# Family Dynamics Of Prospective Teachers:  A Familial Analysis

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**Abstract:** The study conducted by the investigator is an attempt to investigate the family dynamics of prospective teachers with regard to type of family. A family dynamic is the scheme of family members' relations and interactions including many prerequisite elements (family arrangements, hierarchies, rules, and patterns of family interactions). Each family is unique in its characteristics; having several helpful and unhelpful dynamics. In this study, the family dynamics consists of cohesion, family communication, family values, family satisfaction and flexibility. Descriptive survey method of research and simple random sampling technique has been employed. Mean, Standard Deviation, and t-test have been used for analyzing the data. The null hypothesis was tested at 5% level of significance. The investigator prepared the questionnaire entitled "Family Dynamics Assessment Scale" and elicited responses from the subjects. Pearson Product Moment (PPM) Correlation Coefficient of 0.87 ascertained the reliability. Based on the percentage analysis result, it is revealed that the level of family dynamics and its dimensions of prospective teachers with regard to type of family was found average and also the 't' test reveals that  the joint and nuclear families have no effect on the family dynamics of prospective teachers

**Keywords:** Family Dynamics, Cohesion, Communication, Flexibility

## 1. Introduction

*Family Dynamics:* Dynamics refers to motion. Dynamics represent the forces that can shape interactions within a family. In social contexts such as family systems, the word dynamics is used to denote those aspects that change or progress, those places where movement and growth occur. In this study, family dynamics includes the dimensions, namely cohesion, family communication, family values, family satisfaction and flexibility (Gerhardt, Clara. 2020). The family is the most fundamental unit of social organization and has long been a subject of study by social scientists. The term family in this study refers to a group of co-residential persons who are related through marriage, blood, or adoption. The concept of the family includes both the nuclear family and the extended family. The events that are important in the study of family demography are education, marriage, childbearing, job, celebrations, divorce, remarriage, children leaving parental home, death, and so on.  The above said family demography affects the socioeconomic status of the family.

Demographic variables such as nuptiality, fertility, and mortality are the direct determinants of family dynamics and family characteristics. Socioeconomic factors such as income, education, and occupation do not directly affect the size and composition of the family. Instead, they must operate through demographic determinants (Yi, Zeng, 1991). Family structure has been shown to have a considerable impact on parent – child contact and on the emotional quality of intergenerationalities (Zartler, Ulrike. et., al., 2015). Societies are always on the move, never attaining long term equilibrium. Even though many people find peace and calmness in their families, others see their families change at a pace they would not have thought possible. The same impressions arise when family scientists look at changes in families.

## 2. Significance of the Study

Families hold up the mirror of the society and in turn they are the reflections of that society's hopes and aspirations. The children of a society may seem voiceless, but their fate typically speaks loudest. Families reflect the values, strengths, and shortcomings of that society. The study of family dynamics is rewarded by gaining better insight into the mechanics of a particular family system or of many family systems in general. This perception in turn allows for information about typical family life and family efficacy. For prospective teachers and teacher educators, an understanding of family dynamics holds a key towards explaining and understanding certain behaviours, which in turn can be important in guiding families towards optimal outcomes (Gerhardt, Clara. 2020).  The result of this study would be beneficial to students, teachers, parents, Government and members of the public.

The findings of this study would help to call the attention of academicians and researchers to know the importance of understanding the family dynamics of prospective teachers. The study would help the teacher educators to understand and appreciate the influence of family dynamics on the prospective students and provide them with the ideas needed to guide the students to actualize their potentials. Parents would be enlightened in

building self-esteem in their children. The result of the findings would assist parents to understand that prospective teachers necessitate love, affection, care and attention which are obligatory for social, emotional, physical and mental development. These findings would also help to create awareness to the members of the general public on the influence of family dynamics on prospective teachers. Thus, the study would provide the members of the community with enough information on how to support family dynamics of the prospective teachers in the society. Hence in this context this investigation makes an attempt to study the family dynamics of prospective teachers with regard to type of family.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the study is to investigate the family dynamics and its dimensions namely, cohesion, family communication, family rules, family satisfaction and flexibility of prospective teachers with regard to type of family. The specific objectives are:

➢     To find out the level of family dynamics of prospective teachers with regard to type of family.

➢     To find out whether there is any significant difference between nuclear and joint family of prospective teachers with regard to family dynamics.

**Research Hypothesis**

➢     There is no significant difference between nuclear and joint family prospective teachers with regard to family dynamics.

