



Urbanization and Its Effect on Family and Marriage life in context to usage of Information Technology: A Sociological Study

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Abstract: Social change has a direct impact on the basic structure and functions of the social institutions. Technology is considered as a powerful tool of social change. It has drastically changed the way of life. It has also institutionalized the functioning of the social institutions. The institutions of family, religion, morality, marriage, state, property have been altered. As a result, some radical changes have been witnessed in the family life. Although technology has helped us in many ways but there are still many negative impacts of information technology on family and marriage life. The rapid expansion of urbanization and advancement of technology has taken many functions of the family. Besides, technological improvement will cause a huge impact on social life. This is because consumers rely on communication devices such as smart phone, I-pad, I-pod, Tab for most of their daily tasks. This causes them neglect quality time with their family members as they are busy trying out the new gadgets or new applications available in the market or getting updated to the current trend on the social networks. For example, nowadays teenagers will keep looking and pressing the screen or button on their communication device while they do activities such as eating, watching TV with their family. Sometimes, they pay more attentions to their devices than to their family. Nowadays marriage institution is also going under change from sacred one to social contract. Consequently, divorces and separation are on the increase, no doubt, the technology has elevated the social status of women in the family. But at the same time, it has put the fabric of social relationships at stake. Much distress has been witnessed in the social relationships between husband and wife.

IndexTerms - Urban, Development, Migration, Environment, Information technology

INTRODUCTION

The rapid expansion of urbanization and advancement of technology has taken many functions of the family. Besides, technological improvement will cause a huge impact on social life. This is because consumers rely on communication devices such as smart phone, I-pad, I-pod, Tab for most of their daily tasks. This causes them neglect quality time with their family members as they are busy trying out the new gadgets or new applications available in the market or getting updated to the current trend on the social networks. For example, nowadays teenagers will keep looking and pressing the screen or button on their communication device while they do activities such as eating, watching TV with their family. Sometimes, they pay more attentions to their devices than to their family. Nowadays marriage institution is also going under change from sacred one to social contract. Consequently, divorces and separation are on the increase, no doubt, the technology has elevated the social status of women in the family. But at the same time, it has put the fabric of social relationships at stake. Much distress has been witnessed in the social relationships between husband and wife.

The term urbanization has become an integral part of modern existence. However, urbanization has a long history behind. If we trace the history of urbanization three distinct periods emerge prominently. They are pre urban, preindustrial urban and industrial urban. In the lengthy pre urban period, no one was urban and there were no cities. In the preindustrial urban period, less than 3 per cent of the world's population was urban. In the industrial urban period, the percentage of people living in cities increased rapidly which resulted in the increase of number of cities and so did the number of cities. It accounts for the world's total population since 10,000 B.C. with estimates of urban component of total population. The longest period of world history was the pre urban. This period began when human kind was evolutionarily complete, around 50,000 B.C. It ended in approximately 4000 B.C., when the first cities appeared in southern Mesopotamia, a riverine region in modern Iraq. The preurban period, therefore, encompassed the first 46,000 years of human history. The next epoch is the

preindustrial urban. This epoch begins in 4000 B.C. with the creation of the world's first cities. It ends in A.D. 1750 with the Industrial Revolution in Europe. In this regard relevant here are the remarks of John Durand (1967), who comments that 'By 1800, has been estimated, only 3 per cent of the world's people were urban. The world's total population increased from 60 to 978 million in this period, and the urban population increased from nothing to approximately 29 million'. Ivan Light (1983) has made an

interesting remark which says that, 'Although the absolute growth of the world's population was much larger than the absolute growth of cities, the rate of growth of cities was much more rapid than the growth of world population. Nonetheless the rate of change was leisurely'. It has been observed that, Urbanization in India has been relatively slow over the past forty or fifty years as compared with many other developing countries. The majority of regions in India had settled cultivation for long. Josef Gugler (1996) in the urban transformation of developing world comments that the spatial distribution and number of settlements reflect this long history. The principal function of most small towns that of serving the rural surroundings as market and service centers. Thus, their number and spatial distribution reflect the magnitude of demand.

