



Different Perspectives on the Threats of Family Diversity on the Dominance of the Nuclear Family

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Abstract

The nuclear family is generally composed of two heterosexual parents and their children. When children grow up and can work independently, they will not be counted in this family unit. The concept of the nuclear family has always been supported and criticized. Some sociologists believe that the nuclear family has been breached, while some sociologists believe that the nuclear family has not been breached. The nuclear family is functionalist and believes this is the universal, most common, and the best type of family structure. He concentrated his analysis on the family in modern American society and find out that the American family mostly retains two functions of family, one is the primary socialization of children, and another is the stabilization of adult personalities of the population of the society. Primary socialization is the socialization that children experience during their childhood. Young little children will take place in their parents' education and learns simple social norms and central values of society from their parents. Also, they will have behavior similar to their parents as replicating their actions and behaviors. Primary socialization help children structured their personalities.

Keywords

Nuclear family, threat, family diversity

1. How does the family being defined

Sociologist Murdock (1949) first defines family as "The family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction. It includes adults of both sex, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship and one or more children, owned or adopted of the sexually cohabitating adults." In his perspective, family mainly covers four dominant functions, which are economy, sex, education, and reproduction.

In precise explanation, examples could be used to understand these four dominant family functions. Family should have the ability to pay for food, clothes, and shelter. Also for the society presented now, pay for healthcare and education. Family should also educate children, to help them understand society's norms and values. Helping them to adapt to the big circumstances of nowadays society. Also, the family is in a monogamous relationship to stabilize society and help people to gain the chance to satisfy sexual desires. Lastly, the family also has to gain the function of reproducing offspring (Talcott Parson, 1959; Talcott Parson, 1965b).

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as replicating their actions and behaviors. Primary socialization help children structured their personalities (Wang Yuesheng, 2021).

Indeed, Parson argued that families are factories that produce human personalities. This could be analyzed by the function of the nuclear family and the context of Parson's investigation. The nuclear family always be dominant because it meets the need of modern industrial society and is fulfilled in developed western countries due to the industrialization and separation of work and family. Since the nuclear family is largely isolated from kin it does not have the security once provided by the close-knit extended family, this means that married couples increasingly look to each other for emotional support.

2. Why is the nuclear family dominant (In functionalist view)?

The dominance of the nuclear family presents most in modern industrial society. The appearance of this type of society was not homogeneous. The first countries in which it emerged were Great Britain, part of Western Europe, and the United States. In other parts of the world, the process was much slower, and even according to many specialists there are currently many countries that still live in a pre-industrial social structure. The main change generated by this society was that productivity became the main thing. Agriculture lost importance and technological advance has brought economic weight go to the factories. This is the reason new social classes were introduced, such as the working class. Under this situation, the nuclear family structure has mainly fixed and fulfills society's needs.

In this instance, to explain why marriages are important under the social norms and values of modern industrial society, marriage in the nuclear family leads to great comfort for citizens. The function of the nuclear family has helped people to feel secure and helped the industrial society become more efficient. In conclusion, in the social environment at that time, the separation of the roles of husband and wife played the most fundamental role in the family. The modern industrial society formed after World War II, as men came back from war, some demanded that society returns to the patriarchal system. In this case, the female will be in the subdominant role and auxiliary husband. Therefore, the family has the specialized role of parents as the husband plying an 'instrumental' role and works outside the house, wife assumes the 'affective' role which is domestic in supporting at home and doing housework. On an approach, under the big atmosphere of modern industrial society, the function and structure of the nuclear family have filled the demand and function of the family (Zhu Mengbing & Deng Quhen, 2021).

3. Functional fit theory

Parson obtains a historical perspective which has a personal point of view of the evolution of the nuclear family, he thinks that as society is progressing, the function and structure of the family are also changing between nuclear and extended which leads to the evolution of the nuclear family. From his investigations on the changes in social forms in history, he summarized a law, which is the fit theory of the family. He found that under the change of social forms, people in society have different needs for family forms. In the pre-industrial period, families were still extended family forms. This is because all family members are responsible for the education of children, producing food, and caring for the sick. However, in contrast, when the industrial revolution began, society gradually became an industrial society. During this period, people began to allocate labor resources, and the gender role also changed substantially. Because of the industrial revolution, more machines have been introduced to society. In modern industrial society, the family's main role is to focus more on reproduction, child-raising, and socialization, which are the function of the nuclear family. According to the study by Parson (1959), the nuclear family became the dominant type in developed countries, this is mainly because the function of the nuclear family was best adapted to the requirements of a mobile and flexible economic system. The nuclear family is regarded by Parson as a family structure that best meets the social demands and needs during the industrialization period, on account of one adult having to work outside of the home, while the other adult can stay at home and take good care of family and child. This means that in the traditional roles of men and women in modern industrial society, men have to work out of the house and women have to take a position in the men's held. Therefore, the family has the specialized role of parents as the husband plying an 'instrumental' role and works outside the house, wife assumes the 'expressive' role which is domestic in supporting at home and doing housework. On an approach, under the big atmosphere of modern industrial society, the function and structure of the nuclear family have filled the demand and function of the family. From these approaches, it was an industrial society at that time, under the circumstances of the industri-

al revolution, people would always move to find better job opportunities to make a living, so the family structure changed from extended to nuclear. Because families can't take extended kin around anymore, because it will waste a lot of time and is inconvenient. Therefore, the nuclear family became the most important family form in industrial society. At that time, the nuclear family's dominance was not yet created.

