

Abstracts

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Self-Perceived HIV/AIDS Risk and HIV Prevention: A Comparative Analysis of Uganda and South Africa

Millicent Atujuna, Population Studies Programme, School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban – 4041, South Africa (Email: atujunam@ukzn.ac.za), explores the impact of young adults' self-perceived risk of HIV infection in sexual behavioural decisions regarding adoption of safe sex practices (particularly the use of condoms) in Uganda and South Africa. HIV/AIDS prevalence in both countries, AIDS deaths and their implications on individuals have multiplied. The social, cultural, economic and political contexts of Uganda and South Africa are inextricably linked with sexual behaviour, which often determines the choices young adults make in regard to their sexual activity. The study highlights that the self-perceived risk of HIV/AIDS is a factor worth considering which is more prominent in Uganda than in South Africa, when looking at the sexual behaviour of people in these countries. The reported decline in the prevalence of HIV in Uganda offers lessons to learn from.

Beyond Assimilation: The Immigrant Family and Community in a Canadian Metropolis

Dan A Chekki, University of Winnipeg, Department of Sociology, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2E9 Canada (Email: sociology@uwinnipeg.ca), writes on the issue of immigration and adaptations in the context of Canadian families. Family and community networks facilitate immigration as well as the process of adaptation in Canada. This paper draws on empirical research focusing on immigrant families in Winnipeg, Canada, which is based on a sample of 440 South Asian, Filipino, Middle Eastern, and Eastern European respondents. When immigrants are under pressure to assimilate, the immigrant family and community can make a difference if they are able to mobilise resources and provide social capital. The author raises a few pertinent questions: In the process of immigrant adjustment, what roles do the immigrant family and community play in the integration into the Canadian urban milieu? Will immigrant families and ethnic communities persist in affecting the lives of the children of immigrants? What is the role of the policy of multiculturalism in the process of immigrant family adaptation?

Effects of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic on the South African Families

Dorothy Sekokotla and Akim J. Mturi of the School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban 4041, South Africa, (Emails: sekokotlad@ukzn.ac.za and mturia@ukzn.ac.za respectively) discuss the changes that are taking place in South African families as a result of the spreading HIV/AIDS. Looking at the changes in the structure of the families, the study points out that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa has serious negative effects on the well-being of the families in the country and is found to be responsible for the creation of new types of families such as child-headed and skip-generation families. Based on a qualitative study, the paper highlights the need to understand the lifestyles and coping mechanisms in such families. Children are left behind to take care of their siblings and most of them are still too young to handle those responsibilities that would have been taken up by their parents. The standard of care for those in skip-generation families is also compromised because grandparents are often too old to adequately provide for children's well being.

Engendering Social Sciences: A View from Sociology

Manish K. Thakur, Department of Sociology, Goa University, Goa-403 206, India (Email: thakurm Kumar@rediffmail.com), provides a preliminary assessment of the place of gender perspectives in the context of the contemporary social sciences, primarily based on a close reading of the latest University Grants Commission (UGC) Model Curriculum for Sociology. The attempt is mainly to assess the ways in which the gender framework and women's issues are integrated into the postgraduate studies in sociology in India. While focussing on the post-graduate sociology curricula, the author discusses wider developments that have been taking place in the field of women's studies. The author shares the view that the inability of women's studies to move from the level of common sense experience makes it a liability to a discipline. Though the paper is specifically concerned with the historically evolving relationship between women's studies and sociology, some of the arguments offered might be equally valid for other social science disciplines.

Performance of the New Higher Secondary Schools in Kerala , India

V.A. Gangadharan, Department of History, University of Kerala, Kariavttom Campus, Thiruvananthapuram-695581, Kerala, India, (Email: drvagsika@gmail.com), writes that the Higher Secondary Education (HSE) or “Plus Two” system has finally come to stay in Kerala. The first effort to maintain the national parity in school education was unsuccessfully made in the mid-1980s. The actual process began with the introduction of 31 Higher Secondary Schools (HSSs) during 1990-1 and thereafter in another 55 HSSs the next year. The Government re-organised secondary education in accordance with the National Educational Policy (NPE) by renaming the pre-degree course as higher secondary course and pre-degree colleges as higher secondary schools. English is the medium of instruction. The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) syllabus was made compulsory for all the groups. All related aspects were defined (G.O.(Ms) No.138/90/G.Edn.dated 27-6-90). In October 1991 the General Education Department defined the fees, syllabi, working conditions, appointment of teachers etc., in the schools (G.O.(Ms) No.162/91/G.Edn.dated 1 -10 -91). The government later appointed a 14 member committee to prepare the guidelines for conducting a state level eligibility test for appointment of teachers in HSSs to ‘ensure proper standards of teaching’ G.O.(Ms) No.268/99/G.Edn.dated 3-11-99).

Other Papers

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