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SOC 470W

Prof. Averett

Mid-Term Research Project

Annotated bibliography:

Multigenerational Households and Success of child development

Society generally places a great solicitude on the development and childhood successes of children. In doing so, many new parents and guardians as well as those planning on beginning a family / childbearing years are easily socialized in becoming apprehensive and cautious on making decisions relating to household and family choices. Matters like marriage considerations, educational attainment, income, living arrangements, time, etc. all come into play when considering child rearing. Previous studies over the half century have indicated that household arrangements are the most quintessential aspect of child rearing. But in particular, these studies suggest that children raised in multigenerational households within a typical Eastern and ethnic society had far more favorable upbrings than that of children raised in a typical American nuclear family. Families and their structures are as complex as we are human. With that in mind, this study sets out to investigate how multigenerational households and its relationships impact the overall development of a child/children as compared to the development of children within a nuclear family structure.

Boakye-Boaten, Agya. 2010. "Changes in the concept of Childhood: Implications on Children in Ghana." Retrieved Oct. 9th, 2022. (<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu>).

Boakye-Boaten investigates concepts of childhood and the factors that influence childhood years of children and families in Ghana. In this research article published by Journal of International Social Research, differentiating the practices of matriarchal and matrilineal in postcolonial Ghana as opposed to practice of patrilineal and the outcome for children and their childhood. Boakye-Boaten cites the significance of the two (matrilineal and patrilineal raising of a child). "The lineage in which a child is born has two important significances. First, it determines which household the child will spend the greater part of his childhood in, in matrilineal societies, childhood training, and apprenticeship exists mainly in a matrilocal context. The lineage in which a child is born has two important significances. First, it determines which household the child will spend the greater part of his childhood in, in matrilineal societies, childhood training, and apprenticeship exists mainly in a matrilocal context..." And secondly, ... "how inheritance is arranged. In a matrilineal culture, one can only inherit from the maternal side of the family. For example a son in a matrilineal society cannot directly inherit the father, but can contest for an inheritance from the brothers of the mother." The author goes on to conceptualize what childhood means in African philosophy, Boakye-Boaten identifies that childhood years are years of fragility where children must be cared for as to not have their future and sense of self destroyed at premature stages. This idea is backed up through analysis of political and social spaces given to children to "develop and perpetuate the cultural legacies of their ancestors." This idea of matrilineal or patrilineal proves relevant in the childhood success of African- particularly Ghanaian children. Agya Boakye-Boaten concludes that only

with maternal and matrilineal can we as society ensure the social space for children to develop past their childhood successfully into becoming active members of their society.

Cohn, D'Vera. Horowitz, Juliana, et al. "Financial Issues Top the List of Reasons U.S. Adults Live in Multigenerational Homes." Retrieved Oct. 9th, 2022.

(<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/financial-issues-top-the-list-of-reasons-u-s-adults-live-in-multigenerational-homes>)

Cohn, Horowitz et al. research focused greatly on the emotional aspects of multigenerational living outside the set factors of finance or family caregiving reasons. This fresh take on factors and implications of multi generational living scopes from census data from 1971- 2021. The findings indicate that those individuals who chose to practice multigenerational living for beneficial reasons (financial issues, caregiving, preexisting) the emotional utilities included feeling of convenience(58%), rewarding(54%) and at times stressful. One evidence states that "living in a multigenerational household appears to confer a financial benefit by buffering residents against poverty, according to census data. [And that] Americans living in multigenerational households are less likely to be poor than those living in other types of households. " Of these consensus, the findings showed that adults practicing multigenerational living stated their experience being positive (30%) compared to that of negative (14%) and very negative (3% ). This census study also informs readers that a big part of decisions to live in multigenerational households was the need of alleviating or escaping poverty and for young adults to have better chances at attaining education, jobs, and later children. Ultimately that financial, needs, and demographic shifts have changed living situations and attitudes in the U.S.

Hong, Savet. 2013. "Family Structure and Child Health in Cambodia, 2000-2010." Retrieved Sept. 20th, 2022. (<https://paa2013.princeton.edu/papers/130385/https://escholarship.org/content/qt30b3k0bg/qt30b3k0bg.pdf>).

