

As countries develop, their populations tend to live individually or in small family units. What are the causes of this trend and what are the effects on society ?

Essay:

In this increasingly globalised world, there is a noticeable shift towards individual or nuclear family living arrangements in many developing nations. This essay will examine the reasons behind this cultural shift and its societal implications.

The transformation from extended family systems to smaller living arrangements is primarily a result of urbanisation and modernisation. With a drastic increase in job opportunities in cities, a significant proportion of the population migrates from rural areas, where extended families traditionally reside, to urban cities. These burgeoning urban areas are characterised by smaller, more expensive living spaces, thus compelling smaller household units. Furthermore, the pervasiveness of modern values such as independence and personal space also contribute to this trend.

This transition has both positive and negative repercussions on society. On the positive side, smaller family units can promote individual autonomy, decision-making power, and privacy. This minimises conflicts that may arise in extended families due to differing opinions or lifestyle preferences. Additionally, both the government and businesses can benefit from this trend contributing to increased demands for housing, appliances and more.

However, as every coin has two sides, there are also hardships inherent to this shift. One main issue is the weakening of traditional family bonds and the resulting social isolation, leading to increased mental health issues. Elders, left behind in rural areas or inhabiting homes independently, may suffer from loneliness as well. This, in turn, might increase the demand for public health and social care facilities, revealing a significant societal cost.

To conclude, while there are certain advantages to the tendency towards smaller family units, it is essential to find balanced solutions to mitigate its negative repercussions. Societies should adapt to this change while ensuring the maintenance of traditional family ties and support systems.

Word count: 264

Essay translated in Korean:

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Good expressions:

1. 'transition has both positive and negative repercussions on society':

2. 'every coin has two sides':

3. 'differing opinions or lifestyle preferences':

4. 'Elders, left behind in rural areas':

5. 'maintenance of traditional family ties': 가