

Functions of the Family

The various functions of the family have been stated as follows: (Anastasiu, n.d.).

Regulation of Sexual Behaviour – The knowledge and understanding about the regulation of sexual behaviour is provided to the individual within his family. In this sense, it requires a finding that there is no society or community, which leaves the individuals to direct their sexual behaviours as they want, but there are a whole

set of written and unwritten rules and norms that forbid certain ways of sexual behaviour. Sexual behaviour in most of the societies is influenced by certain religious beliefs, values and norms.

Reproduction – This is the second function that fulfils the family within the society. In order to develop, each society requires new generation of people in order to replace old people. Migration, request and conquest of the other societies are not merely the ways that would lead to formulation of a society. If there is absence of reproduction, then merely it would lead to disappearance of the society.

Economic Co-operation – This function has an important role within the family. In the traditional society, family constitutes the basic economic unit, in understanding of the economic co-operation, the family has the main objective of satisfying the basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, health care requirements, monetary resources and comfort. In the present modern societies, the economic aspects belonging to the family were taken over by the other social institutions.

Education – Individuals belonging to all the backgrounds, areas and communities have recognized the significance of education. Whether a person acquires high educational qualifications or possesses the basic literacy skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. The educational qualifications are provided to an individual through his family, parents make efforts to send their children to schools and colleges and in improving their educational qualifications.

Affection, Protection and Emotional Support – These factors are vital for the existence of the individuals. In order to develop the aspects of uprightness, morality and values, an individual requires affection, cordiality, protection and emotional support. The family members possess these responsibilities of improving self-confidence, and support in relation to difficulties and problems. In the absence of psychological requirements, a person can encounter lot of problems in leading to operative growth and development.

Factors leading to Changes within the Family

The changes within the family have been under the influence of the following factors, and these have been stated as follows: (Family, n.d.).

Industrialization – There has been expansion of industrialization in India, in urban as well as in rural areas. With the impact of industrialization, the major change that has taken place within the families are migration from the rural areas to the urban areas, in search for job opportunities. Individuals also join training institutions in order to enhance their literacy and training skills so that they are able to find jobs in small scale and large scale industries. Provision of job opportunities for the poverty stricken individuals would bring about a change in their living conditions.

Urbanization – Urbanization means the rise of the large cities, with the rise of cities, the people have acquired knowledge of how to preserve their family-centeredness within the society (Carlson, 1999). There have been immense changes brought about with the impact of urbanization. The lifestyle of the individuals have changed, for instance, in the preparation of meals, people are making use of gas cylinders instead of stoves. Individuals belonging to underprivileged sections of the societies have much improved their living conditions and have become aware and knowledgeable regarding various areas.

Western Culture – It is usually difficult to manage large families, therefore, joint families are giving rise to nuclear families with the impact of western culture. When the income is not sufficient, then it becomes difficult to manage large families, hence, there have been emergence of nuclear families. The increase in the nuclear families have brought about a transformation in the way of interaction amongst the members and other community people. With the influence of the western culture, the lifestyles of the individuals have changed, they have become familiar with digital technology and other innovative techniques and methods.

Modern Education – There has been much expansion in the field of education. There has been usage of technology within the classrooms and in higher education, technology and computers are being utilized in order to work on the assignments. Individuals belonging to disadvantaged and socio-economic backward sections of

the society are also getting enrolled in educational institutions in order to sustain their living. Therefore, acquisition of modern education has largely contributed in improving the lives of the individuals and bring about changes within the family.