

Family Conflict and Family Cohesion among Joint Families and Nuclear Families – A Special Reference to Beed District

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ABSTRACT

Objectives of the study: 1. To Search the Family Conflict among Joint Families and Nuclear Families. 2. To Investigate the Family Cohesion among Joint Families and Nuclear Families. Hypotheses of the study: 1. There will be no significant difference found between Joint Families and Nuclear Families with respect to Family Conflict. 2. There will be significant difference found between Joint Families and Nuclear Families respect to Family Cohesion. Sample: For the present study 120 families were selected from Beed District belonging to Maharashtra State. Among them 60 families from Joint Families and 60 families from Non-Joint Families. Non-Probability Purposive sampling was used. Tools:- 1. Family Conflict Style Inventory: Conflict style scale developed by Gattman (1999) was used to assess the conflict styles in couples and families. 2. Family Cohesion Inventory: The cohesion sub scale of the family "adaptability and cohesion evaluation scale. Statistical Analysis:- t test was used for the present study. Conclusion: 1. Nuclear Families had significantly high family conflict than the Joint Families. 2. Joint Families had significantly high family cohesion than the Nuclear Families.

Keywords:- *Family conflict, family cohesion, Joint Families and Nuclear Families.*

Introduction:

Family is the most difficult institution in human society to study. The reason for this is that families tend to be closed to outsiders; they often “put their best foot forward”. The family is perhaps society’s oldest and most resilient institution. From the beginning of human life on earth, people have grouped themselves into families to find emotional, physical and economic support. Although in recent years social researchers have predicted the demise of the family, it not only survives but also continues to change and evolve. Family structures may vary around the world, but the value of family endures.

Family life, even in successful families, is not always easy. Families can provide intimacy and closeness, but with them come disagreement and conflict. If a person had happy family when they were growing up, they should feel fortunate. Such an experience provides an important foundation and model for developing a happy family of their own. If a person grew up in a troubled family, the task of building a strong family of their own will be more difficult. But the task is possible. Countless individuals have transcended the family they grew up in and created healthy, new families for themselves and their loved ones. In 1927, Watson predicted that in 50 years family standards had broken down.

Family Conflict is an inevitable part of intimate human relationship. Because people view the world from a wide variety of perspectives and have different goals, conflict is a predictable part of life. In fact, the more intimate our relationships, the more change there are for interpersonal conflict. Although conflict may be “normal” in a statistical sense, it does not have to escalate into verbal and physical violence. There are many constructive approaches to settling disagreements.

Most couples are afraid of negative emotions- among them, anger, resentment, jealousy, bitterness, hurt, disgust and hatred- and have a difficult time learning how to deal with them. A common tactic is to suppress negative emotions, hoping they will disappear with time. The psychological reasons for suppressing negative emotions has to do with human insecurity. Individuals think, “If I let other people know what I am really thinking and who I really am, they won't love and I be abandoned”.

In intimate relationships, individuals struggle to find a delicate balance between dependence on each other and independence from each other. Some observers call that interdependence, in families, too, children and adolescents struggle to differentiate themselves from their parents and their siblings, to stake out territory and belief that are their own. People search for individuality while at the same time trying to maintain close relationship.

Family cohesion, the construct of family cultural conflict has also been considered by researchers looking at the acculturation process for immigrant families, including Latinos. Family cultural conflict may be a particular concern for families with members who were born outside the U.S. as these families integrate the values, lifestyles, and norms of the host society. Cultural processes, such as acculturation, may lead to conflict in family relations. Gil and Vega’s (1996) analysis of acculturation and acculturation stress among Cuban and Nicaraguan adolescent males and their parents found that “high levels of acculturation stress experienced by parents and adolescents led to negative effects on parent/child relations by increasing the level of cultural

conflicts in the family” (p. 453). Similarly, Portes and Rumbaut (1996) reported that second generation children experience conflict with their parents due to acculturation. These cultural conflicts might exacerbate psychological distress and moderate the possible beneficial effects of family cohesion.

Objectives of the study:

1. To Search the Family Conflict among Joint Families and Nuclear Families.
2. To Investigate the Family Cohesion among Joint Families and Nuclear Families.

Hypotheses of the study:

1. There will be no significant difference found between Joint Families and Nuclear Families with respect to Family Conflict.
2. There will be significant difference found between Joint Families and Nuclear Families respect to Family Cohesion.

