

Family matters: The impact of modern family dynamics on children and their character building



Athmaja S Lakshmy^a | S. Meenakshi^a ✉

^aDepartment of English, School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore- 632014, India.

Abstract Family, as a social institution, started changing from its core idea in the modern world. Modern family and family dynamics are complicated in various forms, and children are affected by these modern dynamics. The family and character building of children are largely interrelated because, in their physical and mental development, they are mostly acquainted with the family. This is where they started learning values and behaviors. If the family atmosphere is not pleasant enough to capture children, this will affect them in many ways, starting from basic values and morals to crime rates in adolescents. This study employs a qualitative research methodology by analyzing various primary data created by scholars from various databases and attempts to analyze the existing field of knowledge regarding the influence of family on children's character formation to fill this research gap. This overview examines how modern family concepts influence children's mental health, investigating how the traditional system of family types and concepts helps children with character formation and intellectual development, the relationship between family dynamics and how they impact a child's life, and the relationship between family type and the juvenile crime rate.

Keywords: domestic interplay, childhood, adolescents, family type, character formation

1. Introduction

The family is a vital and foundational organ of society that plays a significant role in shaping an individual's behavior. The term 'family' comes from the Latin word *familia*, meaning household. The family unit serves as the starting and ending point for many aspects of life and represents a microcosm of the world. This institution embodies the culture and traditions of the nation that people follow from their antiquity. The family system can be called a culture or tradition in the Indian context, and its essence will transfer from generation to generation. The Eastern and Indian Nations regard the family as a sacred institution. A family as a social system has multiple definitions, as provided by many sociologists.

Scott defines family as a people connected by intimate domestic group and people are related to each other by legal or sexual relationship bonds (Scott, 2015). Elliott and Merrill conceptualize the family as a biological social unit consisting of husbands and wives (Elliott & Merrill, 1961). Ogburn and Nimkoff defined "family is more or less a durable association of husband and wife with or without children or a man or woman alone with children" (Ogburn & Nimkoff, 1964). Burgess and Locke provide family as an institution united by marriage, adoption, or blood, living under the single house hold and communicating and interacting with each other and enacting their respective social roles as husband, wife, son or daughter (Burgess & Locke, 1960).

It can be inferred from these definitions that a family is a system characterized by interconnections among its members, who may or may not share blood relations. Effective communication among family members is crucial for maintaining a healthy family environment. When comparing the concept of family systems across cultures, particularly between Eastern and Western traditions, the Eastern family structure is notably more complex and diverse in various aspects, including gender roles, cultural practices, and rituals associated with marriage. These dynamics within families generate social values and begin within families, such as respecting elders, sharing, and mutual caring. Traditionally, the family system of Eastern countries is joint, the head or supreme authority of making decisions is by elderly male members, and it is patriarchal (Kapadia, 1958).

A diverse nation such as India follows distinct cultures, and different forms of customs and beliefs are prevalent across India in terms of family and marriage systems. Similarly, in Japanese and Chinese cultures, it is evident that they also follow a similar practice of living in joint households and that elders make decisions on behalf of all other members, following different rituals and customs in regard to marriages (Scroope & Evason, 2017; Scroope, 2021).

Western nations are characterized by diversity and personal freedom, contributing to a distinct global culture. European countries and the United States are renowned for their liberal values in the modern era, which are evident in their family structures. While looking back at the history of family culture in America, the major period starts only at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Therefore, the question arises as to whether the family existed prior to this period in America. The answer is yes: Stephanie Coontz, in her work *The Way We Never Where* narrated the history of American families, especially from the beginning of the 19th century. Coontz argues that the present American generation (at the time of her writing) tends to glorify



past life, especially the family system they have. However, she says that the glorious past was not colorful; it was filled with domestic violence, child labor, prostitution, and financial crises (Coontz, 1992).

The American family structure described by Coontz was initially similar to the Indian family system; now, American families are largely shifted from traditional families and are generally referred to as nontraditional families. Traditional families in America and predominantly in Europe are described as husbands, wives, children, or children living in a common domestic space; nontraditional family systems are modern families such as single-parent, adoptive, blended, or foster families. Changes in every system will originate first in the United States and Europe and later begin to be reflected in Eastern nations. Similarly, changes in the family system have occurred in the United States and Europe, and other nations have largely influenced them and adopted their lifestyles. Thus, the family as a system began to dissolve in many ways and lost its concept in present day society (Lück & Castrén, 2018).

