

Causes Of Conflict In Urban Families: A Sociological Study Of Delhi NCR

Ms. Anshu Kumari¹,
Dr. Anjula Rajvanshi²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Raghunath Girls Post Graduate College, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)

²Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Raghunath Girls Post Graduate College, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)

Abstract

In our society, the family has a very central position. When individuals live in a family, interaction among them is inevitable. That is why conflict is very natural because each individual has their perception and opinions on various points. Therefore, the main goal of this study is to recognize the root causes of family conflict, especially in urban areas of Delhi NCR region, and find ways to resolve it. The study has followed the quantitative research method and used both primary and secondary sources.

Moreover, the questionnaire was filled out and telephonic for collecting primary data. A few personal interviews were done with 50 families (100 respondents of only 20 years to 70 years old individuals) of the region. The study recorded 26 responses for ancestral property conflict and 16 for family business conflict. Moreover, the study received 29 responses agreeing that as women have started going outside for earnings, this causes conflict in their families. Furthermore, the study recorded 12 and 9 responses for household work distribution and ideological differences, respectively, causing family conflict. Besides, intriguingly, the study also found that though most families are involved in one or other form of family conflict, they are always ready to help their family members in case of emergency. Additionally, the study found that avoiding anger, becoming empathetic, cooperating with family members,

initiating positive communication, staying calm, etc., can resolve family conflicts.

Keywords: Conflict, Family, Family Conflict, Family Members.

Introduction

The history of a family is a branch of social history that looks at how kinship groups changed over time, from prehistoric times to modern times. The role of the family is important in all cultures. People from different fields and cultures research the history of the family. They want to learn about the structure and function of the family from various perspectives. Social, ecological, or economic perspectives can be used to look at how people, their families, and history all work together. When the family is thought of, it has to do with living together and being organized by kinship. A group of people who live together and call themselves a household may have common survival goals and a place to live, but they may not meet all the requirements for being a family.

According to **the Census Bureau of United States Website (2022)**, "A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family." To summarize, all people in a home who are related to the home owner are considered members of his or her family.

When family members stay together, conflict is inevitable. As stated by Newman, "Life is not a grand harmony, Conflict exists" (Iyer 2018). It is an inescapable feature of a family life. It has been the subject of extensive research organizations, such as families, where family members work together and communicate with one another as family units formed to seek specific goals both individual and mutual. It involves different age groups, sex, educational background, attitude, work culture as a family together in different capacities as husband, wife, parents, grandparents, children etc. depending on each other for resources, work or information. Conflict is likely to occur between different family members irrespective of the age group and gender.

Usually, conflicts occur in families because of so many reasons. For instance, according to research conducted by Ishwara & Dhananjaya (2008), the majority of family members experiences conflict, which consequently affects the overall wellbeing of their family members. They further claimed that families where married women perform household works and go out for their jobs face more conflicts than others. Similarly, Rao & Ramasundaram (2008) found in their learning that women who are employed face family conflict more predominantly than the single ones. Furthermore, in her finding, Srivastava (2007) claimed that working married women find it so difficult to balance their full obligation to home, mate, kids, guardians, and companions. They progressively perceive that work is encroaching on their own lives, and they are troubled about it. Thus, consequently, most of them have to face work-family conflict.

There is another reason causing increasing family conflicts; gender inequality in domestic chores, like child-rearing, cleaning, cooking, ironing, shopping, and many more considered traditionally feminine works. Whereas, going outside and earn belongs to men's job. This kind of practice produces a discrepancy regarding family works for both the genders (Fernández, et.al 2016). Similarly, Michel & Hargis (2008), noticed that the period expected for family tasks and focusing on the family is one of the main elements in the contention coming from the family circle, particularly in families with youngsters. They guaranteed that the double pay couples with youngsters will often have more prominent arguments between the partners and a more elevated level of pressure than their partners without kids. Likewise, Cerrato & Cifre (2018) found that there is inconsistent inclusion in family tasks by ladies and men as it is higher in ladies than in men.

Also, the next general cause for family conflict is over the ancestral properties and family businesses. We indeed love our family, but history is witness property-related matters often lead to discontent among family members (Mammem 2017). Also, we always heard and read so many news regarding this. It happens because money and wealth always lure people as it can earn anything whatever they want. This greediness creates rift and

ancestral property disputes among siblings (Tanwar 2021).

Then after comes the ideological differences that causes family conflicts. Clarke, et. al (1999), have found in their study that in general, many families experience quarrels and rigidities basically between elders and adults sometimes because of their different habits and lifestyles, sometimes because of the communication and interaction style, a few times because of child-rearing practices and values, concerning household maintenance, and sometimes on politics, religion, and ideology too.

