

## Effects of Social Change on Joint Family System: A Case Study of Quetta City

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### Abstract

*Family is considered a basic unit of a society globally. Different societies have different forms of families. Some societies consist of traditional forms of family and some other have evolved advanced forms of family. Joint family system is considered a traditional form of family whereas; nuclear family system is thought to be an advanced form. Family has always remained a subject to change. Changes in family originate from different causes and factors. This research focuses on only one form of family i.e. Joint family system. Through this research effects of social change on joint family system are dug out. This study was conducted in Quetta city. The sample of this study was chosen by utilizing simple random sampling techniques and the sample size of this study was 267. The primary data of this study was analyzed in SPSS by carrying out different statically tests. The finding of this study suggested a number of effects on joint family system caused by social change.*

**Keywords:** Joint family, Family, Globally, Traditional, Nuclear family, social change, , Simple random sampling, Statistical, Quetta.

### Introduction

Family is the integrated and functional unit of any society it has considerably attracted the focus of the researches towards it for a long period of time. (Sooryamoorthy, 2012). Family itself is a matter of study and equally important for researches, its roles, influences in the development of behaviors and wellbeing of the individuals always attracted the experts to study it time and again because it's the basic unit of the society the

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sociologists, psychologist anthropologists pay a due attention to it. In this research the changes in the family and its patterns over the time are discussed.

Family is the first and prominent defense line for its members especially for children. The family plays the role to fulfill the needs such as educational, survival, protection and development of its members. It is also an important and major source of socialization, emotional building, and link between change and continuity and nurturance. Family has major potential to provide support and stability to the individuals in case of any problem. Hence, the family enhances the overall development of the Human race. (Desai, 1995). The influence and authority that family enjoys on an individual not only makes merely an institutional societal structure but an accord which keeps a deep meaning and that is why it keeps the bond of an individual intact to his family. The types of family have been differently classified by different experts. But all of them have a common consensus on two broad types of family; Joint and nuclear family. A nuclear family is combination of two married (heterosexual parents) and their unmarried children (siblings). Joint family is a bigger family type which includes members of unilinear descent group (a group in which the lineage of the members connects with either female or male line) live together along with their mates (spouse) and offspring in one household and only one member has the authority over all. (Kapadia, 1969).

### **Family as a Social Institution**

Family is one of the most important and foundational institution of all the societies all over the world and has been throughout human society; although, the definitions of family vary from time to time and society to society. Frick and Thornton give an inclusive definition that gives a good starting point: it is social network that based on culturally recognized marital and biological relationships. In most societies and times family is responsible for the production, distribution and consumption of the basic commodities, for co-residence and transmission of the property and for reproduction and socialization of the next generation. (Thornton, 1989). Family system is an institutionalized means whereby society organizes and performs important activities like mating and reproduction. Family as a social institution provides legitimate sexual access, reproduction and rearing of offspring and a

systematic organization of domestic work groups in accord with the division of labor. (Appadorai, 1975).

Sociologists consider family as a major institution of any society, it the place where an individual carries out his/her day to day activities. Family is a concept which indicates any social unit or relatives connected through blood ties, adoption, marriage, or living under a common shelter such as kin. The form of family varies from area to area and can also be different within a society such as: extended, joint or nuclear family. Families like joint or extended are losing their place in many societies. Extended family is a common phenomenon in agricultural societies. (Casterline, 1980)

### **Changes in Family**

In today's changing world almost every family is exposed to computers, TVs, CD, social media, technological changes, social changes, tourism etc which have brought a remarkable change of the functions and structure of the family, simply families have coped up with the changes that have come into the societies. (Levinson, 1980). Acculturation and enculturation are two main pressures which have led the families on the path of the change and have left their effects on the social structure, ecology, psychological variables and family types. (Popenoe, 1988). A question arises here that how much the families have changed in different societies in different times? Families have changes more radically in first world societies and the family is still in its traditional shape in third world societies and in transitional period in many societies.

The traditional families in small societies because of TVs, dramas, movies, internet, commerce, economic prosperity and tourism are no longer relying on the subsistence systems like agriculture, hunting and gathering. (Berry, 2002). Today the numbers of nuclear families are increasing day by day in developing societies because the trade of abandoning the arranged marriages is increasing, trend of working of women is also taking roots. The roles of the traditional families have changed the fathers are no more the source of power in the household but it is reverse in conservative families. Even in small societies the families are on the path of nuclearization of the structure of the family but the functioning of the family is still in its complex condition. (Kodic, 2001).

