

**SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF  
POWER IN THE FAMILY WITH THE EFFECT OF WOMEN'S  
SOCIALIZATION (CASE STUDY: MARRIED WOMEN IN DISTRICTS 1  
AND 19 OF TEHRAN)**

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**ABSTRACT**

The present research investigates the distribution pattern of power in the family with the impact of women's socialization. Theoretical framework of the research is a combination of theory of family power explanation, the theory of decision making, the theory of the division of household duties, Randall Collins' gender stratification theory, feminist theory, and the theory of gender socialization. The main hypothesis of the research is that What is the pattern of power distribution in the contemporary family? (Democratic or non-democratic?) The research method is survey and the collection tool is a researcher- made questionnaire. The statistical population consists of all married women in districts 1 and 19 of Tehran. The research data was collected from 383 persons by using of Cochran formula , as well as available quota sampling method. The Relationship between independent variable and dependent variable was investigated by Chi-square test. The results of the research show that Tehran's district 1 (north) has more democratic families than Tehran's 19th (south) district. There is a Significant relationship between women's socialization and the distribution of power in the family; If women in society are more sociable and have a higher social participation, we will benefit from more democratic families.

**Keywords:** Pattern of power distribution, family, Division of homework, decision making, socialization, gender socialization.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Anthony Giddens about the changes that occur in society and the family in the modern district believes that “if we want to know what is happening in the context of the family and the elements within it, to a large extent we will find out what is happening in wider social life

patterns". (Giddens, 2008: 52). From the point of view of social life, it never reaches a healthy society unless it has healthy families (Sarokhani, 2006: 32). Family as the most important social institution is an intermediary factor that plays an important role in the transmission of the norms of society. One of the most important factors affecting the survival and growth of the family is healthy relationships based on the consistency and understanding between the members, especially the husband and wife. Marital adjustment affects the performance of parents, longevity, health, life satisfaction, loneliness, growth and parenting, social relationships, and tendency to social deviations (Ahmadi, Fathi Ashtiani, Navabinejad, 2005: 28). A healthy family creates healthy people and healthy Society (Safoorai Parizi, 2009: 12).

Everyday life, the background to the formation of social phenomena is power. Although power is one of the inevitable aspects of human relationships, its structure is not fixed due to different social situations and its sources are different for women and men. For this reason, one of the important issues of sociology in the field of family studies and the relationship between men and women is the study of the distribution of power. How divorce power in the family between husband and wife is related to the happiness of couples and the feeling of the justness of power (Mahdavi and Saboori Khosroshahi, 2003: 27).

## **2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In modern societies, many changes have been made in the family and gradually lose their old form and change in a new way (Vosouqhi and Nikkholgh, 1998: 16). Thus, the distribution of power in the family has become a significant and complex subject of importance and complexity (Mohammadi, 2012: 2). Verticalization of the power Structure in the family creates characters who are not self-assured and consistently seek to Conformity; Little people who are looking for supporters even in adulthood .In a family with a vertical structure of power, unbalanced people are born, such humans are not suitable citizens, not sufficient maturity to manage the society (Sarokhani, 2005: 31). Creating a healthy family is conditional on their having mental health and having good relationships with each other, Hence, the well-being of family members and their relationships will undoubtedly have positive effects in society (Bernstein, 2005: 36). Currently, given that Iran is a country in transition from traditional to modern, socialization, family structure and distribution of power in contemporary families has changed from the past; In traditional patterns, there were certain rules about the duties of men and women and activities related to marital life and were in fact predetermined. However, increasing the level of literacy among people, especially women, increasing women's employment and social participation are among the factors that have affected traditional family patterns and have had a major impact on family structure and family distribution (spray, Carlson and Judith, 2009: 45). Therefore, according to what has been mentioned, the present research is seeking "a sociological study of

the distribution of power in the contemporary family, with the impact of women's socialization" as a social issue.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

- i. The Study patterns of power distribution in contemporary families. (The distribution of power in the contemporary families is symmetric and democratic or asymmetric and non-democratic?)
- ii. Study of the relationship between the distribution of power in the family and the general socialization of women.
- iii. Investigating the relationship between the distribution of power in the family and the gender socialization of women.
- iv. Provide solutions for having healthy and democratic families in society.

### **4.0 THEORETICAL REVIEW**

#### **4.1 Decision-making theory**

Olson & Cromwell Believe that decision-making theorists are interested in studying the outcomes and consequences of the decision-making process. The tendency to study in this hypothesis is who gets the final decision, and what's the winner in the discussion and how does the decision-making process take place? (Olson. & Cromwell, 1975: 321).

