from joint family system to nuclear family system, to switch off from joint family and switch on to nuclear family is nuclearization. Different factors are responsible for the nuclearization of a family, these includes; industrialization, rapid communication and transport, decline of agricultural and village trades, individual freedom, better socialization of children, privacy and impact of west (Talcott, 1987; Baqi, 1987; Margaret, 1976)

#### *Trend towards nuclearization of family in Pakistan*

Most of the population in Pakistan lives in rural setting. In these areas, joint family system is in vogue; for it is pre-requisite in agriculture economy. According to T. R. Malthus, the productive nature of the land increases with arithmetic ratio whereas the population is increasing with geometric ratio. So this overpopulation has caused some cracks in agriculture economy. At the same time development has taken place with much speed in a recent decade specifically. Education is getting momentum parallel with mass media, transportation, industry, telecommunication and urbanization. According to Iqbal (2004), “New type of family (nuclear) is emerging in Pakistan because of education and urbanization.”

Secondly, people come to cities in search of jobs. Once they get service, they wish to settle their families in cities or towns. In Pakistan, there is lack of proper management. Getting accommodation is a big problem in itself. Then renting a house aggravates the problem two-fold. This is the reason that people prefer to settle nuclear family in cities due to meager income. (Baqi, 1975).

#### *Trend towards nuclearization of family in NWFP and in target area*

Everyone is susceptible to change, no matter how much one is resistant. Pathans are famous for strong cultural values, authoritarianism and zeal for religion. That old generation is losing its grip and the new enlightened generation seeks to make hay when the sun is shining. Things once looked down upon are now symbols of prestige.

Joint family with an authoritative patriarch was once a symbol of dignity, prestige and a source of income in NWFP. But now the rule of Khanism is taking its last breaths. The mob is more aware of its rights and they have discovered their ways. High population is burden on fragile agriculture economy. Individuals have seen the wonders offered by education through media. So educated lot wishes more freedom and hence lives according to their wishes. This change resulted in nuclearized families in urban place managed by govt. or private societies.

In Hayatabad Township, most of the families are nuclear.

Urbanism has played a vital role here because majority of the inhabitants are servicemen. Less people have migrated from the surrounding villages and sub-urban areas because of security problem. Majority of the residents of Hayatabad are the migrants shifted their families to the township for better facilities and security. Majority of these residents belong to middle class, therefore, affordability has restricted them to adopt nuclear family.

#### ***Changing composition of the nuclear family***

Lenski (1978), illustrates the changing composition of the nuclear family. He says: 'The industrial revolution has changed not only the family's function but its composition as well. Above all, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of children'. He exemplifies 'British marriages contracted around 1860 produced of median of six children. Only two generations later, the median had dropped to two. Families with 8 or more children declined from 33 % of the total to 2 %. Although the decline was more rapid in Britain than in most industrial societies, the general pattern has been quite similar'. Lenski gives another example: 'in the middle of the eighteenth century 43% of Swedish children died before they reached the age of 5. Of those who survived, 14% died before they were 20. In other words half of the children died before their 20th birthday. By contrast in the middle of the 20th century, 97% of the Swedish children lived to age obviously with so many deaths in the first years of life, there were considerably fewer children living in an agrarian family than were born into it'.

Another factor that reduced the number of children living with their parents at any given time was the long duration of the children period. Woman who had eight, ten or more children often bore them over a twenty-year period or longer. By the time the youngest child was 5 or 10, many of its older brothers and sisters had left home or died.

Thus although the nuclear family was certainly larger in agrarian societies, the number of its members who actually lived together at one time was not as different as the birth rates suggest.

A second noteworthy change in the composition of the family is the elimination of the last vestiges of polygamy. Industrial societies are the only major type in which polygamy has never been socially approved. Among preliterate societies only 13% insist on monogamy. In agrarian societies monogamy is more common, though still far from universal (until recently polygamy was practiced throughout the whole of the Islamic World extending from the East

Indies to Morocco). The shift in industrial societies reflects the changing character of the family, especially the growing importance of effective ties between husband & wife and the decline in importance of economic functions. And at least one writer has argued that the norm of monogamy in industrial societies is an expression of democratic, egalitarian values and a reaction against the obvious inequalities inherent in polygamous marital system.

Finally the modern family includes fewer relatives outside the nuclear group, household today seldom accommodate aged grand parents, unmarried aunts & uncles or even grown children. This is no longer necessary in most families because modern urban communities provide so many alternative facilities, apartments, nursing homes, restaurants, laundries, and so on.

Moreover, as these facilities have developed, changes have occurred in societal values. Most members of industrial societies are extremely jealous of their privacy and apparently regard it more highly than they do the advantages that go with more illusive households. (Gerald and Lenski. Jean, 1978).

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Hayatabad is a suburban area township of Peshawar. It is comprised of 7 phases. Phase 2 of Hayatabad is centrally located and reasonably populated. A sample size 80 heads of the household was selected through random sampling technique. The study is based on primary sources of data. Efforts were made to design interview schedule in such a way to collect complete and correct information through a well-developed questionnaire. It was pre-tested to check validity and reliability.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table I and Fig. 1 indicates that 66% respondents considered family conflicts, 60% small house, 53% no privacy in joint family, 51% no freedom, 67% no money, 75% in-laws attitude, 75% authoritative attitude, 50% no health facilities, 56% no education facilities for children, 55% no comfort in life, 50% no say in family affairs and 95% specified for common property as push factors of nuclearization.

Table II and Fig. 2 depicts that 58% respondents specified for better life, 55% better health facilities, 75% specified for better education facilities for children, 52% for better job opportunities, 55% for business, 45% for recreation, 51% for freedom, 50% for privacy, 74% for media, 50% for comfort, 60% for availing modern facilities of life and 67% specified for self decisions as the pull factors of nuclearization.