Sample:

For the present study 120 families were selected from Beed District belonging to Maharashtra State. Among them 60 families from Joint Families and 60 families from Non-Joint Families. Non-Probability Purposive sampling was used.

Tools:-

1) Family Conflict Style Inventory:

Conflict Style Scale: Conflict style scale developed by Gattman (1999) was used to assess the conflict styles in couples and families. This scale contains four contextual items related conflict styles. Scale assesses four conflict styles: Avoidant, Volatile, Validating and Hostile.

2) Family Cohesion Inventory:

Family Cohesion: The cohesion sub scale of the family "adaptability and cohesion evaluation scale (FACES IV) (Olson," "2002), translated in Hindi was used to measure family cohesion." This measure is a 10 item sub scale that assess the level of cohesion within the family environment (i.e. Family members feel very close to each other). The Cronbach Alpha reliability and validity of the cohesion scale was 0.90.

Variable

Independent variable-

1) Types of Family

- a) Joint Families b) Non-Joint Families

Dependent Variable

1. Family Conflict 2. Family Cohesion

Statistical Analysis:-

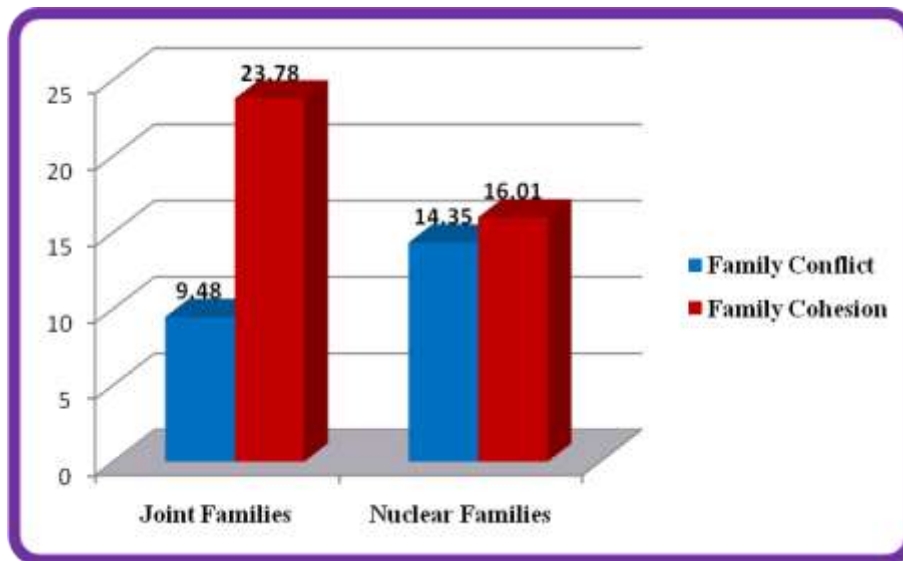
t test was used for the present study.

Statistical Interpretation and Discussion

Mean S.D. and ‘t’ Value among Joint Families and Nuclear Families dimension on Family Conflict and Family Cohesion

Variables	Types of Family		
	Joint Families	Nuclear Families	

	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	df	t
Family Conflict	9.48	3.02	14.35	4.19	118	7.30**
Family Cohesion	23.78	4.65	16.01	4.80	118	9.00**



The results related to the hypothesis have been recorded. Mean of family conflict score of the Joint Families is 9.48, SD = 3.02 and that of the Nuclear Families Mean is 14.35, SD = 4.19. The difference between the two mean is highly significant ($t = 7.30$, $df = 118$, $P < 0.01$) It concluded that the Nuclear Families had significantly high family conflict than the Joint Families.

Mean of family cohesion score of the Joint Families is 23.78, SD = 4.65 and that of the Nuclear Families Mean is 16.01, SD = 4.80. The difference between the two mean is highly significant ($t = 9.00$, $df = 118$, $P < 0.01$) It is clear that Joint Families and Nuclear Families differ significantly from each other from the mean it concluded that the Joint Families had significantly high family cohesion than the Nuclear Families.

Conclusion:

1. Nuclear Families had significantly high family conflict than the Joint Families.
2. Joint Families had significantly high family cohesion than the Nuclear Families.

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