Dahl (1957) states that person A has power over him to the extent that he is able to force B to do something other than he does (Ibid: 344).

Polard and Michelle put forward another version of the decision-making theory. The central question in their analysis is: "Is it possible for an individual A to influence B's decision-making according to the behavior he desires?" Thus, measuring the power level requires two things to be determined: Both the destination and the intentions of person A, as well as the effects that individual A makes on individual B's decisions (Zolfagharpur,2001: 45).

#### **4.2 Household work division theory**

A Study of the division of homework into issues such as power in the family and gender inequality. In the era of globalization, some cultural concepts, including women's rights, have become universal and global concepts. These discourses are at the micro level in the form of equality between women and men and efforts to eliminate gender inequality (Diffen Bach, 2002: 48).

Gazso-Windle & McMullin, consider the household division of labor within the family as a form of power relations between husband and wife (Gazso-Windle & McMullin, 2003:343). In his gender role view, Szinovacz states that couples' attitude toward gender roles affects the division of their homework. Couples who have traditional gender attitudes are limited to the traditional division of homework. In this situation, women are expected to take more of their homework (Szinovacz, 1978: 414).

### **4.3 Randall Collins Gender Stratification Theory**

The elements of the fundamentals of Collins theory in the field of gender stratification are as follows:

- On average, men are stronger than women.
- Control over tools and resources of domination is more than physical power differences among individuals, and this control can be strengthened through powers beyond individuals.
- Another important factor in gender stratification and the relationship between men and women is the level of control of material resources of society by one gender. One of the determinants of material resource control is the level of economic surplus (Collins,1996: 228-229).

### **4.4 Feminist theory**

The fundamentals of feminist theory in gender inequality are based on the principle that women in society are in the position of inequality towards men. Women have less access to financial resources, social status, power and opportunities than men in society and this inequality is the result of the organization of society, not because of its biological origin or personality differences between men and women (Ritzer,1995: 413). The ideology of gender roles is reinforced by shaping the perceptions of individuals about roles through labor market factors. That is, men make more money than women and have more paid jobs and women have to take care of their children. And this will be a channel for their financial dependence and will make them fit for responsibilities within the family. Feminists, on the other hand, believe that women in the family have no financial independence, and family wages are not paid to the family, but only in the hands of men. The point of departure for this view is that how the distribution of financial resources in the family depends on the power relations between the husband and wife. And the power relations point to who has the right to decide how and where to spend money on the family (Abbott and Wallace, 1997: 157-158).