NEED OF THE STUDY.

The objectives of this research are:

- (1) To provide a broad overview of the Urbanization and Its Effect on Family and Marriage life.
- (2) To detect the effects of information technology on urban social life and identify the driving factor of Urbanization
- (3) To detect the impacts of information technology on family life and marriages and driving factors of rapid expansion of urbanization.

Study Area

Jaipur is situated in the eastern part of Rajasthan, surrounded on three sides by the rugged Aravali hills. Jaipur was founded in 1728 A.D. Maharaja Jai Singh was the founder of Jaipur city which is famous for its wonderful architectural monuments and buildings even as on today. The climate of Jaipur city is semi-arid and average rainfall per year is 556.4 mm. The rainy season lasts from June to September. The city is renowned for heritage and its culture and known as pink city for its color symmetry. According to the census 2011, Jaipur district has a population of 6,663,971, which gives it a ranking of 10th most populous district in India. The Jaipur district has population of 598 persons per square kilometer and population growth rate of 26.91 per cent in the decade 2001-2011. The gender ratio of this district is 909 females for every 1000 males and a literacy ratio of 76.44 per cent, as per 2011, Population of the Jaipur. Jaipur is the 10th largest city of India according to census of 2011.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study will be based upon the primary data collected through questionnaire and secondary data available from different published reports. 300 persons will be selected to assess the effects of urbanization on family and marriage life and. 300 respondents will be interviewed with the help of a structured questionnaire.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Urbanization has far reaching effects on the various aspects of modern life. However, in the paper we will limit ourselves to the effect of urbanization on the joint family structure of India. It has been observed that urbanization affects not only the family structure but also intra and inter family relations, as well as the functions the family performs. With urbanization, there is a disruption of the bonds of community and the migrant faces the problem to replace old relationships with new ones and to find a satisfactory means of continuing relationship with those left behind. Several empirical studies of urban families conducted by scholars like I.P. Desai, Kapadia and Aileen Ross, have pointed out that urban joint family is being gradually replaced by nuclear family, the size of the family is shrinking, and kinship relationship is confined to two or three generations only. The study of 157 Hindu families belonging to middle and upper classes in Bangalore found that:

1. About 60 per cent of the families are nuclear
2. The trend today is towards a break with the traditional joint family form into the nuclear family form into the nuclear family unit
3. Small joint family is now the most typical form of family life in urban India.
4. Relations with one's distant kin are weakening or breaking.

Sylvia Vatuk (1961) maintains that 'the ideal of family "jointness" is still upheld although living separate. The extended family acts as a ceremonial unit and close ties with the members of agnatic extended family are maintained. Also, larger kinship clusters including groups of bilaterally and a finally related household within the same or closely adjacent Mohalla's exist. There is a tendency towards bilateral kinship in urban areas. Vatuk mentions the increasing tendencies toward individualizing the marital bond and decline of practices such as levirate widow inheritance, widow remarriage, marriage by exchange, polygyny etc. The impact of urbanization is also seen in the urban pattern of increasingly homogenized values and ways of behaving. Thus, gradual modification of the family structure in urban India is taking place such as diminishing size of the family, reduction in functions of family, emphasis on conjugal relationship etc. Kinship is an important principle of social organization in cities and there is structural congruity between joint family on one hand and requirements of industrial and urban life on the other.

