



FAMILY LIFE SATISFACTION ABOUT NUCLEAR FAMILY VS. JOINT FAMILY SYSTEM: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN NALLAGOUNDANPATTI VILLAGE PANCHAYAT IN OMALUR TALUK OF SALEM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Life satisfaction is one of the important elements in every one's life and commonly there is a belief that joint family members may have better life satisfaction than nuclear family members and this may be exist the availability of more members in the joint family bring more sharing and caring and more emotional satisfaction. In the present study the perception of family life satisfaction was analysed with five statements with five point scale in the Nallagoundanpatti Village Panchayat in Omalur Taluk of Salem District among 24 respondents each from joint and nuclear family. The results indicate that the respondents from joint family have less satisfaction on various statements like 'my family loves me', 'my family gives me emotional support', 'I get respect from my family', 'my family understands my personal desires' and 'my family helps to solve my problems' than the respondents from nuclear family.

KEYWORDS : Joint Family, Nuclear Family and Family Life Satisfaction

INTRODUCTION

Family is the one of the universal and permanent institutions of mankind. Family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood, or adoption, constituting a single household and interacting with each other in their respective social positions, usually those of spouses, parents, children and siblings. The family group should be distinguished from a household, which may include boarders and roomers sharing a common residence. Family is the soil where our roots are held together and from there we grow as an individual yet attached to the roots. Family is a very essential part of everyone's life. The importance of family is being inscribed within our brains since childhood. The bond that we share with each and every individual of our family not only creates a respectful relationship but also transform a house into a home.

The family in India do not consist only husband, wife and their children but also of uncles, aunts and cousins and grandsons. This system is called joint family or extended family system. This joint family is peculiar characteristic of the Indian social life. Usually a son after marriage does not separate himself from the parents but continue to live under the same roof eating food cooked at one hearth participating in common worship and holding property in common and every person has share in it. All the members of joint family keep their earnings in a common fund out of which family expenses are met.

The modern family that emerged after the Industrial revolution is different from the earlier model. For instance, patriarchal rule began to give way to greater equality between the genders. Similarly, family roles once considered exclusively male or female broke down. Caring for the home and children, once the exclusive duty of the female, is often a shared activity, as, increasingly, is the earning of wages and the pursuit of public life, once the exclusive domain of the male. Ragini, Shabnam and Sudha (2012) assessed the changing family composition, structure and practices in urban area and they found that urbanization of families is continuously causing for change in structure, composition and practices of family. Priyanka, Vipin (2019) conducted a study among comparative on joint verses nuclear family regarding social, cognitive and language development among pre-school children of charotar region and concluded that the social cognitive and language development of joint family children is better than the nuclear family children. Kumari Madhulata (2015) conducted a study about the concept of both the family system

and the drawbacks of both the family system and concluded that the general wellbeing status of individuals from family units was poor when contrasted with individuals from joint families. The present study compares the level of comfortableness, togetherness and other aspects in both joint family and nuclear family units in the Nallagoundanpatti village panchayat of Omalur Taluk in Salme district.

METHODOLOGY

The members of joint and nuclear family above the age of 20 lives in Nallagoundampatti of Salem district were the universe of the study. Non-probability sampling used to select the respondents and 48 respondents were selected through purposive sampling for the data collection. The sample consists of 24 respondents from joint family and another 24 respondents from nuclear family. The structured interview schedule was used as tool of data collection and which consists of socio-demographic information and satisfaction of family life. The respondents responses on satisfaction of family life recorded on a five point scale i.e., 'very satisfaction', 'satisfaction', 'neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction', 'dissatisfaction' and 'very dissatisfaction'. The collected data analyzed with the help of simple frequency table with percentile score.

RESULTS

The mean age of the respondents from joint family worked out to 31.05 years with a standard deviation of 3.58 whereas the mean age of the respondents from nuclear family worked out to 39.47 years with a standard deviation of 4.92. With regard to the gender of the respondents, 41.7 per cent of the respondents from joint family and 44.4 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family were male, 58.3 per cent of the respondents from joint family and 56.6 per cent of the respondents were female.

While considering the total number of family members, 45.6 per cent and 20.8 per cent of the respondents from joint family respectively mentioned that their family consists of 5 members and 6 members, 33.3 per cent and 29.2 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family respondents revealed that their family consists of 4 members and 3 members.