### **When and Where Changes Occur in Family Systems**

A major reason behind the ununiformed changes in families is the cultural and economic context in which people and their families are embodied. For example the changes in families living in major cities and families living out the cities differ from each other because of their culture and economic situations. The rate of change in families is fast in cities and slow in rural areas. It also includes the factor of attitude of the people towards marriage there is also an evident contrast between people of both urban and rural areas. (Minh, 2015).

Secondly, some other sources of transformation of the family are new practices and ideas which depend upon the age, education, religious and ethnic backgrounds and gender of the people. For example today's young generation is widely influenced by the idea of abandoning the logic of having large number of the children. They are tending to adopt the notion of limited children rapidly. On the other hand mentality of having large number of children still exists in many societies of the world like tribal societies. (Perelli, 2014). All the above mentioned sources found in societies answer the question when and where changes occur in families.

### **Joint family system and Modern day world**

Joint family system is at risk and at the brink of extinction specially the industrialized and urban areas. If such trends continue the turn of 21<sup>st</sup> century could see the abolishment of one of the influential and ancient establishment of the society which is the joint family. (Thomas, 1996). In Balochistan joint family system is powerful institution and it is deeply rooted in the heritage of the Balochistan. Extended family system is also found in rural Balochistan and in some of the cities but the joint family system is more prominent. The joint families are the symbols of success in Balochistan which distinct it among the other society.

### **Methodology**

The research design for this study was "Exploratory survey method". Quantitative research approach was adopted for this study. The independent variable of this research was "social change" and the dependent variable of this study was "Joint family system". The sampling technique for this study was simple random sampling. According to the census bureau the total

population of Quetta city is 1,001,205. (PBSC, 2017). Through the sampling formula sample of this study was calculated as 267. Close ended Questionnaire was the tool for data collection during the study.

## Results

### Statistics of demographic scale

The demographics are the personal information of the respondents asked during a research, such as their gender, age, marital status, qualification, occupation etc. For this research a frequency test of the demographics was carried out in which mean, median, mode, std. Deviation, Variance, range, minimum and maximum values of all the demographics were taken. Following table shows all the data regarding the demographics of the study in detail.

Table of Statistics

		Gender	Age	Marital Status	Qualification	Occupation
N	Valid	267	267	267	267	267
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		1.15	28.89	1.52	3.67	3.54
Median		1.00	28.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Mode		1	25	2	4	5
Std. Deviation		.358	5.466	.501	.690	1.578
Variance		.128	29.882	.251	.476	2.490
Range		1	28	1	5	4
Minimum		1	20	1	1	1
Maximum		2	48	2	6	5

### Gender demographics of the study

The table below shows the details regarding the gender distribution of the study. 227 respondents were male with the percentage 85.0% and 40 female making 15.05 of the sample.

Table of Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	227	85.0	85.0	85.0
	Female	40	15.0	15.0	100.0
	Total	267	100.0	100.0	

**Age distribution of the study**

Following statistical table shows the age wise distribution of the study

Table 4.1.3 Age distribution of the study

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20	7	2.6	2.6	2.6
	21	7	2.6	2.6	5.2
	22	10	3.7	3.7	9.0
	23	14	5.2	5.2	14.2
	24	14	5.2	5.2	19.5
	25	31	11.6	11.6	31.1
	26	20	7.5	7.5	38.6
	27	19	7.1	7.1	45.7
	28	24	9.0	9.0	54.7
	29	23	8.6	8.6	63.3
	30	15	5.6	5.6	68.9
	31	7	2.6	2.6	71.5
	32	16	6.0	6.0	77.5
	33	9	3.4	3.4	80.9
	34	11	4.1	4.1	85.0
	35	6	2.2	2.2	87.3
	36	6	2.2	2.2	89.5
	37	1	.4	.4	89.9
	38	8	3.0	3.0	92.9
	39	6	2.2	2.2	95.1
	40	5	1.9	1.9	97.0
	41	2	.7	.7	97.8
	42	1	.4	.4	98.1
	43	1	.4	.4	98.5
	44	1	.4	.4	98.9
	45	1	.4	.4	99.3
	46	1	.4	.4	99.6
	48	1	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	267	100.0	100.0	

**Marital Status distribution of the study**

There were 128 married respondents and 139 were unmarried, with the percentage 47.9% and 52.1% respectively. Following statistical table shows the details about the marital status of the respondents.

Table of Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	128	47.9	47.9
	Unmarried	139	52.1	100.0
	Total	267	100.0	100.0

### Qualification Demographics

All the respondents of the study were literate following table presents the details of the qualification of the respondents.

