



Doha International Conference:

“Empowering Families- A Pathway to Development”

Topic: Family Breakdown- Incubator for social Ills.

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Dates: April 16 & 17, 2014

Venue: Doha, Qatar

The Social Prism

- ❖ The three pillars of social development, culture, religion and democracy- have almost collapsed in many countries, destroying all social safety nets, contributing to increasing poverty, furthering family fragmentation which in turn facilitates intergenerational transmission.
- ❖ Male domination is widely prevalent in many societies but hardly admitted or attended to.
- ❖ The impact of poverty on family, gender and child protection are blunted and /or vaguely understood by policy makers



Poverty- A Family Issue and Roadblock to Human Development

- ➔ Society consists of clusters of families, each family contributing to the foundation.
- ➔ When family breakdown occurs, the foundation is damaged and social structures eventually collapse. In an article titled 'Can or Will the Millennium Development Goals succeed Without a Human Face?' I Identified family breakdown as the womb of social ills, of which poverty is primary and serves as an incubator for all other ills.
- ➔ The corrosive effect of poverty affects the family's entire environment. Its ramifications inhibit social, cognitive, emotional and physical development, especially of children and in adults it hampers adequate parenting.



➤Poverty is neither benign nor neutral :

- Its manifold tentacles affect the health, education, nutrition and social well being, inhibits social, cognitive, emotional and physical development of the individual
- Social deprivation creates systems of dependency and is transmitted from one generation to the next.

➤Poverty compels families to remain embedded in short-term goals because the focus is on mere survival – a condition of dysfunctionality.

➤Society has yet to realize and come to terms with the fact that marriage stability serves as a foundation for poverty eradication and is basic social protection for humankind.



❖ **This led us to question existing systems**

- a) Who controls the destiny of human persons and who controls development?
- b) Where does development start, exist and end?
- c) How do policy makers understand development?
- d) Is structural and economic progress synonymous with human development?
- e) Is economic progress considered superior to human need?

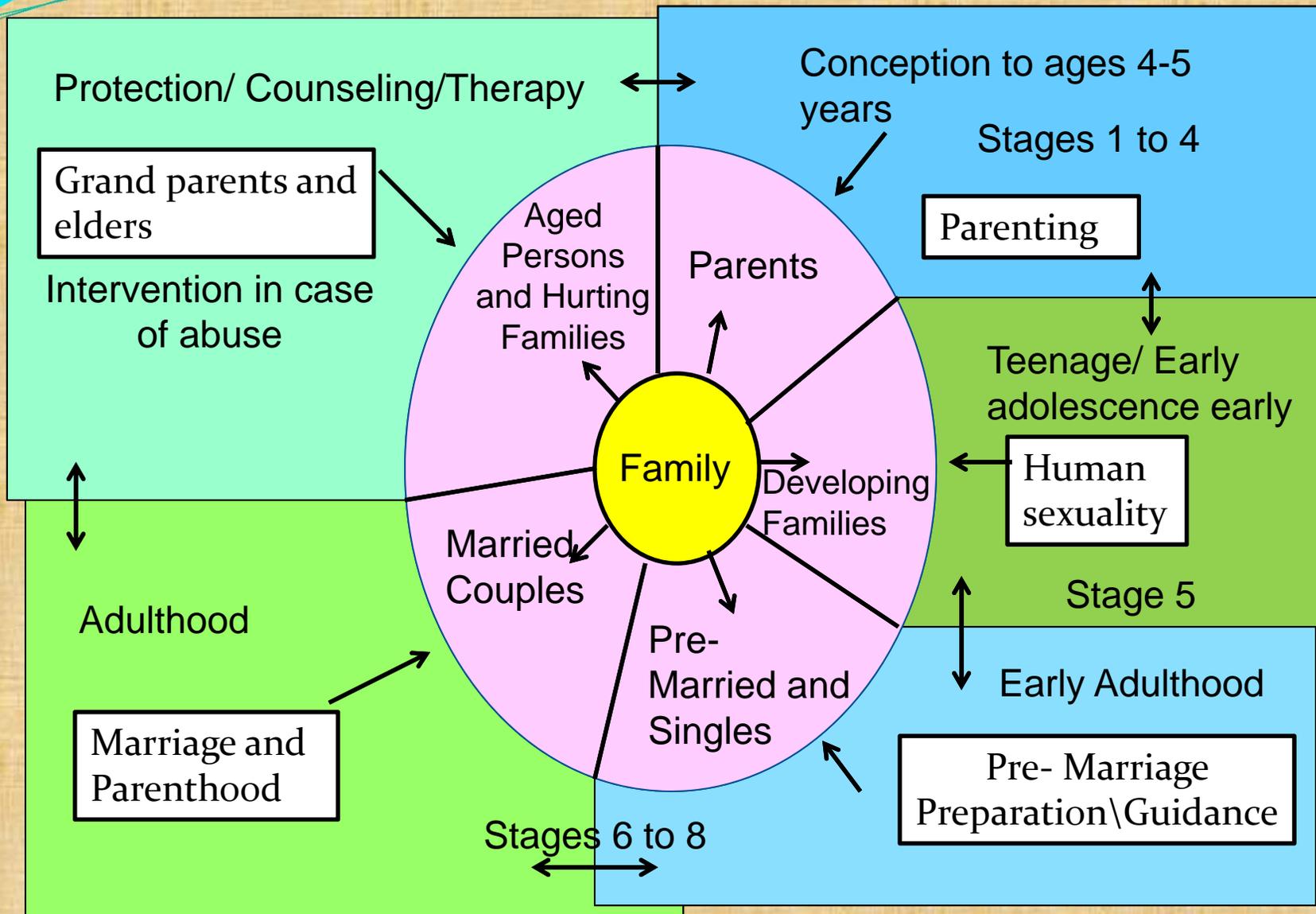
Empowering Families is a Pathway to Development

