

Social Transformation & Family Relations – The Role of Women in Changing Family ties

Puttaswamy A.C., Assistant professor , Department of political science, Government first grade college , Koppa taluk, Chikkamangalore district, Karnataka state

Abstract : Even though today's women enjoy equality with men in all fields, still they are placed under several socio economic constraints along with the changing societal transformation. The Indian society has modified itself to the rapidity of change the whole society is undergoing. Woman is a part of the change & the effects of such societal transformation are felt more on women as she is made to play twin roles of a career woman & a family woman. But women are to understand their key role in maintaining family relations & balancing it with career requirements. She has to identify her role in maintaining a balance of familial relations because the changing family has affected her position as devoted mother , caring wife , affectionate sister. Family has become unitary, educated children are flying off to far off destinations leaving their aged parents behind. Besides career requirements are mounting. Hence, in this precarious situation women need to identify her priorities & reschedule them to maintain equilibrium. Family is a link to our past & bridge to our future. Family as an age old institution of societal structure is the key to growth of children in right perspective, their education, their relations to other family kith & kin, kinship ties etc. This paper looks at the changed roles of women in this changed family bonding & considers prioritizing her responsibilities.

Keywords: women, family relations, balancing careers, transforming society

If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher- APJ Abdul kalam

Introduction- Family scenario is undergoing rapid societal changes. Women need to recognize their real potentialities to maintain balance with steadiness. Today women face numerous career requirements which are costing the whole family setup dimensions.

Types of families

1. Blended families
2. Single parent families
3. Joint families ,
4. Unitary families ,
5. Step mother /stepfather families
6. Living together type families
7. inter religion married families

Change in family scenario key indicators:

Indian women both rural & urban are facing problems of structural changes in society & its impact on family relations.

Indian working women toil in demanding career settings such as

- ✓ Competitive environments
- ✓ Complicated projects to handle
- ✓ Disadvantages of residence
- ✓ Disappointing career elevation
- ✓ Irregular transfers
- ✓ Stretched travels
- ✓ Long Work Hours
- ✓ Make shift dailies
- ✓ Night long working
- ✓ Out of country stays
- ✓ Professional Pressures
- ✓ Tight Deadline schedule work

If these are the problems of career women rural women are also suffering problems which are

- 1 Absence of information technology based support system
- 2 Absence of micro loan facilities

3 Absence of proprietary rights
4 Caste hierarchical issues
5 Cattle & rural livestock health management
6 Child marriage / child health / child nutrition issues
7 Decaying Environmental protection issues
8 Enhancing crime / offences /
9 Inadequate rural Education / literacy programs /adult education / alternate education system
10 Increasing debts
11 Lack of alternate employment opportunities
12 Lack of amenities for child care / day care /play support
13 lack of banking facilities
14 Lack of information on Governmental Welfare programs
15 Lack of skill enhancement / capacity building programs
16 Liquor & addiction to liquor
17 Mounting adolescent rural girls nutritional issues
18 Non availability of pure & safe drinking water
19 problem of Displacement of rural villages in the name of

SEZs / big irrigation projects /defense projects / airport projects etc

20 Problems of rural aged persons / dependents

21 Rural male / Youth migration problem

22 Rural Transport & roads connectivity issues

23 Total Absence of Sanitation problems

24 Unemployment / under employment / disguised unemployment

How it affects family life:

A cumulative impact of these problems, society life has changed & women are being targeted for these changing family ties.

1. The changing family structures have primarily affected the relations with older people. The once enduring parent-children relationships have become obsolete. Disabled, old or perennially supervisory dependents are sidelined completely.(Radha Kumar –An Illustrated Account Of Movement

For Women 'S Rights & Feminism In India 1997).

2. The affinity ties have loosened as family has become one child family. The child is losing relationship ties with family members as he is brought up in a dissimilar environment. Divergent & deviating demands are affecting the child's childhood negatively.(Radha Kumar –An Illustrated Account Of Movement For Women 'S Rights & Feminism In India 1997).

3. The family relationship has become confined to one child; hence alternate kinship patterns are totally absent. Long term, care giving, supportive child hood atmosphere which once Indian families breathed for centuries is completely absent.(The Report Of The National Commission On Women 2014).