4. New Rights Theory - Family Has been threatened by family diversity

However, due to the New Right perspectives, they consider that the nuclear family has been threatened also some of the new diverse family forms including LATs(living apart together, couples being in a relationship, however, lives apart from each other) are not useful and somehow harmed society. They argued that government policy was undermining the family, so they think that policy has to be adjusted or changed.

The main idea of the new right is that the most significant and normal family type is the nuclear family, which is formed by two heterosexual married adults, who live with old their partner's children but not extended kin. New rights believe that it is important for children to have a stable family living structure, in order to supply children's emotional support and also for better primary socialization quality. New Rights sociologists believe that there is a decline in nuclear family form due to family diversity. They argue that the decline of the traditional family and the growth of family diversity are the cause of many social problems, example to support this statement is that activities such as higher crimes rate and also declining moral standards all increased family diversity.

Due to their perspectives, they believe that there is a serious problem caused by non-nuclear families. There is some evidence to support this proposal. Firstly they find out that the rate of family breakdown of non-nuclear family forms is much slower than in married couples. Secondly, children from broken families are five times more likely to develop bad behaviors or deviate leading to young delinquency, this is mainly because there is a lack of a model role during children's socialization. Also, they find out that as the family and parents are playing the role of stabilizing children's emotions, as there is a more and more diverse type of family children in the broken family might experience unstable emotions or lack of emotional support. The young in a broken family or experiencing parents divorcing are being three times more aggressive than children in a nuclear family. Another research shows that students in the lone-parent family form are more likely to live in poverty than in nuclear families or two-parent families. Lone-parent family is when a child only lived with one parent and without a partner. This mainly could be analyzed by when the family is in the nuclear family form, the role of parents is stabilized, intros case, the work, and jobs they have to finish will be easier to complete, however, single parents family, sometimes parent have to do two or more roles, they might have to get a paid work outside the family, also have to socialized and educated take care of their children. Sometimes all the housework is built up on their own. The double role of parents leads to adults being too tired that they cannot efficiently or effectively complete their parents' tasks. This links to a finding from New Rights that children from broken families are nine times more likely to become young offenders, mainly resulted from a lack of education or emotional support.

5. Robert Chester—The Neo-conventional family

In a study by Robert Chester (1985) on the British Neo conventional family, he claimed that the evidence advanced by advocates of the theory of family diversity was misleading. The basic features of family life had remained largely unchanged for the vast majority of the British population since World War II. He claimed that “most adults still marry and have dependent children, Most people still live in a household headed by a married couple”. Chester believes that a snapshot of a particular family type at a particular time does not provide a valid picture of a British family. The first point put forward by Chester is that if we calculate the percentage of the population in different types of families, rather than the percentage of different types of families, we will have very different situations. The proportion of families with parents and children is higher than that of their families. This is because there are often more family members than other types of family members. According to Chester's point of view, there is some evidence that shows people were choosing to live on a long-term basis in alternatives to the nuclear family. He accepted that women are increasingly being a part of household finance by working outside and getting paid for work. However, 58 percent of women only have chosen part-time jobs, to leave time and space for taking care of their children. Women are still acting in an expressive role in a family. Also, many women in that period gave up their job opportunities because their children were young and they have to spend more attention to them. From this approach, Chester argued that “the pattern is of married women are withdrawing from the labor

force to come mothers and some of them taking mostly part-time work as their children mature.’

On the other hand, Chester recognized this is a change in family forms and family life compared to the family life in the past. So he thinks that family forms have changed from a nuclear family (conventional) to a Neo-conventional family. This means that he believed the nuclear family has been challenged by the new family from the conventional family to the neo-conventional family (Wang Yuesheng, 2020).

In conclusion, the nuclear family is dominance in industrial society, this is mainly because of the industrialization of the society at that time, many regions began to have their value factories. More people would not hesitate to attach the problem of frequent relocation instability to work, but also to find jobs. To support their families and make them more prosperous, during this period, people did not live with their extended kin owners, usually with the nuclear family as the family unit. Because it is convenient for them to move or move to a place with better job opportunities, in this case, Parson concluded that nuclear family is the dominance of this society after research, because due to his first theory, nuclear family best meets their current requirements for family units. However, with the change of time, society has kept surging, developing, changing, and reforming. After various changes and updates of laws, society has become a developing society. More people have more choices of family units. Some people choose to live together with their partners, some choose to live separately from their partners, which is LATs, and some choose to be single-parent families or reorganized families. Different family units have begun to develop and become popular. The nuclear family is no longer the most important family unit. With time, people's social values have also changed. In addition, the feminist movement and feminist sociologists have helped women win more equal opportunities. Women are no longer the non-staple food for men. As Chester said, he found that the nuclear family is gradually becoming a neo-conventional family because women have more job opportunities, although some women choose part-time jobs. However, it does not affect women to change the label of 'express role'. The era no longer requires men to have masculinity. Women need to know how to take care of their families. After the change of the era, people can more accept contributions between family roles that men can also help with housework while women can earn money outside. Therefore, with the development of society, the advancement of some economic situations, and the change in social values, the nuclear family is no longer the most important family unit.

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