Milton Singer (1968) in his study nineteen families of outstanding business leaders in Madras, it has argued that a modified version of traditional Indian joint family is consistent with urban and industrial setting. He distinguished three kinds of situations of social change in rural areas resulting from urbanization: 1. in villages from where a large number of people have sought employment in far off cities, urban employment becomes a symbol of higher social prestige. 2. In villages situated near an industrial town with a sizable number of emigrants working in towns and cities, face the problems of housing, marketing and social ordering. 3. The growth of metropolitan cities accounts for the third type of urban impact on the surrounding villages. As the city expands, some villages become the rural pockets in the city areas. Hence the villagers participate directly in the economic, political and social activities, and cultural life of the city. Social change as a concept for comprehending a continual dynamic in social units became salient during the French revolution and the industrial revolution in England, both periods were of extraordinary dynamism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effects of Urbanization on Family as Social Institutions

Over a period of last so many years, some radical changes have been observed in the family organization. The modern way of life has changed the theory of old family system and pattern of life has been replaced. Joint family system is old system, and has been

replaced in nuclear family system. Old patterns like marriage rituals and socialization patterns are endowed with formal type of rituals and ceremonies. In a joint family, the child gets multiple parents and many adult figures for his or her identification. In these families, children are overprotected and sheltered and, as a result, non-self-segregation is hampered. In a nuclear family, the child has a limited set of adult models to emulate. A.C. Sinha (1984) remarked 'As a result, he or she develops a strong sense of personal bond with the parents, with a greater scope of developing clear-cut self-identity'. Children brought up in single parent families have only one adult member in the family and often lack kinship and community support. These children develop early independence with added responsibilities. A majority of the single parent families being the poorest of the poor cannot adequately meet their children's needs. A large number of children in institutions and on streets come from single parent families. Thus, to enhance the impact of child development, direct work with children is not adequate. The family life and the family's environment also have to be enriched. A strong family unit would promote child development and prevent child destitution.

Urbanization and the Resultant Changing Face of Joint Families

Keeping in view the concept of social change in India, it is accepted notion that the urban areas will change more rapidly than the villages and that the cities will act as catalysts, introducing changes in rural areas, perhaps more slowly, but nonetheless inevitably. The first part of this notion may be true, and changes are more rapid in the urban areas, there is considerable slippage between urban based changes and the more stable rural areas. In part, this is a simple function of numbers. The forces of change which may be potent when viewed from the city quickly lose their impact when spread over the vast number of villages that have to be affected. But the great thinker Roy Turner (1962) makes a relevant remark that 'more than this, there are buffers which attenuate and divert this impact as it moves against the grain of traditional urban-rural relationships. Among many families today education is perceived as a major vehicle for ensuring the long-term welfare and economic security of the collective family unit and as a means by which family members can fulfil their obligations both as elders and to elders. These collective family goals are often described in general terms as a concern for family well-being and an obligation to see that old members are "well taken care of" and younger members "well placed" or "well settled". Being "well taken care of" involves more than economic security; and being "well placed" and "well settled" can refer to having achieved a "good marriage".

Nonetheless, in the Indian economic and educational context, education is increasingly perceived as a crucial route to economic security to a "good job" that will put one in a position to "take care of" family members. Post-independence India give emphasis on literacy and education and on science and technology, and a "good job" has increasingly associated with formal education and government job sector.

Impact of information technology on society:

Technological advancement has made our lives easier and more comfortable. We enjoy higher incomes and better standard of living as a result of progress and development, but rapid advancement of technology has impacted our society globally. In the future, technology will be replacing many things and people's life will be easier. However, many people are seeing the benefits of technology only and never look at its impacts. By the way, excessive usages of technology will affect people's daily life. There are many negative effects of technology which will affects people's daily life such as language proficiency, social life and health. Although technology has helped us in many fields, but there are still many people do not realize the fact that technology has negative affects society. The first main point for the negative impacts of information technology on society is poor language proficiency.

Language proficiency is the ability of an individual to speak or perform in an acquired language. This is a very serious matter to be concern about this developing information technology on society. This is because the modern technology allows the students to communicate with their families and associates instantly using application such as Line, WeChat and WhatsApp. This application will make life easier to communicate between each other. However, this will cause them to ignore the spelling of different words and the usage of proper grammar.