When the family system begins to collapse, the sufferers will be the children in that relationship; they are the category that has the majority in the world population and guides future generations. Whom, one can refer to the children? The United Nations describes an individual under the age of 18 as a child. There are different phases of child growth, starting from infancy (neonate – up to 1 year), Toddler (1–5 years), childhood (3–11 years), and adolescence (12–18 years) (Balasundaram & Avulakunta, 2023). Childhood is the phase in which the child begins to recognize things and is the learning phase. Adolescents or teens lie between childhood and adulthood, and they grow physically, psychologically, and cognitively. They are open to ideas and experience new things in their lives. During this period, the probability of being exposed to many activities, such as the consumption of drugs due to peer pressure, is high. Family has a large influence on a child in the process of growth, and the collapse of the system directly influences their life, both cognitively and psychologically.

2. Methodology

This research involves analyzing primary data created by scholars and researchers in various projects available on multiple scholarly databases, such as Google Scholar, the National Institute of Health (NIH), Scopus, PubMed, and Research Gate, using keywords such as traditional and nontraditional families, mental health, adolescents, joint families, nuclear families, and crime rates. The exhaustive search of articles in various databases provided 609 articles in total, and the careful inclusion and exclusion of articles using these criteria resulted in 150 articles being considered for the review. The inclusion and exclusion criteria were as follows: 1. Articles that were excluded for not being published in a peer-reviewed journal; 2. Articles published in English were mandatory; and 3. Articles that did not include humane participation were also excluded. 4. The articles included studies conducted on adolescents and juvenile delinquency. By examining 150 titles, abstracts, conclusions, and various reports in newspapers and magazines, it is necessary to address the problem of the influence of modern family and family dynamics on the mental health of children and their personal lives.

3. East and West: Traditional and Nontraditional Families

Families hold a significant place in transferring cultures from one generation to another (Johnson, 1995; Chadda & Deb, 2013). Culture, values, and traditions are the three inevitable concepts for India and many Eastern countries that have their own cultural practices, values, and beliefs transmitted across generations. In his book *Primitive Culture*, the 19th-century English anthropologist Edward Burnett Tylor described 'culture' as a broad ethnographic concept. He characterized it as a complex entity that encompasses knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs, and any other skills and habits that individuals acquire as members of society (Tylor, 1871). Eastern nations have a long history of traditions and cultures that play a particular role in the development of individual characters and their way of life. In Asia, particularly Eastern nations, which have different lifestyles, people prefer a collectivistic way of living, and their belief systems and rituals seem strange to Western people. Ten to fifteen members, or even two to three generations, live together harmoniously and may or may not have a common kitchen (Chadda & Deb, 2013).

The common form of living prevails in many Asian countries, and the tradition of communal living is still prevalent in numerous Eastern and African countries, where it is known as a traditional or joint family system. Although empirical evidence is lacking for certain human behaviors, these practices can be classified as traditions and cultural values. A joint family typically fosters harmony and strong bonds among members; the greatest beneficiaries are the children, who receive ample care and attention. The idea of a traditional family varies between Eastern and Western countries. Nontraditional families are not solely defined by nuclear families but also by the relationships among partners.

In contrast to Eastern countries, Western nations predominantly feature nuclear families, usually consisting of three to five members. In contemporary times, the Eastern notion of nontraditional families differs from that in the West (Oesterdiekhoff, 2024). In Western countries, a traditional family once referred to children living with their biological parents, but modern relationships have altered this, leading to the formation of new family structures. Nuclear families have further fragmented into various forms now termed nontraditional families (Figure 1). These include foster families, adoptive families, partnerships, queer families, and adoptive families, all based on the relationships among family members. These concepts

originated in Western countries and have started to influence Eastern nations like India. Today, the concept of family has become more abstract, often described as having "no family system at all."

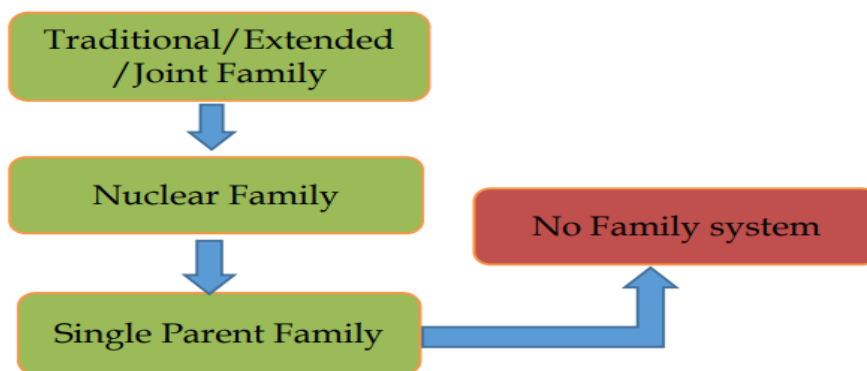


Figure 1 Transition of the family system.

