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IMPACT OF MODERNIZATION ON FAMILY STRUCTURE: A CASE STUDY OF PUNJAB PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been designed to explore the effects of modernization on the family structure. The family system of any society plays a crucial role in social, cultural and religious values of the society. The family is one of the most important and fundamental institutions of the society. The survival of a society depends on the institution of the family. The structure of Pakistani society like many others has been witnessing a social change. Due to the modernization, employment opportunities are leading to the change in the society, and women are participating in every field of life. This social change can be visualized by comparing the present behavior patterns with those prevailing a few decades back. It has been observed that the old values and behavior patterns of the people have been changing. Due to the social and cultural changes, people have been showing less rigidity regarding their traditions. They have been adopting new and modern ideas and values, and the society has been changing from the traditional to the modern way of life. It has had serious impacts on the environment and social structure of the societies. The present study was conducted in Punjab Pakistan. A sample of 380 respondents was selected. Moreover, the interview schedule was used for the purpose of the data collection. The collected data were analyzed by using SPSS. The results of the study indicated that the more stable economy produces the more economic progressive development and the adoption of luxurious standard of living. Democracy and modernization have been interdependent on each other. Based on the findings, it was concluded that family patterns have been affected by the modernization. To overcome this issue, the government and families should work parallel, the government should control the media to promote the cultural and traditional values. On the other hand, the families should participate in the collective activities, and make strong social interactions within the household, too.

Keywords: Modernization, Effects, Family Structure, Economic Development and Traditional Values.

INTRODUCTION

Modernization acts as a process of changes in the economic as well as the cultural aspects of the society (Haviland, 2002). The traditional societies use the scientific knowledge gained from the modern societies and apply it on their own societies, this application of the scientific knowledge which has been borrowed from the west, creates changes in their traditional culture. The application of the foreign rules and procedures, modifies the family system, cultural patterns, religious system and their typical structures (Charlton & Andras, 2003). Social and cultural changes in societies occur due to the modern societies, as individuals adopt the principles of the modern world (Cohon, 2011). Their priorities, loyalty, professionalism, normative structure and

religious relationships change due to the modernization. The family is the basic and important unit of the society. The family system has been changing gradually. The traditional societies had joint and extended family systems, but nuclear family system has been the product of the modern societies (Plowman et al., 2010).

Modernity is a sense or idea of discontinuing the present with the past. It is the idea of change in social as well as cultural processes (either through improvement or decline) in the society, and the present life would be different from the life in the past. Contemporary technologies have raised the social status of women in the families, and at the same time have set the shape of social relationships to the stake. Nowadays, there are a lot of worries in social relations, especially between spouses (Elkind, 1992; Taft, 2015). There is a number of different structures of families prevailing in different cultures. In a way, the structures have been operating uniquely in the complex environments consisting of external and internal challenges that include economic, social, religious, educational, political and technological elements. There are three types of family that are mostly existing in societies as: joint, extended and nuclear.

Implications of Modernization on Families

As mentioned above, modernization includes a number of different models and indicators, all of which affect the family structures, conditions and functions. Families in the world have changed rapidly in their structures, functions and responsibilities in the last two decades, but this has not been so true in South Asia where traditional, and authoritative systems of the patriarchal ways and beliefs prevail. Some of the biggest reasons for change have been universal, while in other countries and cultures there have been special changes. A well-functioning family has been beneficial to societies when a poorly functioning family is burdened. Therefore, the duty and obligation of society is to strengthen and maintain families for optimum performance (Iqbal et al., 2017).

Sociological Significance of the Research

Pakistan is a developing country. Modernization is usually a feature of developed countries and its effects whether positive or negative has been seen in a developed world, especially in the western world. But, it is a fact that modernization has spread from developed to developing countries, and has affected the whole community individually and collectively. One of the most important areas most affected by the modernization is the relationship between families. In Pakistan, family ties have weakened as the modernization has grown.

Objectives of The Study

- To study the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.
- To know about people's knowledge on the modernization and family values.
- To probe the effects of modernization on the family functions.
- To suggest some policy measures to create links between the modernization and family setups.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross sectional study was conducted, and a quantitative approach was used. A sample of 380 respondents was taken through a multistage sampling technique. At the initial stage of the sampling, four towns (smaller administrative units) were selected namely: Madina Town, Jinnah Town, Iqbal Town and Lyallpur Town from the district Faisalabad of Punjab Province of Pakistan.



At the second stage, the sampling of one locality in each of the selected towns was selected through the sampling random technique. At the third stage, the researcher gathered information of the population in each locality through the voters' list and draw the sampling frame through the stratified proportionate random sampling technique. Through this technique, the researcher got the equal sample size representation from each stratum without considering the whole population in each stratum. 95 respondents were selected for data collection from each stratum by using the convenient sampling strategy. The equal size was necessary to get the equal representative response of the respondents from each stratum. Moreover, the data was collected with the help of the well-structured interview and presented in the form of the univariate, bi-variate and multivariate analysis. All the statistical analysis was done by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis and discussion about the information gathered by the researcher and its explanation was the important and main portion of the research work. The generalizations of the findings and inferences were drawn with the help of the demographic traits of the interviewee and their behavior based on their answers to the questions.

Hypothesis 1: The higher the use of the modern technology, the weaker the family ties/bonds.