This brief scenario concerning the causes of family conflicts exhibits that different families face different types of family conflicts. Therefore, this study aims to recognize the root causes of family conflict, especially in urban areas of Delhi NCR region and find out ways to cope with and resolve it.

Methodology

In this study, the quantitative method of research has been used which is analytical in nature. The objective of adopting quantitative technique is to collect numerical statistics from the respondents, based on their set of options. This research method helped to find the main causes behind family conflicts in Delhi NCR area. The questionnaire includes both open and closed ended questions, and is used to analyse respondents' understanding of family, their perspective regarding their duties towards their families, their perception on family conflict, etc. The questionnaire has been divided into parts. The first part of the questionnaire consists of respondents' demographic and personal queries (see Table 1 for details). And the second part includes questions to make the respondents to open up about themselves and give more explanations and narratives about their family and the types of conflicts they face in their families. The survey has covered total 50 families and total 100 respondents including adults of age group 20 to 70 years old (see Table 2 for details); children are excluded from the survey. The same process has also been used for a few personal and telephonic interviews, where

questions have been asked as per the questionnaire. After collecting entire data from the questionnaire, and personal and telephonic interviews, it has been analyzed quantitatively.

Table 1: Segment profile of the respondents

Name -
Gender -
Age -
Education -
Occupation -
Family according to you

Table 2: Details of Respondents

Age-Group	Male	Female
20-30	10	10
30-40	10	10
40-50	10	10
50-60	10	10
60-70	10	10

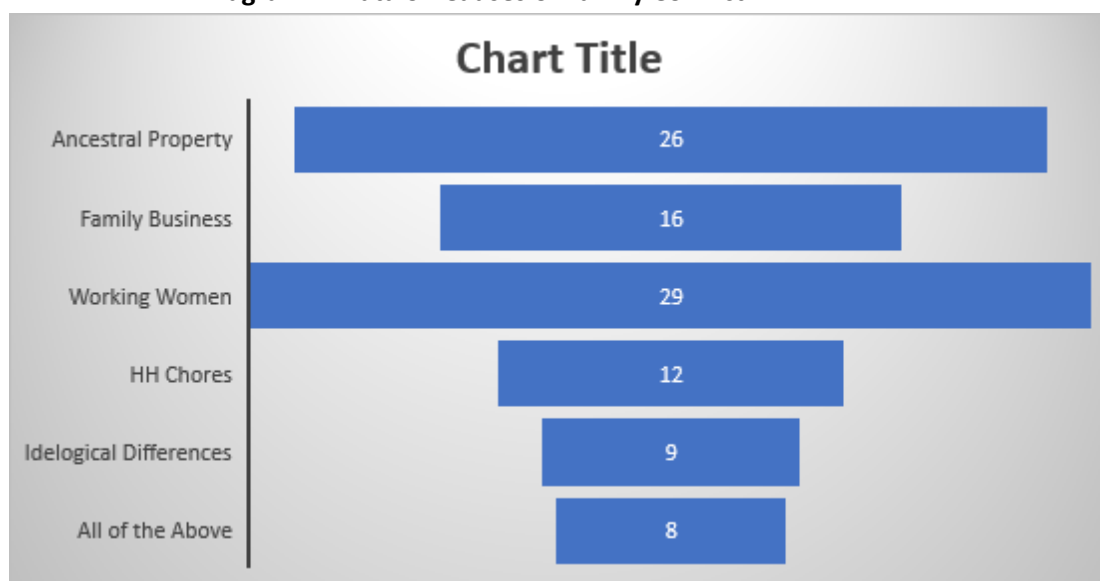
Results and Discussions

When asked about family conflicts, most of the respondent families (95) marked their response is yes, whereas, the survey recorded 5 families, that faced no family conflicts (for details, see Table 3).

Table 3: Data on no. of Families experienced or experiencing family conflicts

Total no. of Families	Yes	No
50	95	5

When respondents were questioned to choose cause of family conflict, intriguingly, the study found 26 responses for ancestral property, 16 for family businesses, 12 for household work distribution based on gender, and 9 responses for ideological differences among family members. The most intriguing point the survey recorded is that 29 (highest response) respondents agreed that as women have started going out for earning, the number of family conflicts is increasing day by day. Additionally, the survey found 8 respondents who agreed that all the mentioned reasons cause family dispute (see Diagram 1).

