
Module 2533: Culture and Socialisation
Option B: Family
Unit 2: Diversity in Families and Households

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

1. Identify a range of recent trends in family life
2. Explore the increasing diversity in families and households
3. Investigate sociological explanations for this increasing diversity in families and households

Key Skills

The activities in this study guide will give you the opportunity to develop the following key skills:

1. Communication: oral presentation, report-writing, discussion
2. ILT: using the Internet, CD Roms, word-processing software
3. Working With Others: paired work, group research, small group presentations
4. Improving Own Learning: self-evaluation, target-setting

Use this box for important information - personal targets, deadlines, assessment etc

Planning your work

The activities in this guide will help you to cover all the key ideas in this unit. You may not have to do them all. You will discuss activities with your teacher to determine which can be done as a class, in groups, or individually. You will also discuss how your work is to be presented and assessed.



Resources

The following resources are suggestions only. Your teacher may wish to add to or amend the list. You will find that particularly useful resources are indicated in the margin, e.g. R1 means use resource 1.

Level 1 resources provide an introductory overview of a particular area.
Level 2 resources provide a more in-depth analysis appropriate for top mark-band work
Level 3 resources provide specialist material for interested students

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD AIM TO USE A RANGE OF LEVEL 2 RESOURCES IN EACH ACTIVITY.

Books:

Level 1

- R1 Best et al *Active Sociology*
R2 Jorgeson et al *Sociology: An Interactive Approach*

Level 2

- R3 Taylor et al *Sociology In Focus*
R4 Kirby et al *Sociology in Perspective*
R5 Jorgeson *Investigating Families and Households*
R6 Haralambos and Holborn *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*
R7 O'Donnell *A New Introduction to Sociology*

Level 3

- R8 O'Donnell *A New Introductory Reader in Sociology*

Internet

Level 1

- R9 Hewett School <http://www.hewett.norfolk.sch.uk/curric/soc.htm>
R10 Sociology Site <http://www.hartland64.freemove.co.uk/socindex.htm>

Level 2

- R11 Sociology Central <http://www.freemove.virgin.net/chris.livesey/home.htm>
R12 ATSS <http://www.atss.ac.uk>

Level 3

- R13 Sociosite <http://www.pscw.uva.nl/sociosite/TOPICS/index.html>
R14 UK Statistics <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase>
R15 Office of National Statistics <http://www.ons.gov.uk>
R16 Family Policy Studies Centre <http://fpsc.org.uk>

- R17 Joseph Rowntree <http://www.jrf.org.uk>
Foundation
- R18 Kinship & Social Organisation
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/anthropology/kintitle>
- R19 Feminist Online <http://www.csulb.edu/~persepha/cyberfem.html>
- R20 Feminist.com <http://www.feminist.com>

CD Rom

Level 2

- R21 Social Trends
- R22 The Guardian and Observer

Articles

Level 2

- R23 Same Sex Couples
- R24 Modern Family Diversity

Video

Level 2

- R25 Is the family in decline

ACTIVITY ONE: Recent Trends in Family Life

Margin Notes



RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Level 1: R1

Level 2: R4, R6, R23, R24

Level 3: R8, R15, R16

In this activity you will be investigating a range of recent trends in family life.

Task 1

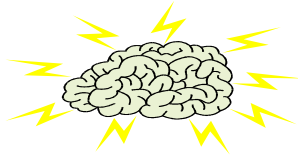
In pairs or small groups, investigate recent trends in the following areas of family life:

- Cohabitation
- Single-parent families
- Reconstituted families
- Dual career families
- Single-person households
- Same sex families

Use this space for planning

ACTIVITY TWO: Single-Parent Families

Margin Notes

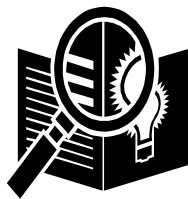


In this activity you will be exploring the increase in single-parent families in the UK.

Task 2

1. Individually, brainstorm as many reasons as you can for the increase in single-parent families
2. In pairs, share your reasons, and agree on the best five
3. In groups of four, share your reasons and agree on the best five.
4. Share your reasons with the rest of the class.

Use this space for ideas:



RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Level 1: R1

Level 2: R4, R6

Level 3: R13, R16

Task 3

In pairs or small groups, research the increase in the numbers of single-parent families and prepare a report entitled:

Single-Parent Families in the UK

Your report should be word-processed and include:

- Sociological explanations for the increase in single-parent families
- Moral panics about single-parent families
- The consequences of single-parenthood and the effect on living standards
- Positive aspects of single-parent families

Use this space for planning

Task 4:

Look at the student answer to the following exam question:

(b) Outline and assess the view that single parent families are not seen as normal or desirable. (40)

The paragraphs have been jumbled up and your task is to cut them up and arrange them in logical order.

ACTIVITY THREE: Dimensions of family diversity



RESOURCE TOOLKIT
Evidence Cards

In this activity you are going to investigate the extent of family diversity in Britain.

Types of family diversity can be divided into the following categories:

- Organisational diversity
- Cultural diversity
- Class diversity
- Regional diversity
- Life-cycle diversity
- Cohort diversity

Task 5

Make a large A3 copy of the table below, and use the evidence cards to complete each column.

Type of diversity	Organisational	Cultural	Class	Regional	Lifecycle	Cohort	Critique by Chester
Example							

ACTIVITY FOUR: Explanations of Family Diversity

THIS IS A HOMEWORK ACTIVITY....

In this activity you are going to explore two main contrasting explanations for the diversity of family types in Britain.

Explanation 1:

There is diversity in family types because the family itself is in decline. This will have dire consequences for society given the family's central role in the socialisation of the young.

Explanation 2:

Family diversity is a result of greater freedom of choice. People today have more freedom to choose the type of family which best suits them. This is a good thing because no one family type is better than another, and no one type suits all people and all circumstances.

Task 6

This is a note-taking task. Take a sheet of A4 paper and give it the title 'Explanations of family Diversity'.

Read pages 112-117 of R4. As you go, note down the following:

Historical comparisons:

What differences are there in the short-term and long-term historical views of

- The so-called 'decline' of the family

Margin Notes

- Single-parent families

Explanation 1:

- What is the New Right's view of the welfare state?
- What effect does the welfare state have on families ?
- What is the role of women in the family, according to the New Right ?
- Outline Abbott and Wallace's criticism of the New Right view of the family.
- What evidence do 'ethical socialists' Dennis and Erdos give for their claim that economic deprivation alone cannot explain social unrest ?
- What factors do Dennis and Erdos identify as being responsible for a decline in moral standards among some social groups ?
- According to Dennis and Erdos, what are the consequences of single-parent families, especially for boys ?
- How do the solutions to social problems offered by the New Right and Dennis and Erdos differ ?

Explanation 2:

- In what ways are post-modern views on family diversity different from widely-held 'commonsense' views ?
- How have male and female domestic roles altered in recent years ?

By the end of this unit you should have notes on:

1. Recent trends in family life

2. Single-parent families

This will take the form of a paired or group research report. Check that yours has got the following sections:

- Explanations for increases in single-parent families
- Moral panics about single-parent families
- Consequences of single-parent families
- Positive aspects of single-parent families

3. Types of family diversity

A3 sheet and evidence cards

4. Explanations of family diversity

Your own notes from pages 112-117 of Kirby.

FINAL ACTIVITY : Evaluation

I feel confident in the following areas of this unit	I need to improve my understanding of the following areas of this unit	I am going to improve my understanding of these areas by doing the following

KEY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Key Skill	Evidence
Communication	
Working with others	
Information Technology	
Improving own learning	