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Q7(a)

Examine the relationship between the contemporary trends in marriage and changing from family

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Systems of Kinship

Systems of Kinship: Family, household, marriage; Types and forms of family; Lineage and descent; Patriarchy and sexual division of labour; Contemporary trends.

Core demand of the question

- Examine the relationship between contemporary trends in marriage and the changing form of the family
- Keep the examination within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

- **Marriage trends:** later age, more choice talk, more legal exit.
- **Family form:** smaller urban households, dual earners, translocal kin.

Goode's conjugal thesis travels only part way in India.

Caste **endogamy** and unpaid care still structure the small home.

Marriage rules and family form move together, not as a simple Western copy.

Introduction

Marriage rules used to fix who lives with whom and who inherits. Contemporary trends in age at marriage, choice, divorce, and dual earning pull the family toward smaller, more conjugal, and sometimes more unstable forms. Kin does not vanish.

Body

Trends in marriage

- Later age at marriage, more companionate talk, and, in law, a rise of divorce and of live-in recognition in some courts.
- William Goode predicted a world shift to the conjugal family. Actual paths vary.

Changing family form

- From joint household ideal toward nuclear residence in cities, while remittances keep a translocal jointness.
- Dual-earner and female-headed households appear in **NFHS** files.
- Chosen families and delayed childbearing in some professional strata.

The link

- When marriage becomes more optional and more breakable, the family leans on friendship, paid care, and the state.
- In India, caste **endogamy** and arranged-cum-choice hybrids still organise most marriages, so the nuclear home can remain a caste project.

- Ann **Oakley** reminds that the small family still rests on gendered care.

Flow diagram

Marriage trends -> Family form
Marriage trends -> Later choice divorce
Family form -> Nuclear translocal dual earn
Endogamy care -> Family form

Conclusion

Marriage trends toward later, more chosen, and more dissoluble unions reshape the family toward conjugality and smaller households. Indian caste and care keep the change incomplete. Form follows the marriage rule, not the other way around only.

Facts & figures

Goode

World revolution in family patterns toward the conjugal type.

NFHS

Files on age at marriage, household type, and female headship.

Endogamy

Caste-restricted marriage that can survive nuclear residence.

Oakley

The modern household still hides a gendered division of labour.