Table 1: The association between the modern technology and family ties

Technology	Family ties			Total
	To great extent F &%	To some extent F &%	Not at all F &%	
Agree	122	81	5	208
	32.1	21.3%	1.3%	54.7%
No Opinion	4	81	33	118
	1.0%	21.3%	8.6%	31.0%
Disagree	3	28	23	54
	0.7%	7.3%	6.0%	14.2%
Total	129	190	61	380
	33.9%	50.0%	16.0%	100.0%

Test	Value	D.F.	P-Value (Significance)
Pearson Chi-Square	256.909	4	0.000**
Gamma	0.846	--	0.000**

** = Highly Significant

Table 1 elaborates the connotation between the economic developments and changes in the way of life. The calculated worth of Chi-Square and Gamma test highlighted the highly significant connotation between the both variables. Therefore, the research hypothesis "The directions of changes in the way of life depends upon the modernization that comes through the economic development" was accepted. Moreover, the results Gamma test showed the strong positive strength between the both variables. Economic development increased the standard of living that effects the human way of life especially social, cultural and belief system practices. The same results found by Emeterio *et al.* (2017) reported that recent studies have shown that digital



devices have led to qualitative changes in family activities, the creation of new interaction scenarios and even the reorganization of the family relational models. New entertainment experiences associated with the digital world have required the adaptation of the family education projects. Families should receive guidance and training so that they can incorporate technology naturally into their daily lives. In this respect, it has been encouraging to find studies that confirm that families are very interested in the use and inclusion of digital media, and training in the use of these devices should be provided. Most of the people have lost their faith on the traditional belief on the super natural.

Considering common culture and social norms, religion is a strong power that influences the public and private life of the individuals and groups. Due to the process of modernization, changes have occurred very quickly in the developed countries. People don't consider a single traditional religion as the main element of the belief system anymore. Cults, sects and secular values have been wiping out the religious principles (Robertson, 1981). According to Tonnies (1905) and Durkheim (2007), the industrialization enervates traditions. Shortly, modern societies turn away from gods. Weber (1947) studied capitalists, scientists and bureaucrats, and approved the above statements. It was concluded that the organizational workers move away from the questions of meaning and purpose of the human existence (Macionis, 2009).

Islam is a religion, which brings the mission of liberation and salvation. It has been a teaching derived from God, and oriented towards the humanity. The modernity has been reacted by Islam in two directions making two groups namely, the reformists/modernists and the fundamentalists. The reformists pass three stages to enter the modernity into the principles of Islam: First, they define Islam by persuading the fundamentalists to think in a rational and liberal manner; Second, they emphasize the basic ideas of brotherhood, tolerance, and social justice; and Third, they interpret the principles of Islam in a dynamic way in the context of the intellectual and scientific progress of the modern world (Zaki & Umatin, 2015).

Hypothesis 2: The higher the economic development, the higher the direction of the adoption of the modernization

Table 2: The association between the direction of change in way of life and the economic development due to the modernization

Economic Development	Change in way of life			Total
	Positively F & %	Negatively F & %	Don't know F & %	
To great extent	132	31	10	173
	34.7%	8.1%	2.6%	45.5%
To some extent	24	81	33	138
	6.3%	21.3%	8.6%	36.3%
Not at all	13	28	28	69
	3.4%	7.3%	7.3%	18.1%
Total	169	140	71	380
	44.4%	36.8%	18.6%	100.0%

Test	Value	D.F.	P-Value (Significance)
Pearson Chi-Square	256.909	4	0.000**
Gamma	0.846	--	0.000**

** = Highly Significant

Table 2 elaborates the connotation between the economic development and the change in the way of life. The calculated worth of Chi-Square and Gamma test highlighted the highly significant connotation between the both variables. Therefore, the research hypothesis “The directions of the change in way of life depend upon the modernization that comes through the economic development” was accepted. Moreover, Gamma showed a powerful positive strength between the both variables. The economic development increased the standard of living that effected the human way of life especially the social, cultural and belief system practices. The result was consistent with Oduro’s (2012) observation that fashion in Ghana, for the past few years, has been characterized by the exposure of the valuable body parts of the ladies to the sweeping of the ground by the young men’s low hanging trousers and showcasing of the boxer shorts at public places and functions. The dress code that perfectly fits winter conditions in Western countries has been fully practiced in Ghana when a full summer is being experienced. However, It should be noted that not all the western styles of dressing are negative as some writers have suggested, because some are convenient, fashionable, smart and affordable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of study, it has been concluded that generally, the modernization has been affecting family patterns. According to data, it was founded that in most of the families, women have been working outside home. It was also concluded that the women’s employment ratio pattern has been increasing over the years. The majority believe that the employment opportunities play an important role in changing family patterns. The data showed that now, most of the families have a positive attitude towards the female employed members. Due to the modernization, the functions of the family have been changing. With the spread of the modernization, the attitude and behavior pattern of the individuals have been undergoing significant changes. The way of acting, behaving and taking interest in each other and different family affairs have been becoming lesser. They have been adopting new and modern ways of behaving. There has been seemed to be less participation in the traditions and rituals. Modernization has been one of the most important factors for the present conditions of the family. In this process, old values, ideas and attitudes of the family members have been changing.

Recommendations

On the basis of the results, researcher recommends that the media should promote the cultural and traditional norms through playing the vital role in changing mindsets of people. Government should ensure media to their own religious values and norms to promote, without the inferiority complex. Family members should use digital technologies as a way of communicating and interacting with each other, to positively affect the social interactions within the households. The interaction of parents on social media/mobile phone with their children can increase the depth of relationship between them. Educating/ training the parents can be helpful to control the social activities of the children, as it decreases the digital division. Digital media should be avoided for toddlers, and the screen use should be limited for preschool children.



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