

Short Communication

Impact of Husband-Wife Relations on the Socialization of Children

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ABSTRACT

A child passes through various phases of socialization, the early of which has a strongest repercussion in shaping his personality. Husband-wife relationship has a profound impact on the personality of children. This research endeavor aimed at exploring the complex derivatives and dimension of the relationship between husband-wife relations and socialization of children. The study was conducted in the urban areas of Faisalabad. The size of the sample was 120 respondents, drawn through systematic sampling technique. It was found that the conflicts of parents result in aggression and hesitation of communicating with parents among children. It was strongly argued that parents should restrict their conflicts to themselves only and should not disclose them to their children.

Key Words: Husband; Wife; Socialization; Relations; Children

INTRODUCTION

Socialization is the process through which the genetic potentials of the human infant are molded into recognizably human form, there by permitting the child ultimately to take place in human society. In its most general sense, socialization means all those process- as well as the contents of those processes- through which a new member of society takes on some of the culture of that society and some of the behaviors appropriate to his particular position in the social structure (Goode, 1964).

One major contribution of the social science has been to demonstrate the tremendous power and influence of the socialization process. "Even though there is always a degree of individual autonomy and choice, much of what an individual - how he or she thinks and acts- is largely a product of the continuous process of socialization" (Jefferies & Ransford, 1980). A primary function and characteristic of the family is that it should be a social group in which in the earliest stages the child can "invest" all of his emotional resources, to which he can become fully "dependent" (Parson & Bales, 1960).

Conflicts between parents are normally found in family relations. No child can develop normally in a family situation surcharged with tension between parents. Even though the parents do best in their power to conceal their conflicts from children, minimal expression, incipient coldness and reserve, belie all attempts to hide the strained relations, and therefore, the disorganizing effects upon the children. Not only level of conflict but the way it's managed can have deleterious effects on a couple's children. Within families whose marital partners typically confronted

conflicts with hostility, belligerence, and contempt, children tended to display more aggressive and acting-out behavior than other children. In addition, fathers who had an angry and withdrawn style of dealing with marital disputes had children who were more likely to be depressed than others (Katz & Gottman, 1997).

The mutual relationship and social environment of family play a significant role in the socialization of children, as well. When the parents are cooperative and have pleasant relations with each other, they tend to be more caring about the children's socialization. On the contrary, parents having conflicts become less caring about children's activities and both, or one of them, think that its other partner's responsibility to pay more attention towards children.

The present study was designed to: (i) investigate the patterns of socialization of children, (ii) examine the nature of husband-wife relationship, (iii) investigate the association between husband-wife & socialization of children, and (iv) identify the role of socialization of children in value change in the society.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the urban areas of Faisalabad city. Two areas namely Nemat Colony and People's Colony were randomly selected for the purpose of the present study. A total of 60 household from each area were selected by using systematic sampling technique. The mothers from the selected household were interviewed at final stage. If the selected household constitutes a joint family then one mother was selected randomly. The data were collected with the help of well designed interviewing schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the socialization of children the most important task is to make decision regarding children activities. Any decision made can alter the desired pattern of socialization. Parents play a determining role with regard to their children future and in a certain sense, it is they who write the course of their children’s lives and feel responsible for both their success and failures. Women of different socio-economic characteristics have different level of participation in decision-making process. Participation of mothers in decision making also predicts the relations with her husband and her interest regarding children’s socialization.

Response of the respondents to various questions is presented in Table I. The cooperative environment of the families allowed a large number of respondents (64.2%) to take decisions about children unanimously. It is also clear that 25.8% of the mothers were more influential in decision making process as they took more interest in children socialization. It was found that 77.5% of respondent had quarrels with their husbands; while, 22.3% of respondents had no conflicts with their husbands. Frequency of quarrels affects the social environment of the family. A huge majority of the respondents (55%) said that they quarrel with their husbands rarely; while, 22.5% of respondents often quarreled with their husbands. It was found that 33.5% of the respondents having quarrel with their husbands had conflicts due to lake of mental harmony, and 22.5% due to the children; whereas, 20.4% of respondents stated, interference of in-laws as the reason of quarrel.

Hostile interaction between parents predicted children’s tendency to externalize, or to exhibit aggressive and antisocial behavior. Typically in response to parent’s marital difficulties; boys tend to display more externalizing behavior and girls to show more internalizing behavior (Cowan *et al.*, 1994). There is a majority of parents (28%) who reported that their children have whispers and secret gossips when there is a quarrel between parents, and 25% families were found in which children feel hesitation to communicate their thinking during the period of parents’ conflict. Moreover, 19% parents reported arrogant behavior of their children during the times when both parents remain angry with each other. Such children also show such behavior off and on in daily routine. 13% parents answered that their children do not take the parents’ conflicts as serious. Remaining respondents gave the multiple responses.

Social environment of any family has greater impact on the socialization of the children. Huge majority of the respondents (65.8%) were living in the male dominant family system, and only 12.5% of respondents were enjoying the democratic environment of their family. These

Table I. Distribution of respondents (n= 120) with regard to various parameters

Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Influence on decisions		
Father	12	10
Mother	31	25.8
Both	77	64.2
Quarrels between parents		
Yes	93	77.5
No	27	22.3
Frequency of quarrels		
Often	27	22.5
Rare	66	55
Not at all	27	22.5
Causes of quarrels		
Economic sector	28	23.6
Due to children	27	22.5
Interference of in-laws	25	20.4
Lack of mental harmony	40	33.5
Effects on children		
Whispers among siblings	33	28
Feel hesitation	30	25
Become arrogant	22	19
Don’t take serious	16	13
Multiple responses	19	15
Social family environment		
Democratic environment	15	12.5
Average environment	26	21.7
Male dominant environment	79	65.8

parents were more liberal and were cooperative with each other; while 21.7% families, had average social environment of the family.

Indeed, a satisfying martial relationship is often regarded as the cornerstone of good family functioning. directly or indirectly, it facilitates good parenting, good sibling relationships and the healthy development of all the kids in family. Good husband-wife relations play important role in better socialization of children. No child can develop normally in a family situation surcharged with tension between parents.

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