Savet Hong set out to examine how within developing countries like Cambodia- family structures impact the outcome of children's wellbeing. With the understanding of finite resources and social support in Eastern civilizations, many children's prime source of stability, security, and satisfaction derive from their family. To further reach this point, Hong defined and analyzed main aspects of a child's well being. First being "the amount of time invested" to children within households, the nutritional standing, and lastly "risk of infant mortality" of the Cambodian population from 2000 to 2010. When it came down to the factor of time devoted to children, Hong's study found that within multigenerational households, children in Cambodia had more caregiving needs met and received more childcare time than that of their nuclear family counterparts. The level of care children in these households received were primarily due to factors of having grandparents and other relatives present in their homes. Each additional family member present within households were able to adequately extend or supplement material care. In utilizing the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey in the second finding, Hong demonstrated that children in multigenerational households fared better when it came to nutritional and overall health outcomes than their nuclear counterparts. This was a result of multigenerational households having more pooled income to address needs. In analyzing the health and nutritional outcomes of children, Hong also found that the mere presence of grandparents (additional family members in households) in the early stage of babyhood/ childhood years increased infant life chances significantly than the sole presence of a father. This study concludes that having additional family members in households particularly grandparents,

gives children greater development advantages than that of nuclear households- despite the diversity of existing unique family structures in Cambodia (p. 136).

Pilkauskas, Natasha V; Cross, Christina. 2018. "Beyond the Nuclear Family: Trends in Children Living in Shared Households." Retrieved Spet. 20th, 2022.

(<https://read.dukeupress.edu/demography/article/55/6/2283/167943/Beyond-the-Nuclear-Family-Trends-in-Children>).

Pilkauskas and Cross set out to examine demographic trends of multigenerational living in American society. The compiled data from 1996 to 2008 "Survey of income and program Participation" (welfare) and 2009 to 2016 data on "children living in shared households. Shared households being those include kin other than their parents, guardians, partners of their parents and siblings. Not only did Pilkauskas and Cross find that the percentage of children living in multigenerational households (parents, grandparents, self) increased by 4% in 2016 since 1996 but also that these forms of households were far more economically advantaged as a direct result of having older, more educated adults and mothers in households, and married parents/ guardians at home. Which indicates to readers that education or rather the educational attainments of adults in households shaped the structure and well being of family members. Obversely the data presented also showed that the increase of single parenthood and non-material households greatly contributed to the rise of multigmerhnareational houlseholds in the U.S around the early 2000. It is concluded that despite the different characteristics that contributed or has contented to contribute to the rise of children being raised in multi general households, the presence of additional family members (grandparenthood) has increased longevity of children alike.

Vasquez, Rachael. 2022. "Multigenerational households on the rise in the US." Retrieved Oct. 6th, 2022. (<https://www.wpr.org/listen/1934771>).

In an NPR podcast hosted by Rachael Vasquez guest starring Ariel Copperberg (associate professor of sociology - Women and gender sexuality studies at the University of North Carolina Greensboro) address factors in the rise of multigenerational households in the United States. Copperberg states that some of these factors include increased healthy ageing (people/ elders living longer), higher divorce rates of boomers (living with family for companionship/ caretaking), high cost living for youth (less likely to move out independently), high childcare costs and job seeking factors. In addition, the factor of COVID exacerbating these socio-economic issues influences families to reunite under the cause of companionship and income saving. All these factors were primarily analyzed and discussed under the scope of young men in their 20's. Rachael and Copperberg conclude that factors pushing young adults to cohabit and children with other kin is increasing resulting in changes in housing and household structures across the United States.

Within these differences are aspects such as family roles, responsibilities, norms, and structuration (age/ gender/ sex/ etc.). I'd like to investigate how multigenerational households and its relationships impact the overall development of a child/ children as compared to the development of children within a nuclear family structure. With these findings and information, individuals and units in America can better make decisions that are most beneficial to them and children.

## Bibliography

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