4. Children in Joint or Extended and Nontraditional Families

The practice of parents living with their married children is a cultural shock to many Western nations, but this lifestyle is very common in Asian nations, such as India, Japan, and China. Most elderly people stay with their sons or daughters and are responsible for taking care of their parents. Elderly individuals take care of their grandchildren in most houses and these children are more attached to their grandparents than their parents. Therefore, parents can work peacefully without bothering their child, and these grandparents support and contribute to the intellectual development of their child (Coall & Hertwig, 2010). The stories of grandparents include stories from myths, moral stories, and even the epics and legendary stories. Thus, from childhood onward, they learn many things that contribute to their behavior. Listening to stories became a habit for children before going to bed or having food. This act directly contributes to the behavior of children. They start learning about moral values and basic human values in the culture in which they are embedded, which will eventually enhance the creativity of children (7 Benefits of Storytelling For Kids, 2024). While listening, children begin to create an altered world from their imagination, which is reflected in their cognitive development (Yabe et al., 2018). In present society, with the increase in the nuclear family structure, children spend much of their time with gadgets and day care, and in some countries, sending them to these places during the very early phases of life as part of the system is mandatory.

The modern family consists of three to four members, including parents and children; to maintain better social status and well-being of the family, both parents prefer to give importance to productive labor, and the remaining time they give to domestic work and many families in Europe and America, parents work on their shift irrespective of day and night, and they rarely see each other. Therefore, in such a nuclear family consisting of a father and mother, do they have time to look after their child and tell them stories? Many Western families prefer to live in an individualistic way, most are nontraditional in nature, and most women are breadwinners. Thus, most of their children spend their time either with babysitters or at school. Owing to the limited time available to parents, parent-child interaction is relatively limited in Western societies. The absence of a proper family system can result in children experiencing adverse effects on their parents' relationships, potentially leading to other complexities. Figure 2 illustrates that most family members, regardless of their gender, engage in employment to meet their financial needs. On average, 34% of parents work full-time, resulting in very limited time spent with their children, and many professionals prioritize their work over that of their families.

Sixty-two percent of both parents prioritize work and income (Figure 3), indicating that they allocate their time more to pursuing professional pursuits and that better financial stability will provide a sophisticated life to their children in the public sphere. The COVID-19 period is a perfect example: many MNCs provided work-from-home options, and many parents worked more than 12 hours and overtime for better financial aid, resulting in less attention to the children at home. Thus, the modern family instinctually brings the scenario of children with caregivers, daycare, or electronic devices from an early age onward. This situation diminishes the emotional connection between parents and children.

Many parents from Western nations, especially the United States, separate their children from their parents when the child reaches the age of four or five from the parental bed; that is, they are not allowed to sleep with their parents, and they believe this will provide independence and privacy to the children. Bed sharing during the preschool period enhances the emotional connection between parents and children (Lerner et al., 2020; Germa et al., 2007). Incorrect parenting and beliefs create a distance in the parent-child relationship.

Gradually, there develops a detachment among children towards their parents. Observing this lifestyle, they may come to admire and emulate it, leading to independent living due to a lack of emotional connection and affection with their parents (Marici et al., 2023) which leads them to become visitors to their parents' house. Similarly, parents also make appointments to



meet their children, which is common in Western culture and results from their culture and way of living. This form of culture is absent in Asian countries.

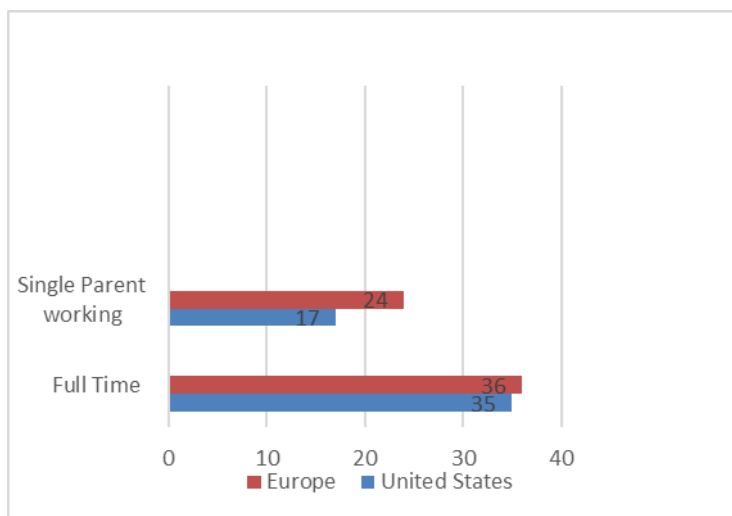


Figure 2 Working parents in Western Country. Source: Pew Research Center, 2015; Eurostat, 2020.

