

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET**

1. CONTROL NUMBER

2. SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION (695)

PN-PAK-721

SE00-0000-0000

3. TITLE AND SUBTITLE (240)

Scouting and family life : family life education

4. PERSONAL AUTHORS (100)

5. CORPORATE AUTHORS (101)

World Scout Bureau; Community Development Service

6. DOCUMENT DATE (110)

1979

7. NUMBER OF PAGES (120)

12p.

8. ARC NUMBER (170)

9. REFERENCE ORGANIZATION (150)

WSB

10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES (500)

11. ABSTRACT (950)

12. DESCRIPTORS (920)

Scouting  
Families  
Family relations  
Communities  
Sociology

Social organization  
Education  
Industrialization  
Urbanization  
Urban Sociology

13. PROJECT NUMBER (150)

unknown

14. CONTRACT NO.(140)

A1D/PHA-G-1150

15. CONTRACT TYPE (140)

16. TYPE OF DOCUMENT (160)

# SCOUTING AND FAMILY LIFE



**FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION**

# UNDERSTANDING FAMILY LIFE

\*\*\*\*\*

## INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been written for Scout leaders to help them, together with the Scouts, to reflect, understand and take action.

It is about understanding family life. Scouts - boys, girls, young adults - are all members of families; they share in family life.

A good family life is important because it is the condition, not only of health and happiness, but also of responsible citizenship and community life; it leads on to an attitude of sharing, it helps to destroy selfishness and greed; it helps the members of the family achieve their own potential.

Understanding family life means understanding the relationships within the family and between the family and society, it means understanding the needs of each person in the family and of the family as a whole. It means understanding oneself. Only with this understanding one can effectively deal with these needs.

In any community there are many factors that make family life more or less difficult :

- the amount of food available,
- the cleanliness of the home,
- how frequently children are born into the family,
- the amount of wealth available,
- how many of the young men in village families have left for the towns,
- whether the mother has a job,
- how often television is watched or the radio is listened to.

Not enough food leads to malnutrition; too many children born too closely together leads to bad health for the mother and children; irresponsible use of wealth leads to selfish attitudes and over-indulgence; too much television-watching means less time for the family to do things together.

Scouts can learn and help others to understand the importance of family life; they can influence other members of their families and communities to respect family life more sincerely, and together they can plan projects and programmes to improve family life in the community.

This booklet does no more than to raise questions. These questions should be a basis of discussions. You should identify other material to help you go further in understanding family life.

## WHAT IS FAMILY LIFE ?

Family life describes the way in which a family lives together. Some cultures emphasize the nuclear family (parents and children); others emphasize the extended family (parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins...).

### RELATIONSHIPS

Therefore, basic to family life are the relationships between members of the family, and the starting point of each relationship is oneself.



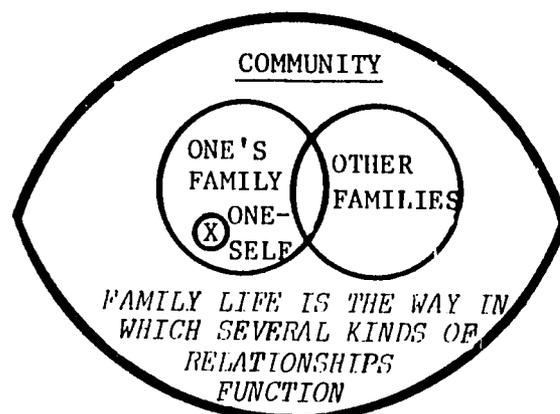
*FAMILY LIFE CONSISTS OF CREATIVE, CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS*

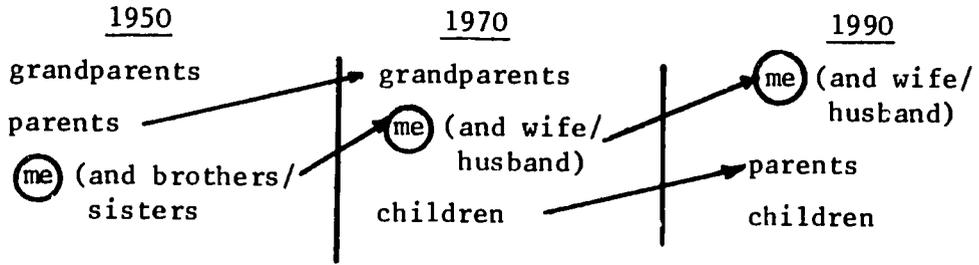
Furthermore, a family does not live in isolation; it has links to other families and together they make up a community.

### CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS

This aspect of relationships is only one dimension of family life. Over time, these relationships change. Children grow up, young adults get married, grandparents die, babies are born....

The way these relationships change is a second dimension of family life.



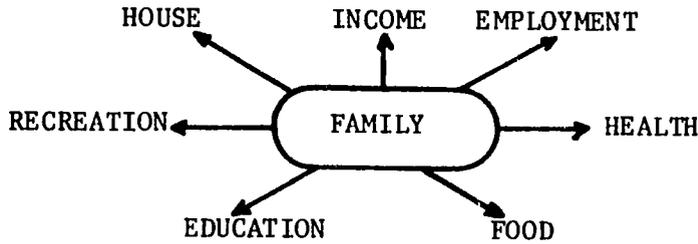


*FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING*

CREATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Also important is the way in which a family acts together to live in the present and to create the future. The education the children receive; the employment for which they are trained; the level of income to support the family; the home ... sometimes these are individual decisions, but very often they result from family decisions according to particular circumstances.

This decision-making process is the third dimension of family life.



*FAMILY DECISIONS AFFECT ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE*

## WHAT IS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION ?

Family life education is not a new concept, although the name may be unfamiliar. It is something in which we are all involved throughout our whole lives, from the time we are born.

It is the learning and understanding we receive from being part of a family and of a community, and which helps us to learn how to live within our family and as part of our community in a way which will be as satisfying as possible, both for ourselves and for all the other people with whom we come into contact.

### FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION MEANS THAT :

1. We gain more information and understanding about :
  - how we relate to others in the family and community,
  - how we prepare for adulthood,
  - how we make decisions about employment, etc.
2. We apply this knowledge in our daily lives.

Family life education helps us, therefore, to answer basic questions about ourselves :

- what is important to us ?
- what are our attitudes and beliefs ?
- what kind of future do we want ?



*FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION -  
LEARNING TO FIND THE  
BALANCE BETWEEN THE  
NEEDS OF ONESELF, ONE'S  
FAMILY, AND THE DEMANDS  
OF SOCIETY.*

### IN GENERAL, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TRIES TO :

- Contribute to the full development of each of us in a way which will help to promote happiness and maturity.
- Assist in preparing young people for the rights and responsibilities of adult life.
- Help us to understand our feelings and beliefs, to recognize what is important to us as individuals and to behave in a way which is responsible and caring.
- Assist us to learn how to communicate effectively with others and to make rational decisions about all things connected with family life, personal relationships and membership of the community.

## WHY IS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT TODAY ?

We acquire most of the information, skills and attitudes which are important for a happy, healthy family life from many sources :

- from observation,
- from our own experience,
- from parents and relations,
- from friends and fellow-Scouts,
- from teachers and others in the community.

However, in most societies rapid changes are taking place. Many traditions are disappearing and people are having to learn to adapt to new knowledge and changing situations.

