

Functionalism

Society is made up of different parts that each tend to the maintenance and well being of society as a whole.

Family performs important functions for society.

Nuclear is the best type for society as it is able to 'programme' them into achieving the 4 main functions:

Stable satisfaction of the sex drive
Marriage stabilises the social system and prevents conflict

Reproduction of the next generation
Money is passed through generations

Socialisation of the young
Trains them into future roles

Meeting members economic needs
Family is a unit of consumption

Murdock
Rose tinted view

Parsons
Needs to be geographically and socially mobile

Sociological perspectives of the family

New Right

All about moral values and doing what is 'right'

Disapprove of:

Abortion: should take responsibility of children

Illegitimate births: should be married (stable environment)

Cohabitation: married for stability instead

Divorce: creates welfare dependency

Lone-parents: children need 2 role models

Full-time working mums: give up work to care for children as it is their responsibility.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
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Children as a social construct

Childhood is universal as everyone goes through it but as everyone has different experiences and there is no natural or biological state, it is a social construct.

The future of Childhood

Changes in the position of childhood

March of progress

Protection from harm and exploitation

Higher standards of living

Child-centred society

Childhood is disappearing

* Children use peer power to buy things

* Children have too many rights and too much power

* Media and peer groups influence more than parents do

* Blur between childhood and adulthood

* Paranoid parenting