



STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHANGES IN RURAL FAMILY

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ABSTRACT :

Indian society is dominated by the village community. Majority of the Indian population are lived in the rural society. At the same time for several reasons the population in the urban community is increasing in the last decades. India life in Villages is the slogan of Mahatma Gandhiji. Villages and the rural life is the main identity of the Indian society. Now also more than 75 percent of the India's population lives in the rural society. As such the study of Indian villages and the prime institutions of the village community has become significant focus of the sociology. Since beginning the rural society and the institutions in the rural society are under investigation by the academicians, administrators and such other interested people. The changing scenario of the rural society and at the large the Indian society has influenced and made certain changes in the social institutions. The changes are experienced in the family and more particularly the Indian rural families are quite significant one and the process of influence of external and internal factors on the institution of family is still continuing.

In the present article an attempt is made to understand the changes taken over in the structure of Indian rural families. The influence of modernization, globalization, push and pull factors and such other factors are responsible for the changes happening in the structure and functions of the rural families in India. An attempt is made in this present paper to understand the intricate realities pertaining to the changes happening in the Indian rural families.



KEYWORDS : Indian society , influence of modernization, globalization.

INTRODUCTION :

It is well known fact and the attributed fact that the Indian society is agricultural society. The Indian society is also predominated by the rural society. Social scientists in India and abroad have written much on the Indian society and its agrarian occupational background. The Indian villages are dominated by the individuals and families who are mainly follow the agricultural and allied occupations. As such Indian village is considered as the agriculture occupation based society. About 70 percent of the Indian population pursue the agriculture and allied occupations. Generally Indian economy depends upon the agricultural occupation. The agricultural occupation influences and decides the social fabric of the society. Agriculture occupation decides the society's structure and functions of the major institutions in the society. Joint family, arranged marriage, small in size, individual and personal relationship between the members of the society, homogeneous quality of the people,

relationship with the nature, simple division of labour, and such other are the prime characteristics of the rural society. The major institution of the rural society is the joint family. Joint family and the agriculture occupation go hand in hand. Agriculture occupation expects more number of individuals to work in the field and the food is produced in the family itself. The rural family that is joint family is both production unit and consumption unit. The members of the family are socially secured with all the life's minimum comforts.

Apart from this nicely knitted social fabric of the rural society, there are some of the challenges of rural society. The low level of education, poverty, comparatively rigid caste system, gender separation/ isolation also puts its influence on the rural social life. All these characters build the social life of the Indian rural society. The family institution is also influenced by these circumstances and builds up in this social environment only. In the present scenario the rural society and the rural social institution joint family is also influenced by the modernization, globalization and recently the influence of technologies also made certain significant changes in the structure and functions of the rural family in India. As such the Indian rural family is facing changes in its structure and functions. This is the generally held view and assumption and in most of the researches on rural families also mentioned the changes happening in the structure and the functions of the rural families.

In the present article an attempt is made to understand the intricate realities pertaining to the changes in the structure and functions of the rural families in India. The institution of family in general has experienced the changes in its structure and functions and in particular the rural family has also experienced the same trends. Modern education, modern occupations, modern laws, attraction towards urban life and the failure in the agricultural occupation and several other reasons the rural family has also experienced the changes in the structure and the functions. Change in the institution is an universal factor, it is generally held assumption that the rural society and the rural families have changed in a slow pattern.

Power structure in the rural India has significant role in the growth and the development of the rural society. Before independence the power structure of the Indian rural society was traditional one. Village panchayats uses to look after the administrative functions of the rural society. This was earlier based on the caste system and uses to pass on based on the hereditary system. This was The power structure in the rural society has experienced changes as our country accepted the Indian constitution and by the introduction of Indian constitution; gradually it made changes in the power structure of the Indian rural administrative structure. Introduction of Panchayatraj system in the rural community administration has made lot of change in the rural society and its social settings. One could observe the increase in the lower caste population in the local village administration.

Young and educated population of the rural community are actively participating in the rural administration. The traditional hereditary and the caste based administration gradually disappeared from the rural administrative structure.

METHODOLOGY

The present article is based on the literature review on the study of family in Indian setting. The present study also used secondary data published in the reputed journals and news papers. Based on the literature reviewed and on the basis of the secondary data the present article has been prepared and the present article is an attempt to identify the thrust areas in the field of family institution with special reference to the Indian rural society.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Number of researches and the studies are conducted on the Indian families and more particularly on the Indian rural families. The structural changes and the changes in the functions of the family and its members are also reviewed in the present section. Changes in the family its structure and the functions appear for multiple reasons. In the present section attempt is made to understand the changes in the institution of family from almost all the angle.

Deshpande and Motiram(2008) in their study have mentioned transform in the family happens for so many reasons among them migration from rural to urban for seeking jobs, changes happening in the societal norms of the society, individual aspirations to be independent and these are common among young people which led to changes in the rural family structure. Whereas, Pande and Wadhwa (2012) in their study have identified economic pressure in the urban society force them to have nuclear families and adopt to the modern urban life. This situation led to the changes in the rural families.

Chatterjee and Das(2014) have concentrated on the education, modern education which has made some changes in the rural families. Access to education and more particularly among women education modified the society's norms. The education always expect for the more autonomy than the uneducated one. The educated prefers to be one of the parts in decision making. All these influences forced to have nuclear families.

