THE ADAPTABILITY OF RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SINGAPORE FAMILY


by

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ABSTRACT

The dissertation is a study into the Singapore familial setting, in particular the Singapore middle-class Chinese family. In the course of the study, a condition is assumed. That is, the Singapore familial setting is made up of a set of components that differs from that of the Western familial setting. The Singapore familial setting is built upon a foundation of kinship network1, more specifically ritualistic and social relationships.

A hypothesis is thus posed: The relationships within a family and between the family unit and the larger society adapt to the changes in the social and cultural environment. The anchor point of the study is Singaporean Woman. The relationships will be explained in relationship to her standing in the society.

How are the social and ritualistic relationships linked to the concept of the 'home'? How do we define a 'family' and how is the 'family' linked to the home?

How is the concept of 'home' changed as the family adapts its social and ritualistic relationships to industrialization and urbanization.

The first aspect to be touched upon is the education and career patterns of the Singapore population.

The second aspect is the cohabitation patterns of Singaporeans.

The third aspect is the relationship between women and technology. The whole spectrum of technological advances will not be taken into study. Of interest are the technological gadgets that have been introduced into the house.

| Increased in Need for Female Workers | RESHUFFLING OF
| Smaller Families                     | HOUSEHOLD
| Rising Material Standards            | RESPONSIBILITY
| Development of Mechanical Household Appliances | AMONG
| Better Health                        | FAMILY MEMBERS

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1 This is based on the writings of Aline K WONG, 'The Contemporary Family in Singapore'.