Diagram 1: Data on Causes of Family Conflict

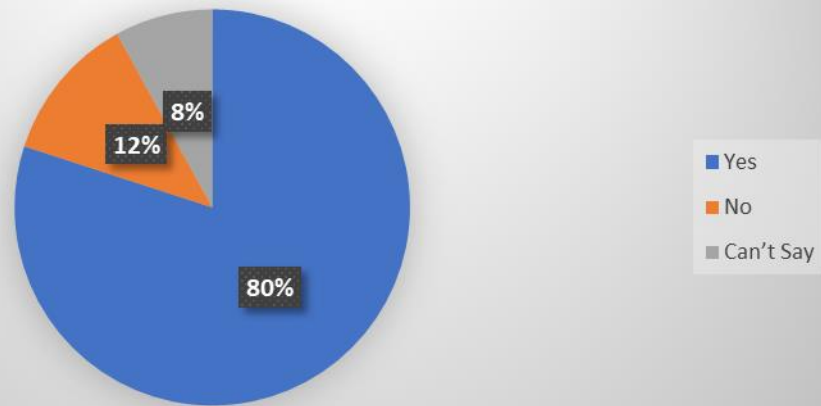
Furthermore, when asked that despite there exists family conflict with their member, whether they will help them in case of emergency or not? The survey found 80 responses for “yes”, 12 responses for “no”, and 8 responses for “can’t say” (see Table 4 & Diagram 2).

Table 4: Responses for offering help in case of emergency

Responses	Yes	No	Can't Say
Question			
Despite all the conflicts will you help your family members in their bad times?	80	12	8

Diagram 2: Propositional Representation of responses for Table 5

Despite all the conflicts will you help your family members in their bad times?



Conclusion

The study demonstrated that family conflict is both inescapable and inevitable part of each and every family interaction. Whenever family members gather or stay together, conflicts do occur. Though the forms of conflict vary from family to family, the study found working women, ancestral property, family business, distribution of household chores on gender basis, and ideological differences among family members as the root causes of family conflicts. But interestingly, the study also found that despite their family disputes, majority of the respondents agreed to help their family members in case of emergency.

Further, this study found that family conflicts doesn't always bring dejection, destructiveness, or stress. If handled properly, it can lead to more effective and appropriate adjustments (Silverstein, Parrott, & Bengston 1995). And only by following a few simple ways, like by avoiding anger, staying calm, initiating positive communication, cooperating, forgiving others, reducing greediness, becoming empathetic, etc., any family can live a much happier and harmonious life.

References

1. Cerrato, J. & Cifre, E. (2018), "Gender Inequality in Household Chores and Work-Family Conflict", *Front Psychology*, 9: 1330.

2. Clarke, E. et. al. (1999), "Types of Conflicts and Tensions Between Older Parents and Adult Children", *The Gerontologist*, 39 (3): 261-270.
3. Fernández, J. et. al. (2016), "The gendered division of housework", *Psicothema*, 28 (2): 130-136.
4. Ishwara, P. & Dhananjaya, K. B. (2008), "University Teacher's Perception of Work-And-Family Conflict", *Experiments in Education*, XXXVI (9): 3-10.
5. Iyer, R. (2018), "How to handle conflicts in the workplace", *tutorialspoint*, [Online: web] Accessed on 23 April 2022, URL: [How to handle conflicts in the workplace? \(tutorialspoint.com\)](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/how-to-handle-conflicts-in-the-workplace/)
6. Mammem, S. S. (2017), *PROPTIGER*, [Online: web] Accessed on 23 April 2022, URL: <https://www.proptiger.com/guide/post/sibling-rivalry-and-property-disputes-steer-clear-of-verbal-agreements>
7. Michel, J. S. & Hargis, M. B. (2008), "Linking mechanisms of work-family conflict and segmentation", *Journal of Vocational Behaviour*, 73 (3): 509-522.
8. Rao, S. S. & Ramasundaram, A. (2008), "Eves in Academia: Conflicting Roles", *SCMS Journal of Indian Management*, 5 (2): 102-107.
9. Silverstein, M., Parrott, T. M., & Bengston, V. L. (1995), "Factors that predispose middle-aged sons and daughters to provide social support to older parents", *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 57: 465- 475.
10. Srivastava, S. (2007), "Women in Workforce: Work and Family Conflict", *Management and Labour Studies*, 32 (4): 411- 421.
11. Tanwar, B. (2021), "What are the main reasons for disputes in a family?", [Online: web] Accessed on 23 April 2022, URL: <https://www.lawtendo.com/blogs/what-are-the-main-reasons-for-disputes-in-a-family>
12. U S Census Bureau (2022), *US Census Bureau*, [Online: web] Accessed on 23 April 2022, URL: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/subject-definitions.html#:~:text=The%20term%20size%20of%20household,birth%20marriage%20or%20adoption.>