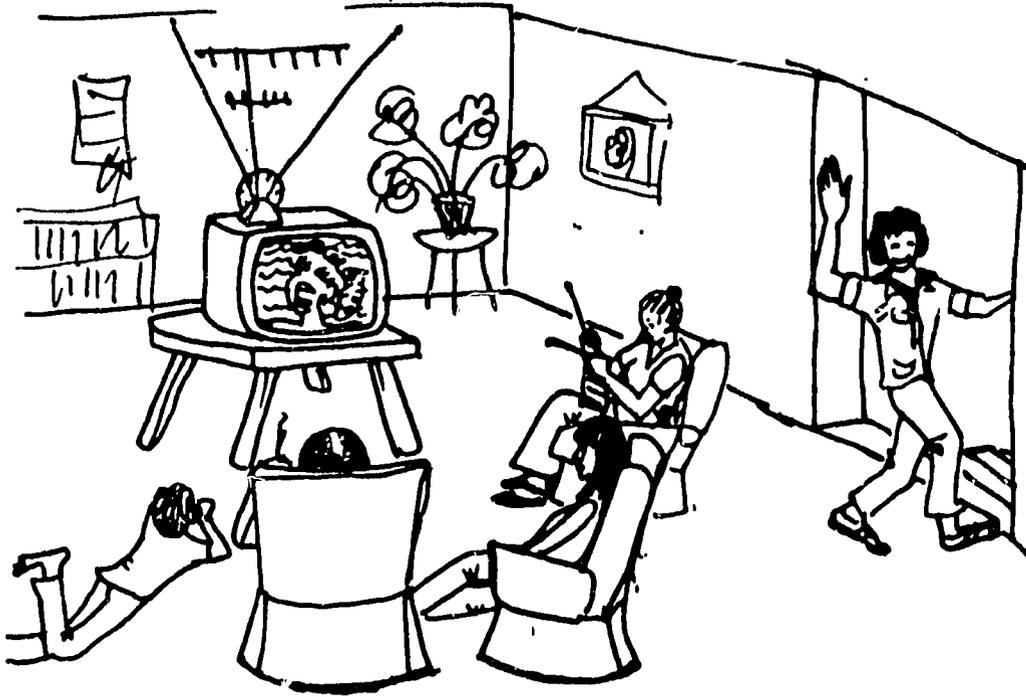


*HOW CAN ONE RECREATE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
LIFE WHERE URBANIZATION IS DESTROYING IT?*

Today, the world in which young people are growing up is very different from when their parents were the same age; their needs may therefore be different in many ways.

For example:

- Many families are moving from villages to towns in order to live and work.
- Television takes up more and more time of the members of the family.
- Urbanization provides decreasing opportunity for young people to share in community life.



*HOW FAR DOES TELEVISION DOMINATE YOUR FAMILY LIFE ?*

Such changes as these have a big effect on the kind of family life which people lead, and on what a family does together.

*Therefore, it is important to add a new dimension to the family life education which young people receive as a normal part of growing up. This dimension should include, for example, an understanding of the process of urbanization, communications and a new meaning of work and responsibility.*

For young people - for Scouts - this education is therefore important for three reasons :

- as members of families and communities they will have to cope with new situations and different problems from those for which they have already been prepared;
- they will probably become husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, in the future and will want to ensure that their own family lives together as happily and healthily as possible;
- they have an important role to play in sharing their knowledge, attitudes and skills with other people around them and so help to create a better future.

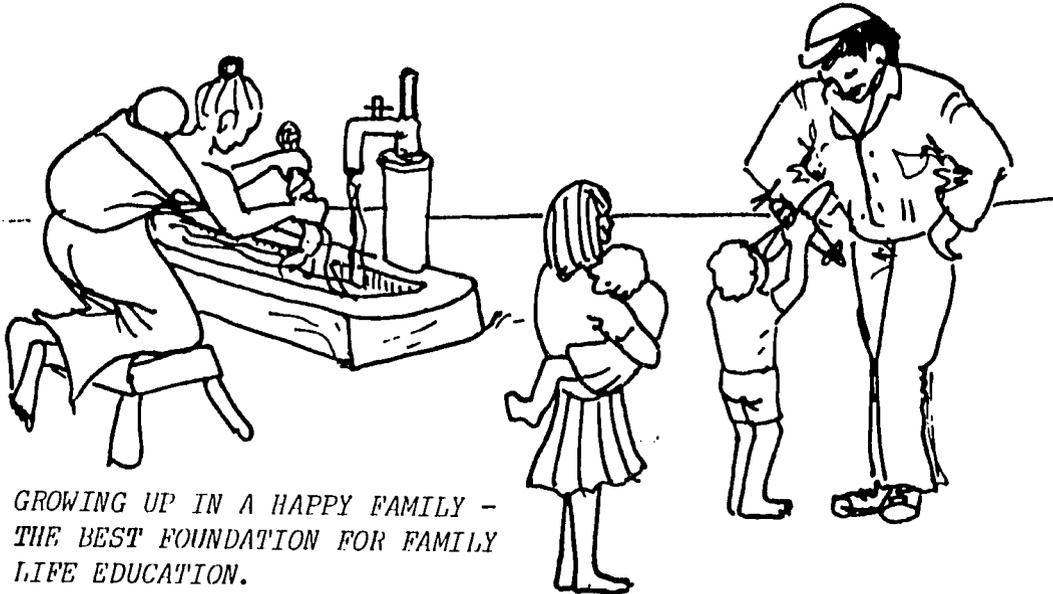
## WHAT DOES FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION INCLUDE ?