**A New Paradigm- A Family Centric
model developed by *Service and
Research Institute on Family and
Children (SERFAC)*, Chennai, INDIA**

Several grounds visits in India, Asian and African countries allowed SERFAC to experiment with programs for poverty eradication teaching the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning
Based on Experience SERFAC asserts:

1. Poverty eradication must place persons and their security at the heart of the Development process.
2. Development must focus on family as a social unit
3. A Strategically unified and multidimensional approach covering the whole gamut of relationships within the family is needed.
4. When the poor are given adequate financial and physical support towards the goal of changing their lives, they are capable of doing it.
5. The following diagrams indicate the operationality involved

The Family Life Cycle and Erik Erikson's Epigenetic Model: Stages of Development



Model Developed by Dr. Catherine Bernard

Autonomy



Cognitive and emotional integration
(Identity-youth, adulthood, marriage, family)

Self esteem / emotional
(Stages and tasks of development-Identity)

Belonging / emotional
(Shelter, Personal Name Family Name)

Security / physical / emotional
(Education, Finance, Family bonding)

Biological / emotional
(Food, clothing, shelter, marriage, family, birth regulation)

Awareness and Capacity Building
Facilitating and Capacity building
Enabling and Capacity Building
Empowering and Capacity Building

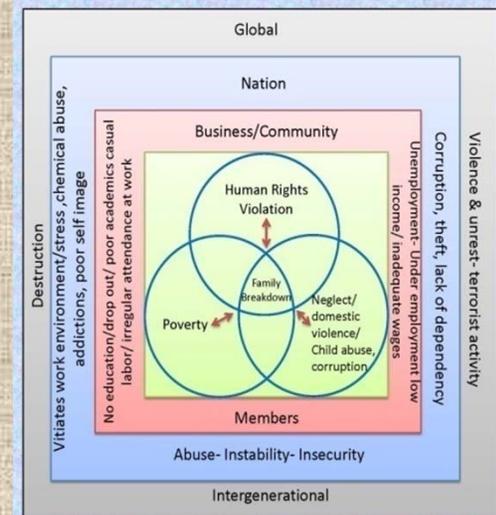
Social Institution

Services & Research

Human Development- Person Based Economy



Linkage Between Family Breakdown, Poverty, and Child Abuse



Family

Community

Institution/NGO

State

National

Global

Evaluating the programme after 5 and 10 years of implementation yielded the following insights:

-Stability of Marriage and family was facilitated which maximized family resources and some of the key factors involved:

1. Financial sustainability began to be experienced.
2. Wellbeing of families showed improvement.
3. Ability to start saving money
4. Education of Children was being valued
5. Health care and nutrition improved.
6. Husband and wife developed a sense of respect and partnership
7. The various strands of socio-economic progress were visible as part of the whole process of development.



Conclusion: Four basic principles are essential for
Development to be ensured

1. Working towards stability of marriage and family must be simultaneously approached for eradicating poverty.
2. Gender equality in family is essential to minimize family breakdown.
3. Protection of children must be ensured for the healthy development
4. Care and protection of the elderly must be ensured and protected.



SERFAC has identified the following:

**“Family- Missing Link in Human
Development”**

**must be addressed for Empowering
Families to Development.**

**SERFAC has in all statements
submitted to The United Nations
has consistently called for The UN
to develop**

‘A Charter of Rights for the Family’.

Thank You