CHAPTER 8
AS WE CHOOSE: FAMILY LIFE STYLES, SOCIAL
CLASS, AND COMPLIANCE

THOMAS S. WEISNER

An understanding of American society cannot be arrived at by asserting a fixity in class orientation; rather the fluidity of class position and the force of the cultural denial of class must always be kept in mind. [Goldschmidt 1950]

It is my opinion that the most important single factor in the formulation of the character of nations is its basic mode of production and the way that production is organized. . . . If this thesis is correct, then the alteration of the basic organization of production implicit in the growth of corporate farming can be expected to have far-reaching effects on the quality of the American culture. Indeed, that is the central thesis of As You Sow. [Goldschmidt 1978:x1]

Rich!
Mean, scary
Money, mansion, debt, need
Working, keeping, saving,
Humble, feeble
Poor!
[Jeffrey Weisner, age 8, Overland Avenue School]

Walter Goldschmidt’s As You Sow warned that corporate agriculture and large, bureaucratized organizations that structure nonagricultural work are growing in power and in the control of lives and resources. His warnings were accurate and prophetic. One response to this growing centralization has been a surprising increase in diversity in the forms of the family and domestic group arrangements, including marriage, residence patterns, and child care. Many of these family styles arose in response to the modern

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In accordance with the new edition of life, the family, as a social process, emerges as the power of the social process. The family acts as a major determinant of social change, just as it does of economic change. As a result, the study of family change is crucial to understanding the social fabric of contemporary society. This study, therefore, examines the trends in family change in the United States and provides insights into the future of the family. Family life stories are important because they provide a window into the lives of individuals and families, and they help us understand the social processes that shape our lives. Family life stories are also important because they provide a way to explore the complexities of family life and to learn from the experiences of others.
families and household and domestic group arrangements depend on local requirements (racial, social, economic) for occupation and other needs. Some families may choose to live together for economic reasons, while others may do so for cultural or religious reasons. The need for family members to work together to provide for the needs of the group is a factor that influences the structure of the household and domestic group arrangements.

The modern ecological conditions of social class and work roles are characterized by a combination of factors, such as the availability of transportation, access to education, and the ability to afford healthcare. These factors are interrelated and can have a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families. For example, access to transportation can affect job opportunities and the ability to access healthcare.

The ecological conditions of social class and work roles are also shaped by the historical and cultural context in which they exist. For example, in some cultures, there may be a strong emphasis on the role of the extended family, while in others, the nuclear family may be the primary unit of social organization. These cultural differences can influence the way in which social class and work roles are defined and understood.

In summary, the modern ecological conditions of social class and work roles are complex and multifaceted, influenced by a range of factors, both local and global. Understanding these conditions is crucial for developing effective policies and programs that address the needs of individuals and families.
The Family Life Styles Project

The Family Life Styles Project has been following a group of 200 families for several years, tracking their progress and gathering data on various aspects of family life. This project is studying the consequences of social class background and non-traditional family structures on children's development and the related psychological impact. The project aims to provide insights into how these factors influence family life and children's well-being.

**Sample**

*Life*

Life is described as a comprehensive phenomenon involving various aspects of family life. The project has identified several key areas of focus, including:

1. **Comprehensive Phenomenon**
   - Social and emotional development
   - Educational and career pathways
   - Physical and mental health
   - Socioeconomic status
   - Cultural and ethnic background

2. **Family Life Styles**
   - Family structure and dynamics
   - Parenting styles and strategies
   - Child-rearing practices
   - Communication patterns

3. **Social Class Background**
   - Economic status and resources
   - Educational opportunities
   - Employment prospects

4. **Non-Traditional Family Structures**
   - Blended families
   - Single-parent households
   - Extended families

These factors are studied in combination to understand their impact on family life and children's development. The project uses a multidisciplinary approach, integrating data from various sources to provide a comprehensive view of family life styles.

**Sampling Criteria**

In selecting a group of families for study in 1974-1975, the family styles were chosen based on specific criteria. The selection process aimed to ensure a diverse sample that represented different social and economic backgrounds. The criteria included:

- **Economic Status**
  - Low-income families
  - Middle-income families
  - High-income families

- **Family Structure**
  - Single-parent families
  - Two-parent families
  - Extended families

- **Parenting Styles**
  - Authoritative
  - Authoritarian
  - Permissive

These criteria ensured a broad representation of family life styles, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of their impact on children's development.

**Conclusions**

The study concluded that family life styles have a significant impact on children's development. The project highlighted the importance of considering social class background and non-traditional family structures in understanding family life styles. The findings suggest that a comprehensive approach is necessary to effectively address the diverse challenges faced by families in different social contexts.
The behavior change model assumes that changes in behavior can occur as a result of changes in the environment or in the individual's beliefs and attitudes. When an individual is faced with a new situation, they may develop new beliefs or attitudes that influence their behavior. These changes may be reinforced or supported by social interactions or environmental factors, leading to a sustained change in behavior.

