

A STUDY OF RESOLUTION OF FAMILY CONFLICTS

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Abstract- A family is a group of people who are related by marriage, blood, or adoption and live in a single household, interacting in their respective social positions, which are typically those of spouses, parents, children, and siblings. A family group should be distinguished from a household, which may include boarders and roomers residing in the same residence. It should also be distinguished from kin (which also refers to blood lines), as kin can be divided into multiple households. The family is frequently confused with the marriage couple, but the essence of the family group is the parent-child relationship, which may be lacking in many marriage couples. Families are unique in that they are small and intimate. The family's structure and developmental tasks are changing at an alarming rate. Only in the involuntary nature of global society does a close analogy exist. While the sources of conflict differ between the family and the global community, the mechanisms for preventing and resolving conflict are more similar.

Keyword- Family, Global community, Conflict

INTRODUCTION:

A family is a group of people who are related by marriage, blood, or adoption and live in a single household, interacting in their respective social positions, which are typically those of spouses, parents, children, and siblings. A family group should be distinguished from a household, which may include boarders and roomers residing in the same residence. It should also be distinguished from kin (which also refers to blood lines), as kin can be divided into multiple households. The family is frequently confused with the marriage couple, but the essence of the family group is the parent-child relationship, which may be lacking in many marriage couples.

A family, at its most basic, consists of an adult and his or her offspring. It is most commonly composed of two married adults, usually a man and a woman (almost always from different lineages and not related by blood), and their offspring, who live in a private and separate dwelling. This type of unit, known more specifically as a nuclear family, is thought to be the oldest of the various types of families that exist. An extended family includes not only the parents and their unmarried children, who live at home, but also children who have married, their spouses, and their offspring, as well as possibly elderly dependents.

TYPES OF FAMILY STRUCTURES

Over the last 50 years, family structure has shifted dramatically. The Leave it to Beaver family is no longer the norm and several family variations have emerged. Today's society has identified six distinct types of family structures.

NUCLEAR FAMILY

The nuclear family is the most common family structure. This family is made up of two parents and their children. Society has long regarded the nuclear family as the ideal setting in which to raise children. Children in nuclear families benefit from the two-parent structure's strength and stability, and they generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults. A nuclear family should have shared values, responsibilities, unconditional love, healthy attachment patterns, and an environment that promotes growth and learning.

JOINT FAMILY

The Joint family structure is made up of two or more adults who are related by blood or marriage and live in the same house. This family consists of many relatives who live together and work toward common goals such as raising children and performing household duties. Many joint families include living cousins, aunts or uncles, and grandparents. This type of family structure may emerge as a result of financial constraints or because elderly relatives are unable to care for themselves. All over the world, joint families are becoming more common.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Family conflict is defined as active conflict between family members. Because of the nature of family relationships, it can take many forms, such as verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological. Conflicts can involve various combinations of family members, such as conflict within the couple, conflict between parents and children, or conflict between siblings.

Certain elements are shared by all interpersonal conflicts, whether they occur between family members, romantic partners, or groups. Coser (1956) offers one popular definition of conflict as a "struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power, and resources in which the opponents' goals are to neutralize, injure, or eliminate the rival."

Deutsch asserted in 1973 that conflict "occurs whenever incompatible activities occur... an action that prevents, obstructs, interferes with, injures, or in some way makes (resolution) less likely or less..."

SOURCES OF FAMILY CONFLICT

Families everywhere have certain characteristics that make them vulnerable to conflict.

COMPULSION

For starters, a family is not a volunteer organization (except for the husband and wife). Children do not have a say in who their parents are. They are unable to resign their membership when times are tough. Even the parents are under intense pressure to remain loyal to the group at all costs. Once a conflict has begun, such involuntary participation tends to exacerbate it. Because they must continue to live in the same house year after year, family members can develop strong dislikes for one another. Through the accumulation of grievances between two family members, what began as a simple conflict of interest quickly turns into emotional hatred. When such hostility develops, conflict frequently becomes self-perpetuating.

