

Image A



(The Starting point centre, 2021)

Image B



(Dreamstime, No date).

Image C



(Adobe Stock, No date).

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Introduction

This portfolio will explore three modern families in society today. Using Gibbs reflective cycle to describe the image and theories from Marxism, the Capitalism and from a functionalism perspective of what represents family. The first image represents Homosexual marriage, while Image 2 represents a lone parent and Image 3 represents Grandparent families.

Image 1.



(Pinterest, No date).

This social media image can be seen to have two males appearing to be smiling and happy, with two little twin boys who are around the age of 15 months old. One man appears to be married as a wedding ring is visible on his ring finger while it is not clear if the other male is married as his wedding finger is not clear to see in this image. However, from the position in which the man standing up over the other gentleman who is sitting, may well suggest that these two men are in a homosexual partnership and are likely married to each other. The two little boys don't appear to be overly happy, can imply that these boys are not excessively familiar with the two men at present, can suggest that these two men have recently fostered or adopted these two little boys and from the image it suggests that they are complete as a family of four.

This image represents, how families within society and on social media today have changed from decades ago. Where a family would be seen years ago as, a male and a

female bringing children into the world together. Families are now built on the love of not just one male and female but the love of same sex partners and their desire to create and grow as a family. Over recent years many countries have come to recognise the importance of one's sexuality and have come to accept same sex relationships and marriages, through the help from activists. It is believed in late 1800s major expressions of a gay rights drive within capitalism took place, a radical "free love" intellectual movement, making use of early feminist and anti-capitalist theories, which challenged the nuclear traditional family and gender norms of the Victorian era (Liberation School, 2015). Many countries over recent years since the fight from the capitalists who struggled for same-sex partner rights, it is believed that legal recognition began in the United States in 1970s, However, after a supreme court victory in 2003 regarding the Lawrence v, Texas case, is where the demand for full marriage rights began (Pavlik, 2006). Many countries have now made it legal for those of the same gender to legally wed. Wales and England now allow same sex marriages. Same Sex couples Act (2013) which brought new laws that allow either both males or both females to enter a marriage together. In the first few years of the creation on same sex marriage Act (2013) it is believed that in over 15,000 same sex couples have become legally married by 2015 (BBC NEWS, 2015). according to Fflag, (No date) the statistics for those in same sex marriages in 2019 raising children together is 212,000, indicating an increase of forty percent since 2015, with an estimation that nine children per week on average are now being adopted by same sex couples. With society accepting LGBTQ and same sex marriages, over recent years same sex couples have begun to feel more comfortable expressing their sexualities to their family, friends and within their communities, however it is believed that when expressing their sexualities and empowering others to express their own depends on the reaction in which they receive from the persons they openly share their identity with, they still fear how society will judge one's sexuality, to which many homosexuals prolong their sexual preferences and identity not just to their family and friends but also find it hard to express their sexuality through the use of social media, with many developing mental health issues (CDC, No date). This image from social media has extremely positive effects on the viewer it shows that no matter what sexuality in which one has, one should feel comfortable in expressing their identity within modern society today. According to mind (No date) mental health problem can be experienced by any individual, however, they believe that LGBTIQ, are more likely to experience mental health problems. This

social media image in modern society today can influence those who share the same identity for those who feel like they are not able to open up or embarrassed about one's identity or scared to be judged to instead reveal their identity openly on social media without the concern of being discriminated against. Although much of society has come to accept same sex couples, however, there is still a divide within society on same sex marriages between equality, diversity and discrimination between homosexual marriages and adopting children into their families, however from a 'micro-level it is believed that that individual acceptance of gay people within society shows that attitudes towards homosexuality's have grown increasing positive over the past decade' (Anderson and Fetner, 2008).

Conclusion

To conclude image one, it is extremely evident how far society has come in accepting what constitutes family in society today. The traditional nuclear family which consisted of one male and one female, this image now portrays how a nuclear family now consist of two parents that no longer needs to be of different agenda raising children as highlighted. This image portrays a positive image for those youths who are under extreme pressure in their identity and the coming out process can importantly help towards their mental health, that one day this could be them in a happy family portrait.

Image 2.



(Pinterest, No date).

This social media image shows to have one parent (Mum) with her two children, they appear to be happy in this image, from this image it represents a single-family portrait in modern society today. Single families have grown over time, where many would have become a lone family due to failed marriages. Over the last decade lone parent families have grown within the United Kingdom, which has been reinforced by an increase of marriage failures also families creating children out of wedlock. However, as society has progressed over recent centuries many lone parent families now are choosing to live alone as a lone parent through the form of adopting children although through recent