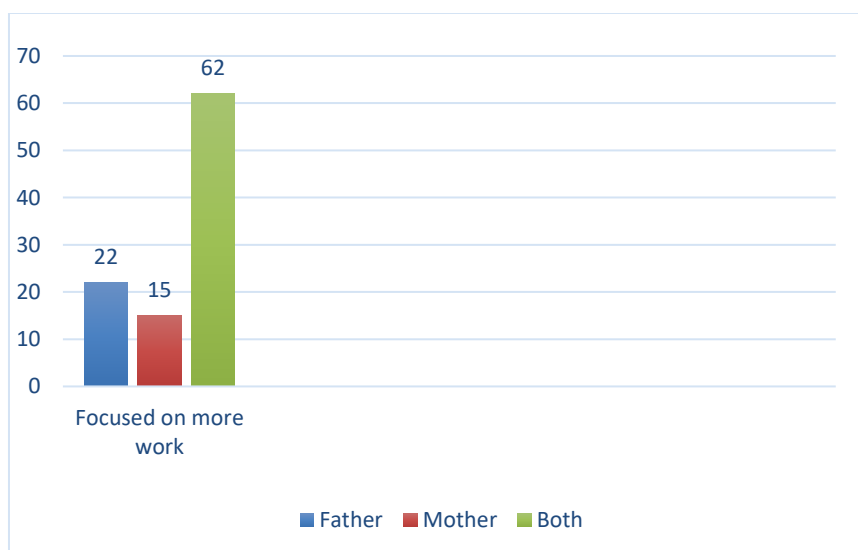


Figure 3 Parents' focus on work and income in Western countries. Source: Patten, 2015.

5. Impact of Relationship Dynamics on Character Formation and Adult Life

Consider two hypothetical situations: the first is a family in which a husband and wife always fight each other, and the second is that the husband and wife live happily. Will these two living environments influence children? Childhood is an important stage of psychological growth. This is the stage at which they learn and unlearn many things, and these things register in their psyche. Figure 4 illustrates how an unhappy family atmosphere influences the children

In the first instance, the violent atmosphere in the family codes certain images in the child's mind. Erik Erikson, an American child psychoanalyst, cites many instances in his 1968 work *Identity Youth and Crisis* and mentions that children have many things to do with their early childhood age. The images they have seen may be situations or instances that will remain in their unconscious mind, and when they grow adults, this will be reflected in their behavior (Erikson, 1968). Similarly, the family is a space where the child lives and much of his or her development occurs, so the family atmosphere influences the child's psychology.

While analyzing the first scenario, as they grow older, they become violent and replicate the same pattern they used to see in their childhood because the child tends to imitate their elders (Cunningham & Thornton, 2006). In some way, it is recognized that violence is a very common phenomenon in the family: one is dominant, and the other is always recessive and tolerable to any violence. In their growing phase, particularly in adolescence, they become violent and arrogant in behavior, and the possibility of being a toxic partner in the relationship, addiction to pornography, and drugs are the influences of violent families (Jabbari et al., 2025). Usually, in these types of families, the child has less emotional connection with their parents; they try to learn the home atmosphere on their own and draw conclusions.



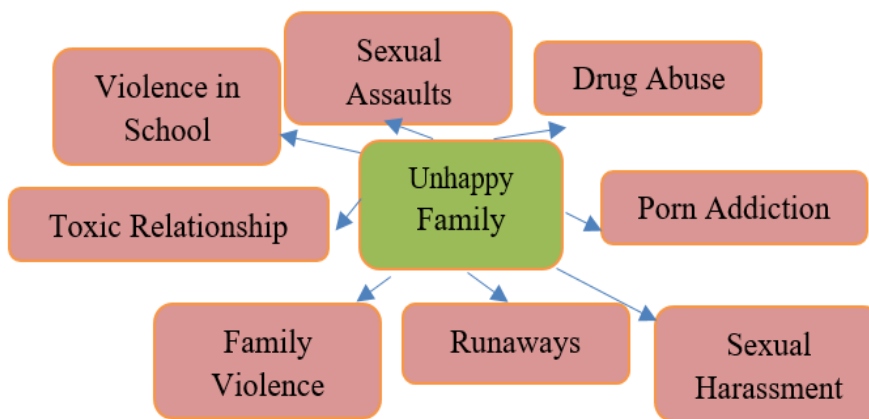


Figure 4 Violent family atmosphere influences children.

Listening to the partial side and self-evaluation of problems creates a concrete perception in their minds, leading to psychological dilemmas when they become adults (Jabbari et al., 2025). If such adults are in a relationship, they must expect from their partners what they lose during childhood, care, and attention. This creates a double burden on the partners to provide multiple roles rather than a husband or wife, and to achieve these, they behave violently toward their partners, and most of the relationships will ultimately collapse. Research shows that male children suffer more from this violent family atmosphere because they are emotionally vulnerable (Grüning Parache et al., 2024). The second situation is the happy family atmosphere in which the child automatically becomes happy in all ways because the parents can provide attention and care for the child, and they will be with the child whenever they need them.