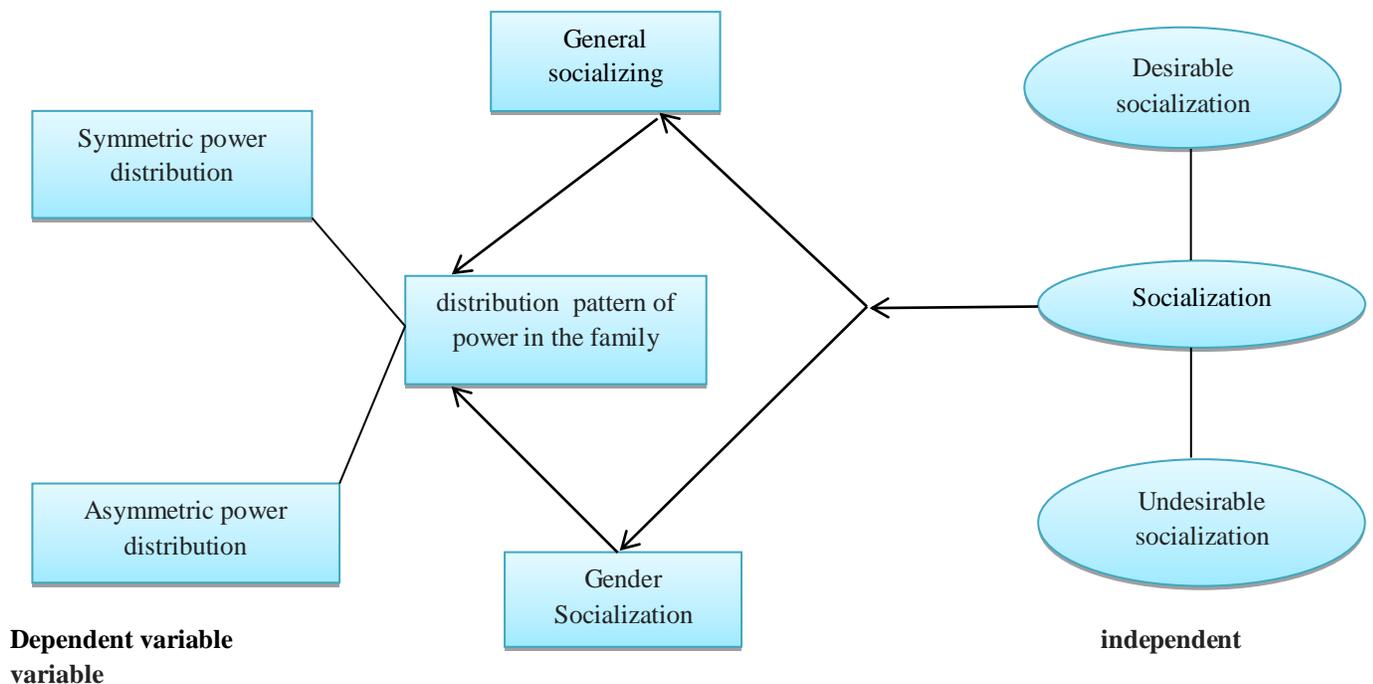
**4.5 Gender Socialization theory**

De Beauvoir (1989) mentions gender socialization as a factor in the continued domination of man over women (Tong, 1997: 206). He believed that the character of girls and women could have been very different from the current unequal pattern, as if the little girl was educated from the very beginning with the same rewards and rigor and freedom that her brothers were trained and shared in the same education and games. (De Beauvoir, 1989: 726).

Schaffer believes that gender socialization leads to the constant domination of the man and the subjugation of the woman, Because it usually depicts the character of women as calm, submissive, emotional and dependent, and men, independent, persevering, determined and violent; In such a situation, women play the role of traditional obedience, and men accept the role of domination (Schaffer, 1992: 322).

Ritzer states that the base of being submissive in most couples is changing, and the equitable idea of marriage is on the rise (Ritzer, 1979: 214).

**5.0 THEORETICAL MODEL OF RESEARCH**



**Figure 5.1: Theoretical Research Model**

## 6.0 HYPOTHEISIS

- What is the distribution pattern of power in the contemporary family? (Democratic or non-democratic)
- There seems to be a significant relationship between the distribution of power in the family and the women's sociability.
- There seems to be a significant relationship between the distribution of power in the family and the general socialization of women.
- There seems to be a significant relationship between the distribution of power in the family and the gender socialization of women.

## 7.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, the method of survey and documentary method has been used to study the effect of socialization on the distribution of power in the family and the evaluation of the independent variable effect on the variable of the effect of women's socialization on the distribution of power in the family. In this study, the unit of analysis, family, and observation level is individual. The statistical population consists of all married women in regions 1 and 19 of Tehran. The population of the statistical population is 179644 people. The sampling method is a quotient cluster available. The sample size according to the Cochran formula is 383 for the whole area of 1 and 19 (244 in area 1 and 139 in area 19). In the present study, the validity of the questionnaire was formal and the Cronbach's alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire, which resulted in 0.83, and as a result, the reliability of the questionnaire was 0.83.

**Table 7.1: Reliability coefficients of research concepts**

The significance level	Cronbach's alpha coefficient	Variable name
significant	0.789	Socialization
significant	0.756	General socialization
significant	0.801	Gender Socialization
significant	0.786	istribution of power in the family

**8.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**8.1 Statistical data of respondents**

In their current research, half of the respondents in the population studied (64%) were from Tehran and the rest (36%) were from Tehran's nineteenth region. Persons aged 30-40 years are the most common (51%) and those who are over the age of 50 are the least frequent (4%). The age range of respondents was between the ages of 27 and 69, which averaged about 45 years.

**8.2 Answer to research hypotheses**

Hypothesisone: What is the distribution pattern of power in the contemporary family?

**Table 8.1: Distribution of respondents' frequency in terms of the distribution of power in the family**

Total		district 19		district 1		Variable
Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	
54,3	208	59,7	83	51,2	125	Asymmetric
45,7	175	40,3	56	48,8	119	symmetric
100	383	100	139	100	244	Total

The results of Table 4.1 show that the distribution of power is asymmetric in 51% of families in District 1 of Tehran, and in 49% of families is symmetric. The distribution of power is asymmetric in 60 percent of families in the 19th district of Tehran and is symmetric in 40 percent of the families of the area. In total, the distribution of power in 54% of families is asymmetrical and symmetric in 46% of contemporary families.

