

## Book Review

# A THOUGHT PROVOKING ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM AND PROSPECT OF FAMILY

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Family is the primary unit of the corporate life of human being. In the primitive stage of the evolution of human society man abhorred loneliness and wanted to live in union with other men. In addition to that, for procreation and satisfaction of sexual urge men desired the mates of opposite sex. Moreover men could not live without mutual help and devoid of interdependence. So nature impels and necessity compels men to form family and lead a family life. From groups of families emerged human society. That society also required further defense and protection. So, through a social contract (as expounded by Rousseau), men formed state, which is the highest powerful organization endowed with the supreme commanding power, termed Sovereignty. So family is the natural foundation of human society. This proposition is supported by the Functionalist school of Anthropology and Sociology.

After a long historical journey this long standing institution of human relationship (i.e. the Family) is now facing ordeals and questions as regards its necessity, validity and imperativeness. Family which helps to add melody in life and human relationship is now alleged to have been burdened and polluted by malady which poses the question as to its necessity, validity, and utility of its existence.

This problem and controversy as to the validity and necessity of family is recorded in a book under the title: FAMILY: MALADIES AND MELODIES, by a young professor of Philosophy of Barasat State University, Mrs. Aditi Dasgupta by name. by this research work the author concerned is awarded Ph.D. by Jadavpur University.

The book under review is arranged in six chapters under the titles mentioned below:

(I) Family: Essence and Imagination, (II) Search for a Non-Essential General Account of Family, (III) Is Fragmentation the Last Word? (IV) Family: The Two opposite

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view-points, (V) Family: a Feminist Critique and Critique from the Perspective of a Theory of Justice, (VI) Concluding Remarks: Towards just Families,

The titles of all the chapters are indicative of the core and contents and contention of the author on the subject matter.

The author is clearly of the opinion that since our life within family is very familiar, so the necessity of any kind of fresh deliberation about it may be questioned. But fresh deliberation, as admitted by the author herself, arises because of the fact that family stability is now facing hazards like maladjustment, crime, juvenile delinquency, alienation, and various other complexities. It becomes evident in every day media reports.

Some critiques are inclined to opine that family is now near the point of complete extinction. But there are opposite opinions also in support of Family system, who hold that present crisis and turmoil in family life will deepen human ties within family. The author of the book under review is of the opinion that sociologists and anthropologists discuss particular aspects of family, but they failed to present any universally accepted definition of Family. Here, as a professor of Philosophy, the author asserts emphatically that a philosopher views a problem from all angles and tries to give a complete account of the origin, nature and solution of that problem.

In Chapter I, the author tries to find out a general definition of Family. If we go to evaluate the chapter wise analysis of the book under review then we find that the author tries to find out a general definition of Family. In Chapter II, the author tries to find out the general accounts of Family. In Chapter III, the author seeks to discuss in the extreme pluralistic perspective in the context of family. In Chapter IV and V, the author discussed and analyzed various moral issues raised by profound Anti-family camp. In Chapter V, the author discusses anti-family trends from individualistic perspective of several Feminist writers. In Chapter VI, the author focused again on the concept of Family.

The author here opined emphatically that, demerits of any particular family or the maladies of the impersonal relationships of the members of family, can not justify the demand for abolition of Family altogether. The author also reminds the reader of the fact that, so called alternatives to family are nothing but broader familial arrangements. At the same time, the author is of the opinion that, there is no justification in confining an individual within a family when one wants to live in

one's own way. The author agrees that, if one demands that non-family life-style is a better alternative to a family, then, it may not be treated as a topic or matter to be debated. Author is of opinion that the movement for women's emancipation can not justify the demand for abolition of Family. The author, finally, is of opinion that, despite maladies in family, the age-old institution need not be abolished. It can be reconstructed instead.