years there has been an increase in single women fulfilling their wishes of creating a family on their own through intrauterine insemination or the other option for single women is IVF through a sperm donor. According to Packham (2018) the growing numbers of women wanting to start a family without a partner "grew by a third with 1,272 women registered to receive fertility treatment alone". According to Census (2021) in 2021 there were '3.0 million lone parent families, which accounts for 15.4 percent of families' within the United Kingdom. However, a picture of a lone parent in the 50s 60s and early 70s would look entirely different. Many unmarried women who become pregnant were judged and seen as shameful to themselves and their families. According to the UK Parliament (2022) between the 1950s-1970s an estimate of 185,000 unmarried mothers were forced to move away in order to keep their communities from discovering the truth that would shame one's family, once their babies were born mothers were then forced to give up their baby for adoption. Despite women's rights to work, equal pay Act 1970 and the Equality Act 2010, single parents are still stigmatized by society including social media. According to Single Parents Rights (No date) research from their study found that '80 percent of single parents have experienced some type of discrimination'. Functionalists believe that it is not possible for one parent to provide for their children in the same way that two parents can and share the same political view as capitalist that for society to function the need for nuclear families works best for the economy, However, these claims have been criticized by other theorists that they fail to consider problems that may occur within a nuclear family, feminist's argue that the functionalist ignore challenges that a nuclear family face, including one's happiness within the marriage including those who are in abusive marriages (Best, 2017). In Wales and England each year it is believed that 'two million people suffer from some form of abuse' with seven women killed each month' (SafeLives, No date). Despite these high statistics of abuse women face while staying in the marriage yet those who leave with their children in order to not just protect themselves also free their children from abuse, they are still stigmatized by society and branded by political parties. Marxist ignores family diversity within the capitalist culture and believes that the nuclear family is no longer the core form of family, defends lone parents stating that "family breakdowns maybe better for

capitalism”, with the high expense of divorce costs including the extra cost in supporting new lone families (Thompson, 2014).

Social media images of this single parent have highlighted how far women’s rights and children’s rights have come in modern society; the media plays a vital role in today’s society in family identities. However, the identity of single mums on social media has both positive and negative effects when it comes to representing lone families in modern society. This image represents a regular happy lone parent family. However, over time many factors have contributed to the stereotyping of single parents, one of which according to a study from university of Huddersfield (2019) the Jeremy Kyle show which was named as the prime culprit for revealing that “single mums were deliberately having a baby in order to beg of the state”. Despite these claims that all single parents are dependent on the state, data and analysis from Census (2021) states there were seven out of ten lone parents employed within the UK with over half of those in full-time employment. With high number of lone parents working and supporting their children alone can have huge impact today influencing society. which can provide comfort to other women or men worried about becoming lone parents due to loneliness or lack of support or worried about childcare. This image provides a positive picture of how lone families in the modern society today and how those who are a lone parent can also be seen as successful and not just seen as being alone and lonely. As research suggests according to Family Action (2020) a survey conducted found that 96 percent of lone parents felt isolated when becoming a single parent.

Conclusion

To conclude image 2. This image can be evident to see how far lone parents have come within society. however, there is much evidence to suggest many negatives within society, with much of society and political parties still discriminating lone parent families. Although this image represents a strong woman who is doing her best for her children within modern society today. This image as evident has extreme positives towards influencing others who may experience abuse within the relationship to influence one’s decision to leave knowing that there is much help and support including many other families who have survived same situations.

Image 3.



(Saga, 2015).

This Social media image displays two senior adults, 'grandparents' with two young children 'Grandchildren'. Where they all appear to be happy while reading a book. Grandparents are often seen as interacting with their grandchildren through babysitting, day's out, phone calls and many have weekend stays. However, when life changes occur within families such relationship breakdowns, a death of a parent, also many two parent families find themselves working longer hours also grandparents find themselves protecting their grandchildren who are seen as in immediate danger from their parent or parents. According to Age UK, (2017) there are 14 million grandparents in society that are providing a vital role in their grandchildren day-today lives, with 5 million of those grandparents providing childcare responsibilities, there is also an estimate that 200,000 grandparents within the UK have their grandchild/grandchildren living with them due to various reason such as a parents mental health problems, drug and alcohol abuse, disability imprisonment grief and bereavement, (Information UK, No date). With the swift rise in the importance of family values and relationships between family members, the role of a grandparent in the lives of their grandchildren have become much greater to how it used to be (Cohen, 2018, p.41). However, grandparent have no legal rights over their grandchildren, although in certain circumstances where a court order is issued.

With social media today there are many forms of groups fighting for fight on mostly anything one can imagine within social media in today's society. Social media has influenced how society views a family within society today through many groups from homosexuals' groups, single parent groups including grandparents support groups in which grandparents who are bringing up their grandchild, many in which may find it hard to adjust to permanently caring for their grandchild to share their own experiences in order to support one another (Facebook, No date). However, a survey from Gautier, Agnes; Wellhard, Sarah (2014) 43 percent have experienced stigma and treated rudely for caring for a relative's child. The most popular stereotype associated with the way in which social media representation of those in their senior years involves seeing the elderly as a 'burden' on the young cohort, although many social media ads portray seniors as living healthy active lifestyles (Wayne, Henderson, Murray & Petley, (2008).

Social media over time has increased societies connections and created environments in which individuals share their identity through the uploading of family photos, also social media has created much awareness in society by sharing new ideas and sharing one's opinions. However, in many ways effected culture in both positive and negative ways. According to Kerem (2016) social media has become more 'conservative towards each other's perspectives related to political view, religion, social rights and culture'. This understanding of social the use of social media. This understanding falls in line with the social theory of Emile Durkheim is social facts that exercise 'an outer constraint' where every expression is seen as social for the reason that it can be seen as entering one's beliefs and behaviours (Fuchs, 2018). However, with majority of grandparents at retirement age, with an unexpected situation that grandparents in society face in modern time, money would need to be provided by the state, where this goes against the perspectives from functionalism and capitalist view on family where they believe that all members of a family play vital roles within the running of society.

Conclusion

To conclude image 3, This image represents much evidence to suggest that there is still a fast majority of stigma and discrimination against new families in society today where,

many theorists are still in favour of the traditional nuclear family. However, the beliefs and values in which a person in society believes can be influenced by social media in influencing other parents in considering the best interest of their grandchildren.

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Appendix

Image, A

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