The relationship dynamics between the husband and wife influence the child in a greater way and have a positive effect on the child’s psyche (Figure 5).

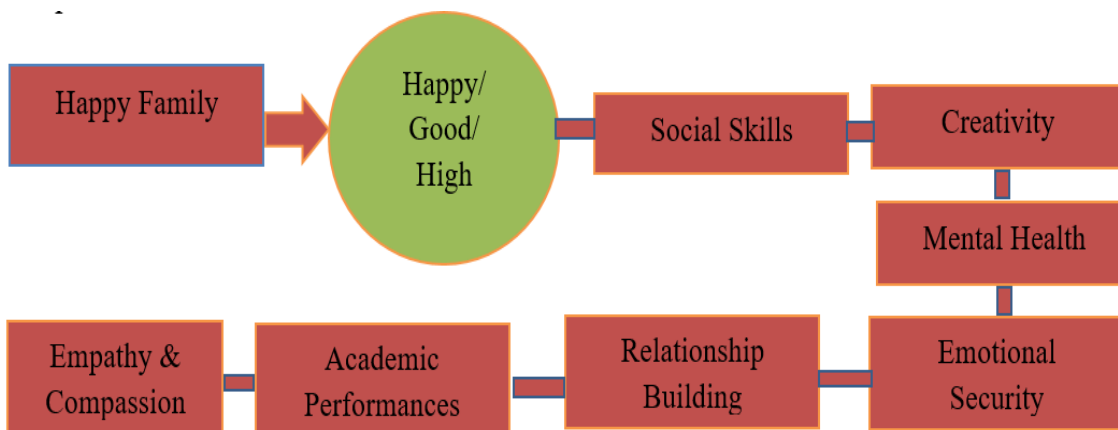


Figure 5 Happy family influence over children.

While these children are growing up, the probability of experiencing a troublesome atmosphere is relatively low (Cavanagh et al., 2018). Childhood images they have are pleasant and lack various behavioral disorders, and they try to imitate their parental relationship dynamics throughout their life. These children perform comparatively well in academics and have more empathy and compassion for others. A happy family environment encourages children to develop problem-solving skills and enhances creativity and curiosity (Marah et al., 2025). This is why the criminologist tries to conduct a background study of the criminals; importantly, their childhood plays a remarkable role in the crime scene and sometimes determines the motives for the crimes.

6. Juvenile Crime Rate and Family Type

Juvenile crimes are another division that is closely associated with families and lifestyles. Boys account for 80% of juvenile crimes (Ryan & La Vigne, 2022), 31% commit robbery, and fewer than 20% commit other crimes, such as violent crimes and murder (Ryan & La Vigne, 2022).

Studies show that children aged between 12 and 17 largely commit crimes and that they are arrested and face legal procedures. Comparatively, crime rates decreased from the 1990s to 2020, and later, there was slight variation in crime rates during the COVID- 19 pandemic. “Family functioning variables as a group seem to be inextricably linked to delinquent behavior. Juvenile delinquency appears to occur disproportionately among children in 'unhappy homes.”(Geismar & Wood, 1986). While



analyzing various crime details, it is understood that the majority of children are from broken and nontraditional family backgrounds, and a lack of proper care, monitoring and attention leads them to commit crimes.

Children from single-parent or blended family backgrounds are more prone to these crimes. Several factors lead to juvenile crimes; family background is the predominant reason that relays the base for crimes. The factors influencing juvenile crimes (Figure 6) are directly related to the family atmosphere. Nonintact families are the source of juvenile crimes (Figure 7), and all the factors affecting children are rooted in the family system and the Relationship dynamics of parents. Children residing with their non-biological parents have difficulties communicating with new family members, and non-biological parents face challenges in establishing connections, resulting in temporary feelings of contentment and ease.

Peer influence can be observed among adolescents, such as those who consume alcohol or other drugs. Many scholars have proven both empirically and theoretically that the consumption of drugs enhances abnormal sexual behaviour in adolescents (Childs et al., 2023). Many juvenile courts around the world have observed and mentioned their judgment of the child's family background and the influence of the same in their crimes. Children raised with a nontraditional family background are more inclined to commit crimes and are involved in crimes and other illegal activities due to the lack of proper money to support them, and a lack of proper care and attention leads to these crimes. Theft, which is involved in fighting and assault, is the major crime committed by adolescents and is more common in nontraditional families such as cohabitating stepfamilies, single parents, and divorced families. In contrast, the crime rate is lower in traditional family structures.