Furthermore, with the increasing amount of information on the web, Internet users may come across inaccurate information and lead to misinformation or even slightly skewed way of thinking. This may confuse the student understanding through some information. Students in this generation love to communicate with their friends and tend to make new friends when they are on social networks. However, some of them will face problems when it comes to real world face-to-face communication. They wouldn't know the differences between communication in social networks and also when they communicate face-to-face. Besides, technological improvement will cause a huge impact on social life. This is because consumers rely on communication devices such as smart phone, I-pad, I-pod, Tab for most of their daily tasks. This causes them neglect quality time with their family members as they are busy trying out the new gadgets or new applications available in the market or getting updated to the current trend on the social networks. For example, nowadays teenagers will keep looking and pressing the screen or button on their communication device while they do activities such as eating, watching TV with their family. Sometimes, they pay more attentions to their devices than to their family. The more advanced technology becomes, the more it seems to have control over our lives. Technology has changed human experience nowadays.

Nowadays, people spend more time online than ever before and their social life is affected by internet. They like to read the news from the internet instead of newspaper. Also, they also like to chat by using their devices rather than facing each other. This is because they feel that it will save time and money, but this will cause them to be addicted to technology. The addiction comes from not realising that they already found are what they were looking for. Moreover, the revolution made many previously impossible things that include accessing personal data and information of Internet users that they might never meet. Through the internet, people could post and share links, statuses, pictures, comments and even vent their feelings to other internet users. They can also look through other users' personal information which would include vital information such as age, birthday, and marital status to know more about the particular person. This will give way to cybercrime. For example, illegal acts, privacy invasion, and even confidential information stealing. Although technology do have their advantages, but as with many revolutionary inventions, they can radically change our lives, for better or worse.

Moreover, the advancement of technology not only negatively affected our language proficiency and social life but also our health. Most teenagers and white-collar worker spend numerous hours in front of computer screen without any intense physical activity which may lead to injuries such as lumbar injuries and carpal tunnel syndrome. It is undeniable fact that computer is a vital machine for many different jobs and activities, even in learning, for adults, adolescents and children. However, the long hours of computer

can contribute to increasing chance for an injury. The more tech-time that a child engages in, the less likely it is that will get in his daily dose of physical activity. For example, if children play too much computer games, they might experience physical and psychological problems. With higher technology, people are prone to addicted and lazy. This is because people are too dependent on the technology available today. People no longer need to leave their home for entertainment purpose and they can find the answer to anything with the web browser, Google. With the advancement of mobile phone, people do not even bother to memories phone numbers anymore. Also, mobile phone users can download games, video and music to keep them entertained. As time pass, they forget about the people around them and addicted to the small gadgets on their hand. For instance, when we are at the restaurant, what we usually see is teenagers busy with their gadgets and even children, they no longer running around and make noise as the gadgets kept them accompanied. With excessive usage of electronic gadgets, it will weaken people's memory and harm their eye sights.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, we believe the advancement of technology has negatively impacted our language proficiency, social life and health. Poor language proficiency should be countered by having more communication through internet using proper grammar and correct spellings of different words, having face-to-face communication more frequently or reading more newspaper to improve the language proficiency. We should manage our usage of technology devices by reducing the usage of smartphone for long hours, learn how to communicate and mingle with people around us and make it a habit to write in proper sentences using correct spelling and grammar. Next regarding social life, we should spend quality time with our family and friends. Moreover, try not to store most of our personal information as it might harm our safety. Lastly, regarding to health, if forced to work for long hours in front of the computer screen, we should take breaks in between to stretch our body and relax our eyes. Furthermore, society must be able to utilize technology while not allowing it to handicap social interactions, particularly for those who are easily influenced during our formative years. Our world must learn to embrace technology without allowing it to negatively impact the creation of functional adults in society. Hence Technology, like most human things, is a double-edged sword, involving gain and loss, merit and demerit. In conclusion, the more advanced technology becomes, the more it seems to have control over our lives.

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