## 4. Methodology

Descriptive survey method of research and simple random sampling technique has been employed. The survey design permitted for selection of sample that would represent a large population of the study. The prospective teachers of Thoothukudi District constitute the population. The sample for the study consisted of 60 prospective teachers from Colleges of Education in Thoothukudi District. Mean, Standard Deviation, and t-test have been used for analyzing the data. The null hypothesis is tested at 5% level of significance.

**Instrumentation:**

The researcher made questionnaire entitled "Family Dynamics Scale" was used to elicit responses from the subjects. The instrument had a three point rating scale as follows: Always (A), Sometimes (S), and Never (N). The instrument has five dimensions namely, cohesion, family communication, family rules, family satisfaction and flexibility.

Table 1

Descriptive Analysis: Level of family dynamics and its dimensions of prospective teachers

with regard to type of family

| Family Dynamics and its dimensions | Category | Low | | Average | | High | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| Cohesion | Nuclear | 2 | 6.7 | 25 | 83.3 | 3 | 10.0 |
| | Joint | 0 | 0.0 | 24 | 80.0 | 6 | 20.0 |
| Family Communication | Nuclear | 6 | 20.0 | 21 | 70.0 | 3 | 10.0 |
| | Joint | 3 | 10.0 | 21 | 70.0 | 6 | 20.0 |
| Family Values | Nuclear | 2 | 6.7 | 21 | 70.0 | 7 | 23.3 |
| | Joint | 6 | 20.0 | 20 | 66.7 | 4 | 13.3 |
| Family Satisfaction | Nuclear | 6 | 20.0 | 18 | 60.0 | 6 | 20.0 |
| | Joint | 3 | 10.0 | 22 | 73.3 | 5 | 16.7 |
| Flexibility | Nuclear | 5 | 16.7 | 23 | 76.7 | 2 | 6.6 |
| | Joint | 1 | 3.3 | 26 | 86.7 | 3 | 10.0 |

| Total | Nuclear | 6 | 20.0 | 22 | 73.3 | 2 | 6.7 |
|-------|---------|---|------|----|------|---|-----|
|       | Joint   | 2 | 6.7  | 24 | 80.0 | 4 | 13.3 |

It is inferred from the above table that the family dynamics of prospective teachers from nuclear and joint families have average level with regard to the dimensions such as cohesion, Family Communication, Family Values, Family Satisfaction, Flexibility and the dimensions in total.

Table 2

Inferential Analysis: t – test analysis on the scores of family dynamics of prospective teachers with regard to type of family

| *Family Dynamics and its dimensions* | *Type of Family* | *N* | *Mean* | *S D* | *t-Value* | *p-Value* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cohesion | Nuclear | 30 | 10.0000 | 2.25908 | 1.507 | 0.138 NS |
|          | Joint   | 30 | 11.0333 | 2.99981 |       |          |
| Family Communication | Nuclear | 30 | 21.8333 | 4.36351 | 1.100 | 0.276 NS |
|                      | Joint   | 30 | 22.9333 | 3.31073 |       |          |
| Family Values | Nuclear | 30 | 15.6333 | 2.85854 | 1.416 | 0.162 NS |
|               | Joint   | 30 | 14.6333 | 2.60614 |       |          |
| Family Satisfaction | Nuclear | 30 | 18.4667 | 4.30504 | 0.970 | 0.336 NS |
|                     | Joint   | 30 | 19.4000 | 3.03542 |       |          |
| Flexibility | Nuclear | 30 | 74.5000 | 10.75992 | 0.662 | 0.511 NS |
|             | Joint   | 30 | 76.1667 | 8.63866 |       |          |
| Overall (Family Dynamics) | Nuclear | 30 | 1.4043 | 18.99489 | 0.841 | 0.404 NS |
|                           | Joint   | 30 | 1.4417 | 15.16139 |       |          |

*NS – Not Significant at 5% level*

In the above table, p – values are greater at 5% level of significance of family dynamics as a whole and its dimensions namely cohesion, family communication, family rules, family satisfaction and flexibility. It shows that there is no significant difference between joint and nuclear families of prospective teachers with regard to family dynamics and its dimensions.

**5. Findings of the Study**

From descriptive analysis, the investigator found that three fourth of the prospective teachers have average level of family dynamics as a whole and its dimensions such as cohesion, family communication, family values, family satisfaction, flexibility with regard to type of family.

From inferential analysis, the investigator found that there is no significant difference between nuclear and joint family on family dynamics among prospective teachers.

**6. Conclusion**

Exploring family dynamics helps to understand the behavior and difficulties in context of more effective interventions in the family. There are many variables connected to family dynamics such as nature of the parents' relationship, parenting style, number of children in the family, position of children in the family, personalities of family members, single parent, etc. The future investigators can make attempts to investigate whether this variables influence the family dynamics.

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