4. The negative effect of divorce is already felt in India as the number of divorces is on the high & parent child relationships are broken. The marriage has proved too weak to hold a permanence of the relationship. Divorces are affecting the women

more than men because she has to maintain children singlehandedly

5. The inter-generational relationships are in danger & in future old people will have fewer adult children to look after their needs & hence old age homes would become apriority option.(Eagly, A. H.- Prejudice: Toward A More Inclusive Understanding of family 2004).

6. Gender roles have changed women have surpassed men in educational attainment & their ration in employment is speeding up continuously. . (The Rural Urban Population Spread -The Report of the Census of India 2011).

7. Gender roles have changed which is altering the marital relationships as women are becoming egalitarian towards family relationships & they are expecting their husbands to support them in child upbringing, domestic work, family work etc. Hence along with maternity leave patterns, paternity leave has come to stay for male officials. (Eagly, A. H.- Prejudice: Toward A More

Inclusive Understanding of family 2004).

8. As there is a gigantic leap forward in income levels women have become more pleasant seeking & leisure demanding. they are ambitious desirous of a great career ahead & at the same time they want live for themselves without the burden of looking after the aged people or any other dependents. Hence unitary families have increased. (The Rural Urban Population Spread -The Report of The Census of India 2011).

9. Older people in India are either sent to old age homes or left alone to fend for themselves. Even older people have become rigid towards declining family relations & caring family members they are living alone. It can best explained as an intimacy form a distance.(The Report of The National Commission on Women 2014).

10. The older people are feeding them with social security pensions , life time savings & would like to live economically independent of their dependents This has given rise to

establishment of old age homes (The Rural Urban Population Spread -The Report Of The Census of India 2011).

The social / emotional bond which was once a strong foundation of Indian family has thus shrunk .

Prospective strategies:

Declining family relationships can be revamped towards strengthening by adoption of following elucidations.

1. **Provision of Resources-**

Providing resources, such as money, food, clothing, and shelter, for all family members is one of the most basic, yet important, roles within a family. This is primarily an instrumental role.

2. **Nurturance and Support-**

Nurturing and supporting other family members is primarily an affective role and includes providing comfort, warmth, and reassurance for family members. Examples of this role are a parent comforting a child after he/she has a bad day at school, or family members

supporting one another after the death of a loved one.

3. **Life Skills**

Development-The life skills development role includes the physical emotional, educational, and social development of children and adults. Examples of this role are a parent helping a child makes it through school, or a parent helping a young adult child decides on a career path.

4. **Maintenance and Management of the Family System**

-This involves many tasks, including leadership, decision making, handling family finances, and maintaining appropriate roles with respect to extended family, friends and neighbors. Other responsibilities of this role include maintaining discipline and enforcing behavioral standards (Radha Kumar –An Illustrated Account Of Movement For Women ‘S Rights & Feminism In India 1997).

Constitutional support:

Women should know the implications of family relation in relation to, Child rights ,

Constitutional rights , Human rights , Labor rights , professional rights .Thus there are several laws which are supporting women’s causes.

1. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
2. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
3. Family Courts Act, 1984
4. Guardians & Wards Act, 1890
5. Hindu Adoption & Maintenance ACT,1956
6. Hindu Successions Act, 1956
7. Hindu Widows Remarriage Act, 1856
8. Indian Divorce Act, 1969
9. Married Women's Property Act, 1874
10. Maternity Benefit Act,1861
11. Minimum Wages Act, 1948
12. National Commission for Women Act, 1990
13. Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
14. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

15. Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013

16. Workmen's compensation Act, 1923

All these governmental support are provided to women for their empowerment. Now women can organize their family life in a restructured social atmosphere,

Conclusion

The Indian society has modified itself to the rapidity of change the whole society is undergoing. Woman is a part of the change & the influence of such societal transformation are felt more on women as she is made to play twin roles of a career woman & a family woman. But women are to understand their key role in maintaining family relations & balancing it with career requirements. She has to identify her role in maintaining a balance of familial relations because the changing family has affected her position as devoted mother , caring wife , affectionate sister. With the support of Governmental acts women can

authorize themselves towards empowerment & healthy community building.

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