

IMPACT OF FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAMME ON THE SOCIALIZATION OF CHILDREN

Executive Summary

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The Family Welfare Programme implemented by government of India 1951 is instrumental in accelerating the pace of the demographic transition India. In other words a social norm favouring small family emerged in Kerala by the second half of the twentieth century. Birth rates have fallen as parents want fewer children. Thus a close study of the situation in Kerala would show that family planning has been accepted as a way of life. Today majority of them have two or less than two children and among them a portion are having single child family.

Family size and socialization of the children are related. The traditional joint family was a 'miniature society' in which children got opportunities for social interaction. In earlier period families have larger number of children and they socialized as a group pulsating with interaction. In a Single child family, the situation is different. The single child is the first and last child and so is the only chance at parenting the parents get. Under contemporary conditions, socialization within the family refers primarily to interaction between parents and their children.

The changes take place in the relations between parents and children, has some sociological implications. As result of the freedom enjoyed, children today get more incentive for work and opportunity for achieving their aspirations. The present study is a comparative study of the socialization process between adolescents within the age group 11 to 18 in single child family and families with more than one child. The

general objective of the study was to study the impact of family welfare programme on the socialization of children.

Specific Objectives

1. To do a comparative study of socialization pattern of adolescents from single child families and children from families with more than one child.
2. To study the relationship between parents and children.
3. To analyze the impact of family welfare measures on the sex composition of the family.

The present study was based on the theory of socialization by the Symbolic Interaction Theory of socialization by George Herbert Mead. The study was conducted among 50 parents (father/mother) and 50 adolescent children (between the age groups 11-18yrs) each from single child families and the nuclear families with more than one child in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation in Kerala.

Analysis of the parental relationship of the adolescents belonging to both single child family and families with more than one child reveals close relationship. However, single children are found to have more freedom in this relationship. Analysis of the socialization pattern shows that role of parents and intense interaction between parents in terms of conflict is slightly higher in single child families. Analysis of the parental

responses also reveals the involvement of both parents in the caring and socialization of the children in both families. These parental responses also confirm the responses of adolescent children. Overall the study revealed that there was no much significant difference between the parent child relationship and socialization pattern of adolescents from single child families and families with more than one child.

As the theoretical framework of the study proposes, the adolescents derive meanings from the interaction with parents in the family to establish relationship. Since majority of them consider both parents as the significant persons in the life, the study could conclude that adolescents under study in general are having close relation with both parents. Also both parents are seriously involved in the upbringing of children even though the involvement is more extensive in the single child family.