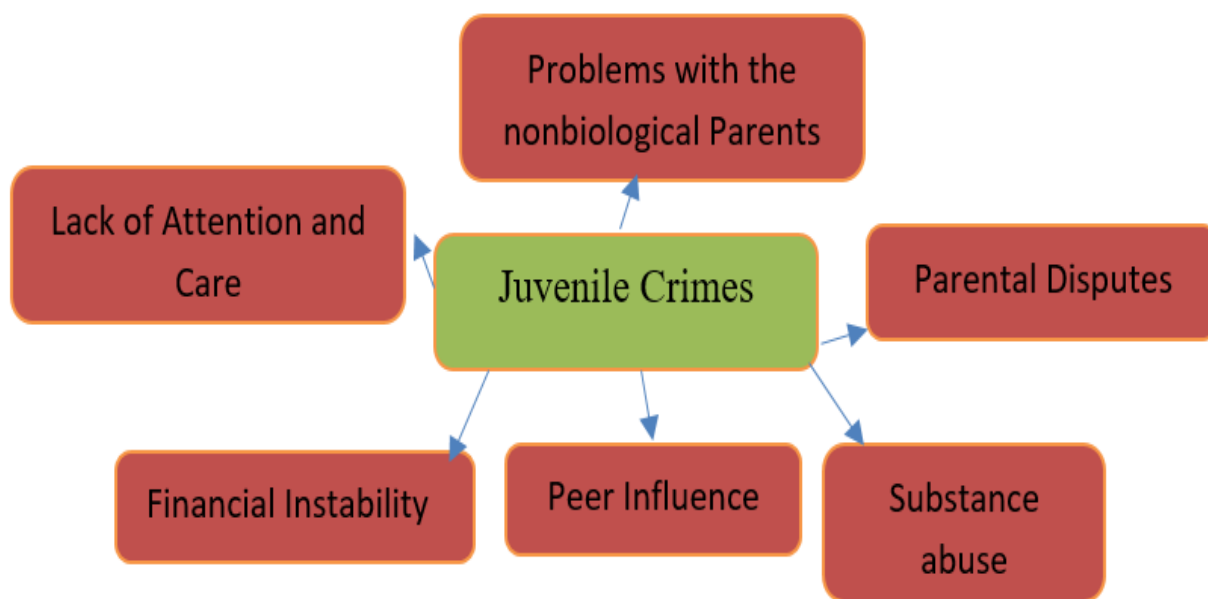


Figure 6 Factors influencing the child lead to juvenile crimes.

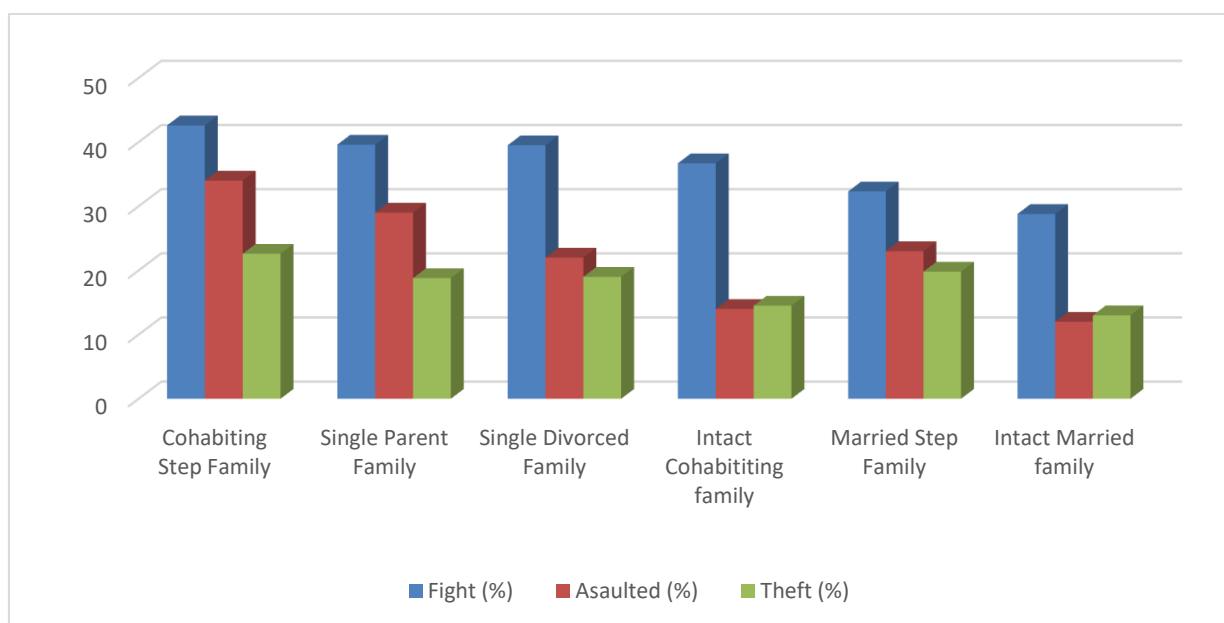


Figure 7 Family type and juvenile crime rate. Source: Fagan & Talkington, 1997.