Table of Qualification demographics

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Matriculation	1	.4	.4
	inter mediate	11	4.1	4.5
	Bachelors	80	30.0	34.5
	Masters	159	59.6	94.0
	Post graduate	14	5.2	99.3
	Ph.D.	2	.7	100.0
	Total	267	100.0	100.0

### Occupation Demographics

Following statistical table contains the information about the occupations of the respondents.

Table of Occupation demographics

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Teacher	56	21.0	21.0
	Doctor/Engineer	22	8.2	29.2
	Lawyer	20	7.5	36.7
	Student	61	22.8	59.6
	Other	108	40.4	100.0
	Total	267	100.0	100.0

### Reliability

Reliability test is conducted to find out the internal consistency of the variable. (Bryman, 2009). That is why Cronbach's Alpha test was utilized in this study which shows the consistency of the variables. The value of the Cronbach's Alpha determines the consistency of the variables. If the value of the reliability test falls between; 0.07 to 0.9 then the data is considered up to the mark. Following table shows the value of Cronbach's Alpha which is  $\alpha = 0.706$ , hence the data is reliable and significant.

Table of Reliability Statistics

Cornbrash's Alpha	N of Items
.706	25

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The study was concerned with the changes in the joint family system and its patterns in Balochistan over the past years. The qualitative study was conducted to find out every possible cause and effect of the changes in the joint family system. There were various causes of changes in traditional ways of joint family system in Balochistan and their particular effects on the lives of the people facing the changes in their patterns of family life. In order to find out the views of the people on the topic a complete questionnaire was constructed and the questionnaire was used in the field to take the responses of the people. The study was conducted as systematically as possible in order to get authentic and reliable findings. After a systematic and scientific analysis of the findings it is concluded that the joint family has witnessed a remarkable change over the decade in Balochistan. People today mostly prefer other forms of family especially nuclear family system.

The results of the study indicate that joint family system in Balochistan especially in Quetta city is going through or has gone through remarkable changes due to different causes. Some of the causes were technology, media, Education, Innovations, Social movements, policies of the people about the children, economy etc, that have changed within and out of families, increasing rate urbanization has also caused changes in joint family system because in cities people cannot accommodate larger families, Acculturation and the youth in Balochistan is abandoning the idea of arrange marriage that is why the joint family is losing its importance in Balochistan.

The finding of the study also brought some other factors that have influenced the family system in Balochistan. Such as, educated people prefer the nuclear family than the joint family, people who have job based economies also find the nuclear family favorable for them, the abolishment of concept of having large number of the children due to social change has also reduced the importance of the joint family system. As Balochistan is a tribal piece of land that is why people believe in the man power and prefer to give birth to a large number of children but today because of social change the concept is losing its importance and people are going towards the concept of



limited number of children. Youth in the pursuit of education and better employment prefers the nuclear family system because they keep traveling to achieve their set goals. Increasing trend of working women in Balochistan was also one of the factors that has affected the joint family system. Moreover, migration, family quarrels, lack of privacy for the spouse and lack of opportunities of independent decision making were also among the causes that have affected the joint family system.

The effects that were indicted in the results were also brought in consideration in order to make the study more reliable. Here are some of the effects based on the finding that the changes in joint family system have caused to the society. Change in joint family system has affected the cultural inheritance of the children, burden of the socialization of the children of the parents has increased who have left the joint family system along with the burden of socialization economic burden of the parents has also increased and findings also suggest that people who have left the joint family system live lesser happy life than who live in joint family system. People living in nuclear family system enjoy less recreational opportunities, intergenerational gap has also widened because of the abolishment of joint family system and it has also caused cultural mal functioning of the society.

The universe of the study was Quetta city. The respondents of the study were common educated people of Quetta city. The total sample size of the study was 267 respondents. The study revolved around one specific and two general objectives like; specific objective of the study was to unearth the effects of social change on joint family system and the general objectives were; to find out the various causes of the changes in the joint family system and to know the consequences of the changes in the joint family system. For the analysis of the results reliability test of the scales and frequencies tests were conducted in order to find out the frequencies and percentages of the results.

Keeping the conclusion of the study and personal experience of the researcher it is recommended that if possible a large number of the respondents must be sampled out in order to conduct a good and an affected research. It is also recommended on the bases of the personal experience of the researcher and the participants some extra respondents must also be included in the sample so that they may cover the deficiency of the

respondents and could replace the actual respondents in case of any unavailability of the actual respondents.

Similarly, along with questionnaire a simple semi structured interview schedule can also be used in order to find more in depth findings and that can also be helpful in seeking the challenges other required information about the respondents. Furthermore, the researchers must also consider other aspects of the social change and causes and effects of the social change on joint family system in Balochistan.

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