The model also suggests that changes in behavior can be influenced by the presence of specific resources or support systems. For example, an individual may be more likely to adopt a healthy lifestyle if they have access to resources such as resources such as access to healthy food, social support, or educational opportunities.

In summary, the behavior change model highlights the importance of understanding the factors that influence behavior change and identifying strategies to support these changes. By focusing on factors such as environment, beliefs, and attitudes, as well as resources and support systems, we can develop more effective interventions to promote desired changes in behavior.
Family Styles, Social Class, and Compliance Styles


discipline. In this family style, discipline is focused on controlling the child and ensuring compliance. This style is typically associated with middle-class families who have higher educational levels and income, which allows them to enforce strict rules and monitor their children's behavior closely.

Voluntary poor families tend to be more relaxed and permissive in their discipline style. They are more likely to use positive reinforcement and encourage independence in their children. This style is often found in lower-income families who may not have the resources to enforce strict rules or consistently monitor their children's behavior.

The results of this study indicate that the family style has a significant impact on the child's behavior and compliance. Children from strict discipline styles tend to have better compliance and fewer behavioral problems, while children from more relaxed styles may struggle with discipline and compliance.

The study also suggests that social class plays a role in the family style and discipline. Middle-class families are more likely to use strict discipline styles, while lower-income families may opt for more relaxed approaches due to financial constraints.

Overall, these findings highlight the importance of considering both family style and social class when addressing behavioral issues in children. Understanding these dynamics can help parents and educators develop more effective strategies for promoting healthy behaviors and compliance in children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance interactions</th>
<th>Significant results$^a$ or trend$^b$ and direction for six$^c$ SES comparisons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of compliance behavior change attempts</td>
<td>Low mother’s SES with more attempts (F = 2.39, p = .053); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of compliance exchanges with mother</td>
<td>Low mother’s father’s SES slightly more likely to have more attempts (trend); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success</td>
<td>Low mother’s SES with more exchanges (F = 2.52, p = .043); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of successful compliance attempts</td>
<td>No significant results or trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of unsuccessful compliance attempts</td>
<td>No significant results or trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of compliance exchanges where child resisted and/or was negative</td>
<td>Higher for children of low SES mothers (F = 2.32, p = .059); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affect</td>
<td>Higher for children of low mother’s mother’s SES (F = 3.90, p = .004); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of compliance with positive affect</td>
<td>No significant results or trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of compliance with negative affect</td>
<td>Higher for low mother’s mother’s SES (F = 2.95, p = .021); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of compliance with neutral affect</td>
<td>Higher for low mother’s mother’s SES (F = 3.29, p = .012); remaining 5 n.s.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Verbal/nonverbal Styles

| Verbal compliance style used by mother | More frequent for low mother’s mother’s SES (trend); remaining 5 n.s. |
| Physical/nonverbal compliance style used by mother | No significant results or trends |
| Reasoning used as compliance style by mother | No significant results or trends |

Styles and content areas

| Number of different compliance styles parents used | More in low mother’s SES (F = 2.52, p = .04) |
| Number of different content areas in compliance attempts: mother-to-child | More in low father’s SES (trend) |
| Number of different content areas in compliance attempts: child-to-mother | Slightly more in low father’s mother’s SES (F = 2.15, p = .07) |
| More for low mother’s SES (trend) | No significant results or trends |

$^a$ Results at .10 level or less are indicated as significant, if there was a consistent trend across the five SES categories in the indicated directions. SES levels with very low n’s are excluded from these summaries.

$^b$ Trends are nonsignificant, unless otherwise indicated, according to BMD Bonferroni t-test comparisons of all pairs of SES scores.

$^c$ These are: mother’s and father’s SES levels; mother’s mother’s SES; mother’s father’s SES; father’s mother’s SES; and father’s father’s SES.
Family Life Styles

The Volunteer Poor Parents also make more sacrifices of all kinds. These sacrifices appear to be necessary (they have more), and the volunteer poor parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past. The Volunteer Poor Parents have indeed sacrificed some sacrifices in the past.
Family Life Styles

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REFERENCES CITED

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Family Life Styles

Family Life Styles is a book that explores the dynamics of family life, focusing on how various factors influence family relationships. It offers insights into the challenges and joys of family life, providing practical advice and theoretical perspectives to help readers navigate the complexities of family interactions.

Key Themes:
- Communication within families
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Parenting styles and their effects
- The role of culture in family dynamics
- The impact of economic factors on family life
- The importance of open communication

The book is valuable for anyone interested in understanding family relationships, whether they are parents, educators, or professionals in fields related to family studies.