7. Conclusion

There is no doubt that family has a greater influence on an individual's life. Many great thinkers and philosophers wrote about their families and the support they provided to achieve a successful life in their works. Similarly, we have come across many reports on how family background leads the child to commit heinous crimes; the same family acts as the destroyer of the child's life. In the global village, everyone is trying to make their own private space and to provide a better standard of living; parents spend much of their time on productive labor and social life. Thus, these parents fail to pay attention to and care for the child when the need is necessary; therefore, the child will spend much of their time in kindergarten and rely on online platforms and gadgets.

The importance of the grandparents in the household or the traditional family setup conveys a different home experience to these children; on older days, they look at the grandchildren, and they hold a significant place in the child's development. Notably, the transformation of family types from joint to nontraditional families keeps multiple generations out of the house and promotes individual ways of living, which adversely affects children, as they spend more time in their social entertainment and lack intimate attachment with the relationships around them. In the contemporary world, many families face the same problem: children care more about their social lives than their own families and parents do. What they see in their growth phase and the family background they belong to will, to an extent, influence adolescents and their character formation. A broken family atmosphere influences the child because these children are emotionally vulnerable, and for temporary escape from reality, they easily enter into any form of violence or substance abuse. Family types such as traditional and nontraditional family types affect this adolescent because the joint family system provides extra care and support to a child by older members, and nontraditional families lack such care and attention due to parental work pressure; thus, there will be a gap between parents and children.

Children in joint families have high socializing skills and are comparatively more active than those in nontraditional families. The relationship dynamics between parents lead the child to end in deep psychological trauma, and replicating such violence in their lives leads them to commit various illegal activities and crimes in the future. The crime rate and family background are directly connected; a notable verdict from a judge from China observed that most of the crimes committed by children are from broken family backgrounds; similarly, crimes committed by children in America are largely from fractured family backgrounds, and crimes committed by adolescents in India are largely interrelated with the family background to which they belong.

Hence, there is a significant relationship between family type and family dynamics in the character formation of children. Childhood is the most beautiful phase of a child in which he or she can register images that gradually influence character formation. Changes are inevitable in every society, but keeping away from values and relationships will never create a peaceful generation. The presence of extended family members in the home will increase the number of children and will help to fill the gap that is lost in the long back, the values and lifestyle system that our children are not aware of. Modern life never emphasizes leaving a relationship; rather, it should focus on how to maintain relationships. There will be problems in every familial relationship, but solving each problem through effective communication and making the right decisions at the right time is the solution. Children are affected by these dynamics and influence them more negatively. Therefore, providing a peaceful family environment is the only gift that a parent can provide to his or her child for a healthy and better life.

Ethical Considerations

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Funding

This research did not receive any financial support.

References

- 7 Benefits of Storytelling For Kids. (n.d.). *Carepointe Academy*. Accessed on October 10, 2024, in <https://carepointeacademy.com/blog/posts/benefits-of-storytelling-for-kids>
- Balasundaram, P., & Avulakunta, I. D. (2023). *Human growth and development*. StatPearls Publishing.
- Burgess, E. W., & Locke, H. J. (1960). *The family: From traditional to companionship*. American Book Company.
- Cavanagh, S. E., Stritzel, H., Smith, C., & Crosnoe, R. (2018). Family instability and exposure to violence in the early life course. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 28(2), 456–472. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12347>
- Chadda, R. K., & Deb, K. S. (2013). Indian family systems, collectivistic society and psychotherapy. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 55(Suppl 2), S299–S309. <https://doi.org/10.4103/0019-5545.105555>

