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## Challenges to the traditional family system in the modern age.

### 1- Introduction

#### Thesis Statement

### 2- Challenges to traditional family systems in modern age.

- a) Personal choice of children to adapt nuclear family system
- b) Increasing large family size in joint family created unnecessary drama.
- c) Unresolved family/domestic conflicts
- d) Better employment opportunities away from home.
- e) Generation gap between parents and children. Children's will to seek independence.
- f) Modern housing societies and architectural infrastructure providing small family accommodations.
- g) Westernization: Promotion of

nuclear family setups.

h) Propagation of negative image of traditional family systems on media, TV dramas & movies.

i) Social exclusion: Traditional family setups considered stringent, old school.

j) Rise of nursing homes; an alternate lifestyle to traditional family systems.

### 3- Effects of declining traditional family systems.

a) weakens family bonds.

b) vulnerable social evils, lack of emotional support & guidance

c) Inhibits the socialization opportunity for youth.

### 4- Restoring the essence of the institute of family

a) Old generation should adapt with new generation.

b) Communication to resolve conflict

c) Maintain boundaries, sense of

- responsibility
- d) Inclusivity & respect for all family members.
5. Conclusion.

The term traditional family systems must be conceptualized and operationalized in the Pakistani context. The term traditional family system may refer to a couple living in wedlock with a few children, in Europe, but here in Pakistan traditional family systems refer to a large interconnected web of blood relations who combinely form a joint family system and cohabitar together. It also is inclusive of its wide spread network in "Biradri" or clan. The joint or traditional family systems are in rapid decline in Urban areas of Pakistan

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whilst they are intact in rural areas. This essay mainly encompasses the factors that pose a challenge to the traditional system in modern age.

Certain emotional, personal, social, professional, ideological, and social factors pose challenges to the traditional family system in Modern age. However, these challenges should be considered as a roadmap for improved family systems but not dissolve them; Safeguarding the institute of family itself.

Family systems in Pakistan expand with bonds of marriage. New couples of the modern age no longer desire to live in bondage of extended family member. They require space to express, build and progress at their pace in a private

environment.

Large family size living together in cramped spaces also poses an undesirable environment for two new people to enjoy their nuptials. The increased number of family members can prove to be problematic with unnecessary interference.

The generation gap between parents and children is also causing rifts. Gone are days where children were directly obedient. With the advent of technology & modern education children are more of free thinkers, which is necessarily not a bad thing. But the older generation views contradiction as a sign of respect. Such domestic conflicts can boil over & create rifts b/w

families. The difference of opinion can become a point of contention leading families to break into nuclear segments.

Young adults nowadays wish to experience independent and risqué lifestyles. With the globalized and rapidly changing world, to keep up with ~~the~~ it, they desire and aim to follow new ideologies. To follow ~~such~~, adapt, practice such an ideology or lifestyle, nuclear or independent family setups are suitable.

In terms of employment opportunities, young adults are more frequently travelling farther from for better & lucrative opportunities which is also giving a rise to nuclear family systems.

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Apart from personal preferences, employment and lifestyle choices, external institutions also propagate nuclear family systems and challenge the traditional systems in return. A very interesting and almost negligible/obscure way is through architecture. The modern housing societies are designing houses which accommodate smaller families. The infrastructure caters to the idea of an "American family" a husband, wife and two or three children. While the government endorses smaller family sizes in terms of reproducing children, the housing market is appealing us to an "ideal lifestyle" with a nuclear family systems. No infrastructure or limited ever facilitate older family members.

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No old age friendly public places of recreation/leisure, exist.

The rapid modernization is assisted by the technology. This technology delivers 'western ideals' to us in east.

Pakistanis look upto the western culture as an epitome of success, which quickly assimilates into our society.

Such is the case of our family systems as well.

Urban population grows busy with hectic schedules, leaving strings of relationship behind in villages or old neighbourhood.

In the race of propagating a lucrative picture of nuclear family set up from the west, our eastern, per say Pakistani dramas do not fall short. ~~in~~



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They represent an evil, problematic and diabolical picture of traditional family systems. The TV industry paints a cursed, patriarchal, life wrenching image where women are suppressed. The mother in laws are devils in disguise and life is like walking on hot coals. The reality of such conflicts may be contestable but consistent portrayal of distress and agony in "joint family system" tarnishes the beauty it holds.

Socially nuclear family systems are becoming increasingly popular in demand.

In the event of match making it has become a poignant question to ask if the married couple will separate after the wedding.

Social rejection of <sup>traditional</sup> family systems has given rise to establishments like old age homes and nursing homes for the elderly. (A catastrophe to the cultural values in Pakistan). These establishments provide a refuge and adequate care to the elderly allowing the young to lead nuclear lives.

The effects of declining traditional family setups can be measured in a qualitative spectrum. It allows family conflicts to go unresolved. It thus weakens family bond & ties of kinship. Weak and isolated family systems are vulnerable to social evils. This leaves individuals socially & emotionally

~~The~~ ~~loss~~ ~~of~~ ~~interdependence~~.

Isolated. Isolation can cause depression, where individuals of nuclear family systems find themselves short of dependable shoulders. It also effects the socialization of the upcoming generation.

In our society where values, virtue, ethics, morals and religious teachings are passed down from generation to generation; The adults of nuclear family may not have time to do so and are also robbing the new generation to learn from the former.

The challenges faced by traditional family systems can not be fought with mere resistance and slowing down. Rather can

managed by thoughtful consideration by all stakeholders, individual, families, society, government & religious institutes.

It is important to mitigate the negative effects and restore the faith & the institute itself of family.

The older generation must take responsibility of raising well aware, independent & free thinking individuals.

They must accept and adapt and evolve with their offspring. Families must learn

two kabi two sided communication; be open to new ideas & experiences. They

must resolve conflict amicably. Boundaries must be maintained between family members

appropriate to relation and age. There should be a

sense of responsibility and inclusivity from children's end. The government should arrange entertainment, leisure programs for recreation to engage families and people of all ages. The entertainment & mass media should portray the benefits of strong & healthy family bond on individual & collective life. These efforts can mitigate the challenges and ensure beneficial results for society at large.