Family life education can include many things and people will have different ideas about what is important, according to their own needs. Some of the areas which family life education can include are as follows, although you will probably be able to think of several more.

HEALTH: including nutrition, hygiene and environmental health, the prevention and control of disease, how our bodies develop and grow, the health needs of special groups such as mothers and children, and the importance of child spacing.

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH: including the mental and emotional needs of different members of the family, personal relationships with family, partners, friends and others; the way children grow and develop mentally and emotionally and their needs at different stages of their lives.

MORAL: including the responsibilities of parents towards their children; the rights of family members and their responsibilities to others in the nuclear or extended family and beyond; preparing for a mature and responsible attitude towards marriage and sexual relationships.



SOCIAL: including making decisions such as when to leave school, what work to do, when and whom to marry, when to have children and how many; the functions of the family and how a sound family life can contribute to the well-being of society as a whole; the changing roles of men and women in a changing society.

ECONOMIC AND WELFARE: including the basic needs of the family, home management and budgeting.

CULTURE: including traditional and religious customs and beliefs.

DEVELOPMENT: including how the family can help to prepare its members to play a full part in community and national development.

THE LAW AND CIVICS: including the legal rights and responsibilities of the individual; laws relating to family life such as those on the age of marriage and inheritance.

## WHAT CAN SCOUTS DO ?

### IN THE TROOP - the Scouts can :

1. Organize discussions or debates on family life issues such as what makes a happy family life.
2. Invite people such as social workers and health workers to talk to the troop about their work and how Scouts can help them.
3. Think of a family life situation and act it out (this is often called role playing; e.g. a conversation between a husband and wife: she has worked in the fields all day with her husband and he expects her to do all the housework in the evening while he talks to his friends). Then discuss how you think the husband and wife feel about the situation.