- Childs, K., Viglione, J., Chapman, J. E., Drazdowski, T. K., McCart, M. R., & Sheidow, A. J. (2023). Delinquency, substance use, and risky sexual behaviors among youth who are involved in the justice system and predominantly reside in rural communities: Patterns and associated risk factors. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 46(2), 211–230. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648x.2022.2103014>
- Coall, D. A., & Hertwig, R. (2010). Grandparental investment: Past, present, and future. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33(1), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X09991105>
- Coontz, S. (1992). *The way we never were: American families and the nostalgia trap*. Basic Books.
- Cunningham, M., & Thornton, A. (2006). The influence of parents' marital quality on adult children's attitudes toward marriage and its alternatives: Main and moderating effects. *Demography*, 43(4), 659–672.
- Elliott, M. A., & Merrill, F. E. (1961). *Social disorganization*. Harper.
- Erikson, E. H. (1968). *Identity: Youth and crisis*. W. W. Norton.
- Fagan, P. F., & Talkington, S. (1997). *A consolidation of Mapping Americas: Family structure, live and let live?* (Mapping America- 137). Marriage and Religion Research Institute. Accessed on January 23, 2025, in <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF15A11.pdf>
- Geismar, L. L., & Wood, K. (1986). *Family and delinquency: Resocializing the young offender*. Human Sciences Press.
- Germo, G., Chang, E., Keller, M., & Goldberg, W. (2007). Child sleep arrangements and family life: Perspectives from mothers and fathers. *Infant and Child Development*, 16(4), 433–456. <https://doi.org/10.1002/icd.521>
- Grüning Parache, L., Vogel, M., Meigen, C., Kiess, W., & Poulain, T. (2024). Family structure, socioeconomic status, and mental health in childhood. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 33(7), 2377–2386. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-023-02329-y>
- Jabbari, B., Schoo, C., & Rouster, A. S. (2023). *Family dynamics*. StatPearls Publishing.
- Johnson, A. C. (1995). Resiliency mechanisms in culturally diverse families. *The Family Journal*, 3(4), 316–324. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1066480795034005>
- Kapadia, K. M. (1958). *Marriage and family in India*. Indian Branch, Oxford University Press.
- Lerner, R. E., Camerota, M., Tully, K. P., & Propper, C. (2020). Associations between mother-infant bed-sharing practices and infant affect and behavior during the still-face paradigm. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 60(3), 101464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infbeh.2020.101464>
- Lück, D., & Castrén, A.-M. (2018). Personal understandings and cultural conceptions of family in European societies. *European Societies*, 20(5), 699–714. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2018.1487989>
- Marah, K., Fute, A., & Kangwa, D. (2025). Beyond the classroom: Examining the varied impact of family dynamics on students' academic success. *Acta Psychologica*, 255(4), 104895. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2025.104895>
- Marici, M., Clipa, O., Runcan, R., & Pirghie, L. (2023). Is rejection, parental abandonment or neglect a trigger for higher perceived shame and guilt in adolescents? *Healthcare*, 11(12), 1724. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11121724>
- Oesterdiekhoff, G. (2024). Family patterns in the Western and the Eastern world. *Qeios*. <https://doi.org/10.32388/9E8XH1>
- Ogburn, W. F., & Nimkoff, M. F. (1964). *A handbook of sociology*. Routledge & K. Paul. Accessed on August 27, 2024, in https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/A_Handbook_of_Sociology/aeQhAAAAMAAJ?hl=en
- Patten, E. (2015). How American parents balance work and family life when both work. *Pew Research Center*. Recuperado em 1 de janeiro de 2025, de <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2015/11/04/how-american-parents-balance-work-and-family-life-when-both-work>
- Raising kids and running a household: How working parents share the load. (2015). *Pew Research Center*. Accessed on December 23, 2024, in <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/11/04/raising-kids-and-running-a-household-how-working-parents-share-the-load>
- Rutkowski, C. (2018). Early family experience affects later romantic relationships. *National Institutes of Health (NIH)*. Accessed on April 26, 2025, in <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/early-family-experience-affects-later-romantic-relationships>
- Ryan, L., & La Vigne, N. (n.d.). Trends in youth arrests for violent crimes. *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*. Accessed on January 23, 2025, in <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/trends-youth-arrests-violent-crimes>
- Scott, J. (2015). *A dictionary of sociology*. Oxford University Press.
- Scroope, C. (2021). Japanese—Family. *Cultural Atlas*. Accessed on November 21, 2024, in <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/japanese-culture/japanese-culture-family>
- Scroope, C., & Evason, N. (2017). Chinese—Family. *Cultural Atlas*. Accessed on November 21, 2024, in <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/chinese-culture/chinese-culture-family>
- Tylor, E. B. (1871). *Primitive culture: Researches into the development of mythology, philosophy, religion, language, art, and custom*. John Murray.
- Working parents with young children in the EU. (2020). *Eurostat*. Accessed on December 23, 2024, in <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20200501-1>
- Yabe, M., Oshima, S., Eifuku, S., Taira, M., Kobayashi, K., Yabe, H., & Niwa, S. (2018). Effects of storytelling on the childhood brain: Near-infrared spectroscopic comparison with the effects of picture-book reading. *Fukushima Journal of Medical Science*, 64(3), 125–132. <https://doi.org/10.5387/fms.2018-11>