As per as the family monthly income is concerned, the mean monthly income for joint family worked out Rs.28,476.23 with a standard deviation of 3,608.51 and in the case of nuclear family it worked out Rs.17,953.48 with a standard deviation of 5,126.83.

Table No. 1 Distribution of the respondents by their opinion on the statement 'My family loves me'

My family loves me	Joint Family		Nuclear Family	
	No. of respondents	Percentage	No. of respondents	Percentage
VERY SATISFIED	19	79.2	23	95.8
SATISFIED	3	12.5	1	4.2
NEITHER	2	8.3	-	-
DISSATISFIED	-	-	-	-
VERY DISSATISFIED	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	100	24	100

With regard to the statement "My family loves me", 79.2 per cent of the respondents from joint family expressed very satisfaction, 12.5 per cent of the respondents from joint family stated satisfaction and remaining 8.3 per cent of the respondents from joint family indicated that they neither satisfied nor dissatisfied to the statement. In the case of nuclear family, 95.8 per cent expressed very satisfaction and remaining 4.2 per cent stated satisfaction to the above statement. Generally we expect that the joint family loves it members than nuclear family because the joint family always consist of more family members and when anyone fails to provide love others might provide love but in the case of nuclear family the total family members are very less and each and every one busy with their schedule and that in turn reflects in the extending the love also. But in the present study, compare to joint family the respondents from nuclear family expressed very satisfaction to the statement in more in number.

This might be reason that when the group size is very limited each and every one provide utmost love and care to other members in the group than when the group size is big.

The data to the statement "I get respect from my family" exhibits that 66.6 per of the respondents from joint family expressed very satisfaction, 25 per cent stated satisfaction and each 4.2 per cent of the respondents conveyed neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction and very dissatisfaction respectively. On the other hand in the nuclear family, 95.8 per cent expressed very satisfaction and remaining 4.2 per cent stated satisfaction over the statement. In this statement also, compare to joint family the respondents from nuclear family have expressed positively to the statement 'I get respect from my family'.

As far as the statement "My family gives me emotional support", 66.7 per cent of the respondents from joint family and 87.5 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family expressed very satisfaction, 33.3 per cent of the respondents from joint family and 12.5 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family stated satisfaction. In this statement, more number of respondents from nuclear family expressed very satisfaction than respondents from joint family and this may be due to the emotional ties very deeper as well as stronger when the group size is very small and when the group size begins to bigger in size then negatively influence the emotional ties among the group members.

While considering to the statement "My family understands my personal desires", 87.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family expressed satisfaction respectively to the statement. In the case of joint family 62.5 per cent, 25 per cent and 12.5 per cent of the respondents respectively stated very satisfaction, satisfaction and dissatisfaction to the statement. The reasons may be due to fact that the responses to the earlier statements reflect to this statement too.

Table No. 2 Distribution of the respondents by their opinion on the statement 'My family helps to solve my problems'

My family helps to solve my problems	Joint Family		Nuclear Family	
	No. of respondents	Percentage	No. of respondents	Percentage
VERY SATISFIED	16	66.6	20	83.6
SATISFIED	6	25	4	16.4
NEITHER	1	4.2	-	-
DISSATISFIED	1	4.2	-	-
VERY DISSATISFIED	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	100	24	100

As per as the statement 'My family helps to solve my problems', 66.6 per cent of the respondents from joint family and 83.6 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family expressed very satisfaction, 25 per cent of the respondents from joint family and 16.4 per cent of the respondents from nuclear family mentioned satisfaction, each 4.2 per cent of the respondents from joint family stated neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction and dissatisfaction. The differences in the responses of the respondents between joint and nuclear family may be due to the fact compare to nuclear family respondents more number of respondents negatively responded to the statements viz., 'my family loves me', 'my family gives me emotional support', 'I get respect from my family' and 'my family understands my personal desires' and these responses may be the reasons for the statement 'my family helps to solve my problems'.

CONCLUSION

The present study is based on the responses collected from 24 respondents in joint family and another 24 respondents in nuclear family in the Nallagoundanpatti village panchayat in Omalur taluk of Salem district. Generally we may felt that the joint family is superior in the aspects like availability of the love and care, mutual support and understanding, sympathy and attachment, everyone work for the welfare of others and the like than the nuclear family. But in the present study, compare to joint family the respondents from nuclear family positively responded to all the statements. So we may conclude that modern joint family lacks the intimate social contact between its members and reflects all other aspects of the family life.

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