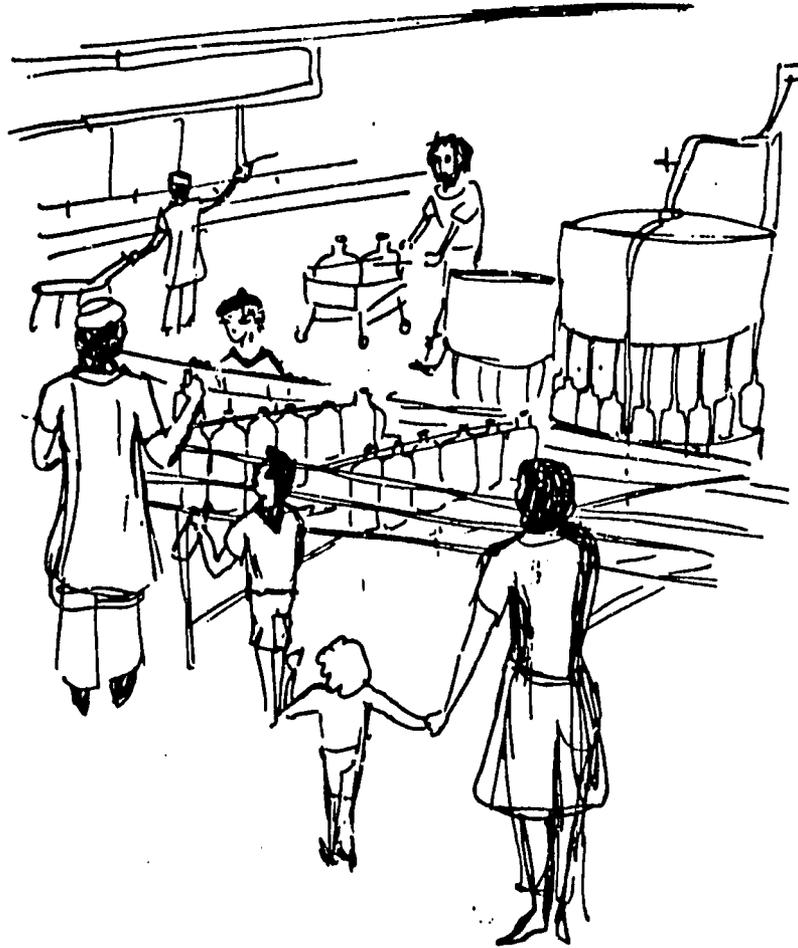


*SCOUTS CAN HELP EACH OTHER EXPLORE THEIR ENVIRONMENT, BECAUSE LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE BEGINS WITH UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT.*

4. Organize a visit to a small industry or workshop to find out about opportunities for doing different kinds of work and training.

### WITH THE COMMUNITY - the Scouts can :

1. Talk to people in the community, including your family, teachers, religious and community leaders and so on about what they think education for family life should include.
2. Find out what organizations and community groups are interested and involved in various aspects of family life education and discuss with them how they and Scouts can work together.
3. Organize classes and demonstrations on aspects of family life education such as health education and nutrition.
4. Encourage members of the community to work together in ways which will be of benefit to all, e.g. building latrines, by explaining simply and clearly why they are important and by setting an example.
5. Write and organize dramas and concerts on a family and community life theme. Invite the audience to stay and discuss the ideas you have raised afterwards.



*INDUSTRIALIZATION AFFECTS FAMILY LIFE; THE  
COMMUNITY SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW.*

AT NATIONAL/STATE/DISTRICT LEVEL - the Scout Association can :

1. Introduce family life education into the programme of activities for all Scouts and Scout leaders. Establish a badge system for it.
2. Find out what other organizations and authorities think about family life education and what they are already doing. Then discuss with them how they and your Scout Association can work together in family life education.  
  
Some of the agencies that may be interested are Government Ministries such as Education, Health, Community Development, Youth and Culture, Agriculture and Information and Broadcasting. There are many others concerned with family welfare such as teachers, girl guides, health and social service agencies, family planning associations, youth organizations, community groups, religious groups, women's organizations, trade unions and adult education groups.
3. Organize meetings with people from some of these organizations to discuss how to expand and co-ordinate family life education activities. One idea is to form a national committee of family life education.
4. Encourage the public to take an interest in family life education and to respond favourably through the newspapers and radio.
5. Find out which organizations have training facilities in family life education and ask them if they will organize some training for Scouts and Scout leaders.

6. Discuss what are the most common social problems in your country, such as drug abuse, alcoholism, abandoned children, loneliness or unwanted pregnancies, and the ways in which family life education might help to prevent them.



*MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE  
ALIENATED IN TODAY'S  
CITIES. CAN SCOUTING  
HELP ?*

7. Find out what books and other materials on family life education are available and use them to produce booklets, games, posters, newsletters etc. on family life education in the local language for Scouts and their families.
8. Share your experience with your National Scout Headquarters and with the World Scout Bureau (address: P.O. Box 78, CH-1211 GENEVA 4, Switzerland). They will tell others what you are doing. Remember to send your name and address and if possible, send photographs.

\*\*\*\*\*

CREDIT

THE WORLD SCOUT BUREAU IS GRATEFUL TO THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION FOR THEIR HELP IN THE PUBLICATION OF THIS BOOKLET.

All inquiries should be sent to : WORLD SCOUT BUREAU,  
Community Development Service  
P.O. Box 78  
CH-1211 GENEVA 4  
Switzerland

THIS MATERIAL MAY BE FREELY ADAPTED, TRANSLATED OR USED IN ANY FORM FOR NON-PROFIT MAKING PURPOSES. APPROPRIATE CREDIT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.