INTIMACY

The intimacy of contact within the family heightens the conflict potentialities inherent in involuntary family membership. Physical distance and social formality are kept to a minimum in school, church, and business. Furthermore, contact is limited to a specific set of relationships, such as teacher-pupil, priest-parishioner, or boss-secretary.

SMALLNESS

While all families are characterized by compulsory membership and intimate contact, the family's small number of children magnifies the problem of conflict, particularly between siblings. In a large family, one child's share of his mother's attention and affection is so limited that it makes little difference whether or not he has it.

CHANGE

The above family characteristics would not be so bad if the family situation did not change so quickly. A stable equilibrium may be sought given fixed ingredients. However, because families change so quickly, a moving equilibrium is the best that can be hoped for. Families grow and shrink at a rapid pace. According to census data, newlyweds typically have less than a year to work out their marital relationship before it is disrupted by the nausea of pregnancy.

MECHANISMS FOR PREVENTING FAMILY CONFLICT

No society can afford to ignore family conflict. The family is too important a social structure unit and a means of transmitting culture to the next generation to be allowed to fall apart. As a result, every society tends to develop patterned ways of preventing conflict from arising. These mechanisms, with the passage of time, tend to acquire the force of norms. To put it another way, social pressures are used to increase the likelihood that these mechanisms will be used, and social sanctions are imposed on those who violate them. Different preventive mechanisms can be found in different societies, depending on where their family system is especially vulnerable to conflict. The analysis that follows categorizes specific taboos and requirements into broad categories of general interest. 1. Avoidance of potential conflict sources. - Many societies have devices in place to keep potential or actual family members apart who would otherwise come into conflict with one another.

DISCUSSION

The natural first step is to talk things through, outline the various possible solutions, and weigh the pros and cons in an attempt to come up with a solution. This decision-making process has been studied and analyzed far too thoroughly elsewhere to warrant a detailed treatment here. To summarize, there are three major types of solutions that can be reached: (1) agreement—that is, mutual agreement by both partners that a vacation at the lake

would be best for both of them; (2) compromise—one week at the lake and one week in the mountains so that both partners gain and lose part of their objectives; (3) concession—two weeks in the mountains, not because the wife is convinced that it would be best for both of them enjoyable, but because she decides to end the conflict by dropping her own demands. Most families solve most of their problems by such processes of communication followed by decision-making.

MEDIATION

Couples may require outside assistance in reaching a decision on occasion. In this case, relatives and friends are rarely eligible because they are usually more closely aligned with one partner than the other. As a result, professional personnel are almost the only option. In this case, the third party's role is rarely to take over the decision-making process. Rather, he acts as a catalytic agent, allowing the couple to become more objective and rational simply by being present. If the conflict is severe and hostile feelings have built up, he may work with each partner separately for an extended period of time. It may be beneficial for the couple to be seen together only after they have gained self-awareness and mutual empathy.

ACCOMMODATION

In some ways, accommodation could be classified as a type of decision. However, it more accurately represents the recognition of a failure to agree. In the classic phrase. In the case of summer vacation, this could imply separate vacations for husband and wife (though so much autonomy runs heavily counter to American mores). It is not always possible for the parties in a family dispute to separate. When it comes to the need for a new car, one either gets one or does not.

SEPARATION

If no amount of discussion, mediation, or accommodation succeeds in resolving family conflict, the last resort is divorce. Separation, in some ways, does not really settle conflict, but it usually does put an end to it. If the antagonists are no longer within shouting distance of each other, their focus will be quickly diverted from the point at hand. Separation is commonly used to refer to a divorce between a husband and a wife. There are few who would force them to continue living in conflict if they cannot live together in peace. Even those who are staunchly opposed to divorce and remarriage acknowledge that separating the marriage partners is sometimes preferable to prolonging the agony. Separation between parents and children is also possible.

CONCLUSION:

Returning to the question of similarities and differences between family conflict and conflict in other contexts, it is clear that the sources of family conflict are largely distinct. Families are unique in that they are small and intimate. The family's structure and developmental tasks are changing at an alarming rate. Only in the involuntary nature of global society does a close analogy exist. While the sources of conflict differ between the family and the global community, the mechanisms for preventing and resolving conflict are more similar.

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