**Hypothesis two:** There is a relationship between women's socialization and the distribution of power in the family

**Table 8.2: The Study of the Relationship between Socialization and the Distribution of Power in the Family**

Total	desirable	Midway	Undesirable	Socialization Power distribution	
208	138	39	31	Frequency	Asymmetric
54,3	51,9	54,9	67,4	Percent	
175	128	32	15	Frequency	symmetric
45,7	48,1	45,1	32,6	Percent	
383	266	71	46	Frequency	Total
100	100	100	100	Percent	

Chi-Square	df	Sig
6/816	2	0/031

According to Table 4.2 :In the study of the relationship between socialization and the distribution of power in the family, the results of the  $\chi^2$  test (6.816) with degree of freedom (df =2), which is at a significant level (Sig= 0.031), shows that there is a Significant relationship between women's socialization and the distribution of power in the family . With the increasing Desirability of socialization, distribution of power in families becomes more symmetrical.

**Hypothesis three:** There is a relationship between the general socialization of women and the distribution of power in the family

**Table 8.3: The Relationship between General Socialization and Distribution of Power in the Family**

Total	desirable	Midway	Undesirable	General socialization Power distribution	
208	144	50	14	Frequency	Asymmetric
54,3	50,2	64,9	73,7	Percent	
175	143	27	5	Frequency	symmetric
45,7	49,8	35,1	26,3	Percent	
383	287	77	19	Frequency	Total
100	100	100	100	Percent	

Chi-Square	df	Sig
8,355	2	0,015

According to Table 4.3, regarding the relationship between the general socialization of women and the distribution of power in the family, the results of the  $\chi^2$  test (8.355) with degree of freedom (df =2), which is at a significant level (Sig = 0.015) Shows that there is a Significant relationship between the general socialization of women and the distribution of power in the family.

**Hypothesis Four:** There is a relationship between women's gender socialization and the distribution of power in the family

**Table 8.4: The Relationship between Gender Socialization and the Distribution of Power in the Family**

Total	high	Average	Low	Gender Socialization Power distribution	
208	53	38	117	Frequency	Asymmetric
54,3	61,6	52,1	52,2	Percent	
175	33	35	107	Frequency	symmetric
45,7	38,4	47,9	47,8	Percent	
383	86	73	224	Frequency	Total
100	100	100	100	Percent	

Chi-Square	df	Sig
2,395	2	0,302

According to Table 4.4 on the relationship between gender socialization and distribution of power in the family, the results of the  $\chi^2$  test (2.395) with a degree of freedom (2df =), which is at a significant level (Sig = 0.302) Suggests that there is no significant relationship between gender socialization and the distribution of power in the family.

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicate that the distribution of power is asymmetric in 56% of families and is symmetric in 46% of families. There is a Significant relationship between women's socialization and the distribution of power in the family, so that with the increasing desirability

of women's socialization, the distribution of power in families becomes more symmetrical. The results of this study suggest that there is a Significant relationship between the general socialization of women and the distribution of power in the family, if the women of society are well acquainted with the values and norms of society and desirable and high social participation , Then the distribution pattern of power in the family will be symmetric. The results of the research show that the distribution of power in the family is more asymmetric with increasing gender beliefs among the women in the population studied. According to the results, The pattern of power distribution in a contemporary family needs more justice and symmetry. In many contemporary families who experience the man-centered asymmetric power distribution pattern, decision-making is done with violence and coercion. The community's value foundations for the distribution of power in the contemporary family need to be reviewed; If the women of society enjoy high levels of socialization and social participation, then we will have more democratic families and a healthier society.

## **10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Creating co-operation and mutual relations based on mutual respect between spouses through formal and informal education for the purpose of holding democratic families .

Cultural leaders of the country adopt policies aimed at ending the social isolation of women, increasing the participation of women in the community, and activating educational institutions and organizations to increase the socialization of women in society.

Emphasizing the importance of consultation and participation of women and men in the family through formal and non-formal education for the purpose of holding democratic and equal families.

Culture-building in order to increase public confidence in the empowerment of women as members of the community.

Strengthening socialization and life skills and promoting women's social participation through formal and informal education of families.

The educational system, in the content of textbooks, especially social science textbooks, socialization and social participation, increases the society's future and reaches the desired level.

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