Some of the studies have mentioned the regional differences also influence to have nuclear families. In Indian the southern states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu demonstrate more occasion of nuclear families. This trend is attributed because of higher literacy rate in the states and the progressive norms existed in the states are also responsible for this (Srivastava and Singh 2013).

Whereas Desai and Patel (2014) in their study have mentioned that, the trend of having nuclear families have not caused for the joint families totally are not degenerated. The study further mentioned that the culture of joint families is still existed in the rural traditional societies.

Further some of the studies have mentioned the economic inequality also responsible for having joint and the nuclear families in the urban society. World Bank Report of 2014 indicates that in urban society the families with higher income group would like to have nuclear families, choosing more autonomy, individual freedom and freedom of higher mobility. On the other hand Desai and Patel (2014) in their study have mentioned that, the lower income group inclines towards joint families for having joint resources and shared and mutual support to the family responsibilities.

The economic progress of the states or of the region is also responsible for having the type of family in the region or the state. The Maharashtra and the Gujrat states having achieved economic progress are more inclined towards the nuclear families with more individuality and more option for the mobility (Srivastava & Singh, 2013).

Chakraborty (2007) in his study has mentioned the cultural aspects more dominate for having the type of family. In spite of educational and economic aspects in the rural society it's the social and the cultural reasons dominate to have the joint families in the society. The communal living and the joint responsibilities have made the rural society to have the joint families.

These are the some of the important references on the study of Indian family, which indicates the recent trends and the influencing factors for the changes happening in the Indian family institution. The review of literature on the families in the Indian setting definitely guides towards carrying further more research on the institution of family in the Indian society and more particularly on the rural family in the Indian society to understand the intricate realities pertaining to the Indian family institution.

CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE RURAL FAMILY SYSTEM:

As the changes are taking place in the rural society and the rural administration, in the same manner the changes are happening in the structure and the functions of the family institution in the rural India. Family feelings are taken over by the individual feelings. Individuals are migrating from the villages for so many reasons such as for getting education, employment and to achieve the individual goals they are forced to move out of the family and if the amenities are not available nearby the village where they reside, they are force to migrate to distance places and as such they are forced to leave the house and native place. This is definitely affecting on the structure of the joint family system of the Indian villages. At the same time some of the important functions of the family even in the rural society are also taken over by the specialized institutions. As such the changes are taking place in the structure and the functions of the rural family. After independence some of our laws are also equally responsible for bringing changes in the structure and functions of the Indian rural family.

Indian Express E paper report indicates that as per the government of India data release on the Indian families, it is significant to note that in urban areas the people are moving towards extend family and in contrast to the generally held assumption the rural society's joint family is disintegrating. In the rural society the number of nuclear families is increasing and the joint families are declining. The data indicate that 2001 census indicates that in India 51.7 percent households are nuclear households. In the 2011 census the number of nuclear families raises to 52.7 percent. The analysis of this data indicates the real picture of the decay in the joint families in Indian society.

This change in the structure of the Indian rural families definitely has certain changes in the functions of the family. The impact of changes in the structure of the family changes thinning or withdrawal of the authorities and power of the head of the family and it influences on the patriarchic headship and domination of the family. The traditional authority of elder male member gradually declines in the family. The roles in the family were traditionally defined by the traditions of the family. In the recent days the roles are diversified and the parents are sharing responsibilities, in the modern days the father is taking most of the mother's role in the family. The members of the family are sharing the roles of each other. This may be due to work pressure and also of the influence of democratic ideologies in the society. Of course it is a welcoming development but it's definitely influencing on the total functioning of the families. Individuals in the family are able to cope up with the changes happening in the family system. The individual differences in the adjustment to the changes happening in the structure and the functions of the family may lead to increase in the conflicts, disputes and such other problems might cause to the breakdown of the family system in the rural society.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion it must be mentioned here that the society is not static and its dynamic the dynamicity nature of the society is the first and main cause for the changes happening in the basic institutions of the society. The shift from joint families to the nuclear families symbolizes the dynamic character of the society. 2011 census report indicates the shift from the traditional joint families to the modern nuclear families in the society (Government of India Census, 2011). The key factor responsible for this shift may be attributed to the modernization and the process of increasing urbanization in the Indian society. The access to the education and more particularly to the women of Indian society causes for the multiple changes in the society and more particularly in the changes in the gender roles in the family and in most of the cases the role is shared by the male members of the family. The advantage that the modern nuclear family is promising to its members such as autonomy, adoptability and the individual freedom of decision making process in the family might be the reason for increasing number of nuclear families in the society. The social security to the widow, physically and mentally challenged members and to the elderly people in the family are the challenges for the present trend in the family structural changes. The future suggestion for the trend may be hybrid arrangements of having freedom to young and safety to the elderly and physically, mentally challenged members of the family. The study further suggests for the further research in the field of family to have deep studies to understand the future trend in the family institution in the rural society and the alternatives for the security of the elderly and dependent members of the family. The studies must also look into the long term implications of such changes in the institution of the family and more particularly in the rural settings of the Indian society. In conclusion, the evolution of Indian family structures embodies a fragile relationship between tradition and modernity, presenting a variety of opportunities and confrontations, guarantying continued intellectual investigation and new policy considerations

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