Table III and Fig. 3 reveals that 68% respondents specified for self-motivation, 55% wife, 67% children and 54% specified for in-laws as the motivating factors behind nuclearization.

Table IV and Fig. 4 indicates that 56% respondents considered deprivation from parents, 54% from traditional ceremonies, and 52% from property in village and 50% considered overburden at nuclear family as the side effects of nuclearization.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study concludes that the major pushing factors of nuclearization are common property( no personal ownership on anything), no money, family conflicts, small house, in-laws attitude, no proper education for children and no comfort in life. Some minor pushing factors were no privacy, no freedom, no health facilities, and no say in family affairs.

The study indicates some pull factors of nuclearization. The major among them include, better education facilities for children, media, self decision, availing modern facilities of life, better health facilities, better life, better jobs and business opportunities. The minor pulling factors were freedom, privacy, comfort and recreation facilities.

The study also highlights the motivating factors behind the nuclearization in the area. Maximum of respondents considered self-motivation as well as children future prospects, wife and in-laws as the motivating factors behind the nuclearization.

The study also indicates that the main side effects of the nuclearization are deprivation of the parents, traditional ceremonies, and property rights and overburden of work at nuclear family.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Pakistan is a poor and under developed country. The masses are facing problems. The so-called modernization of West has impaired them. The result is unrest and adoption of change. This change also happened in family system. Nuclearization is on boom. It has some causes and consequences. To have balanced life according to the available resources and within the cultural values as well as to avoid unavoidable circumstances the following suggestions are extended:

- i. Majority of the conflicts in family are because of land so govt. should give special attention to frame such rules that can mitigate the land dispute problems.
- ii. Employment opportunities should be provided in rural areas according to the skills and abilities of the population.
- iii. Health and educational facilities should be provided in rural areas. It will help in minimizing the effect of overburden in cities and to intact culture in villages.
- iv. Media should support ground realities instead of instigating the mob to imitate blindly. It is a powerful instrument that can mould society according to one's need.
- v. Lack of national attitude has really marred the efforts of development and prosperity. So we feeling should be developed in citizens.

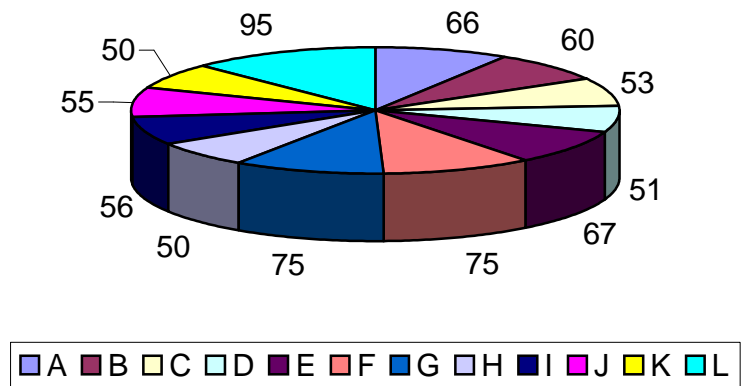


Fig. 1 Push factors of nuclearization

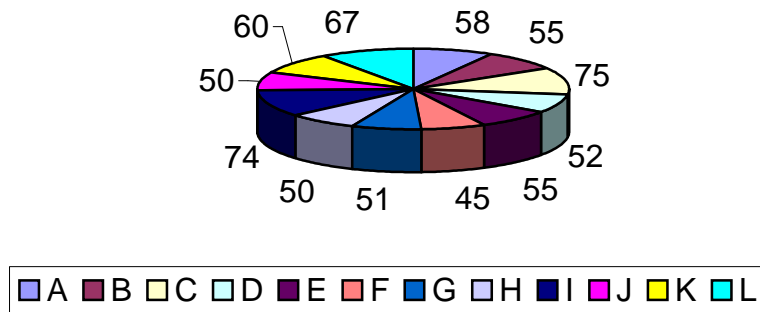


Fig. 2 Pull factors of nuclearization

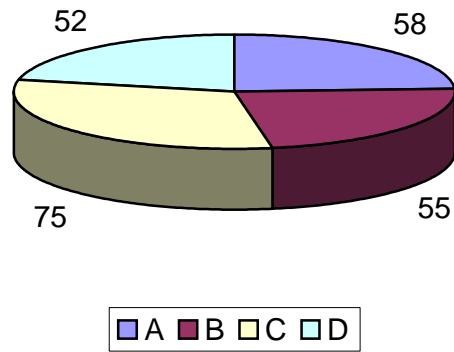


Fig. 3 Motivating factors of nuclearization

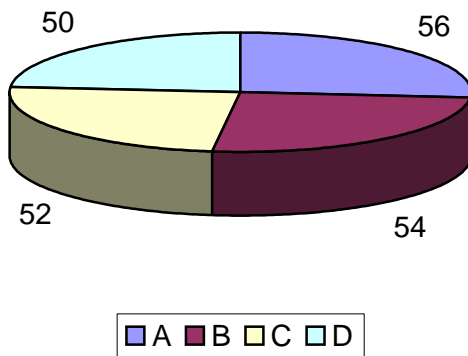


Fig. 4 Consequences of nuclearization

**Table I. Push factors of nuclearization**

Factors	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
%Responses	66	60	53	51	67	75	75	50	56	55	50	95

**Table II. Pull factors of nuclearization**

Factors	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
%Responses	58	55	75	52	55	45	51	50	74	50	60	67

**Table III. Motivating factors of nuclearization**

Factors	A	B	C	D
%Responses	58	55	75	52

**Table IV. Consequences of Nuclearization**

Consequences	A	B	C	D
%Responses	56	54	52	50

Source: Field Data

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