

### 3.3.3.3. Dysfunctions of the Family

- **Self-alienation-** In joint families, one doesn't behave as per one's own wishes. Rather, the behaviour is decided as per the expected norms of the joint family. As a result, one gets detached from one's own self.
  - **Lack of privacy-** Given the shared nature of living, privacy is usually absent in a family.
  - **Lack of individualism-** In a joint family, collective interest is pursued instead of any individual's interest.
- **Reproduction of social labour-** In a family, one can never question the authority in the family.
- **Disguised unemployment-** All the members of a family enter the same profession and business, even if there is no additional requirement.
- **Low status of women-** Age and sex are the ordering principle in a joint family.
- **High fertility rate-** Given the capacity of care and economy, a greater number of children can be reared in a joint family as compared to nuclear family.

### 3.3.3.4. Structural and functional changes in the Indian family system

With the advent of industrial civilization with modern technology the structure and functions of the family fatedly changed. Today most of the traditional activities of the family were transferred to outside agencies; this further weakening the bonds that in the past kept the family together. There occurred a reduction in the educational, recreational, religious and protective functions of the family which have been more or less taken over by various institutions and agencies created for that purpose.

**Some of the major changes in the Indian family system are discussed below:**

- **Changes in family:** Family which was a principal unit of production has been transformed in the consumption unit. Instead of all members working together in an integrated economic enterprise, a few male members go out of the home to earn the family's living. These affected family relations.
- **Factory employment:** It has freed young adults from direct dependence upon their families. This functional independence of the youngsters has weakened the authority of the head of the household over those earning members. In many cities even women too joined men in working outside the families on salary basis.
- **Influence of urbanization:** Various sociologists have revealed that the city life is more favorable to small nuclear families than to big joint families. Thus, urban living weakens joint family pattern and strengthens nuclear family patterns.
- **Legislative measures:** Prohibition of early marriage and fixing the minimum age of marriage by the child marriage Restraint Act, 1929, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 have lengthened the period of education. Even other legislations such as the Widow Remarriage Act, 1856, Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Hindu succession Act, 1956, all have modified interpersonal relations within the family, the composition of the family and the stability of the joint family.
- **Changes in marriage system:** Changes in the age of marriage, freedom in mate-selection and change in the attitude towards marriage has diminished marriage is not very much considered a religious affair but only a social ceremony. Modern marriage does not symbolize the superior authority of the family head over other members.
- **Influence of western values:** Values relating to modern science, rationalism, individualism, equality, free life, democracy, freedom of women etc. have exerted a tremendous change on the joint family system in India.
- **Changes in the position of women:** Main factor causing changes in the position of women in our society lie in her changing economic role. New economic role provided a new position in society and especially with respect to men.