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Executive Summary:

When we refer to the social justice problems in society, we know that social justice is based entirely on the political agenda and is an important concern of various policy documents which also constitutes of think tanks and research units. In UK, social justice is described as an under-nourished ‘motherhood and apple pie term’. A template of social justice is first developed to reach out to social justice literature and issues and then the important findings are reported from a project fabricated to study in-depth the concept as it is codified in various aspects of the social policy literature (Goodman, Diane 2011).

Introduction:

The main objective of social justice was to give individuals and groups justified treatment and an unprejudiced share of social, environmental and economic benefits. The concept also promotes the unbiased distribution of advantages and disadvantages which are a part of the society and does not consider the background and status.

When we talk about UK’s social and justice policy problems, we refer to them through the phrase “broken society” and is beneficial for taking into consideration a number of social problems. It also asks questions where the problems in the Britain society are really getting worse and if the phrase is directed towards a coherent agenda for government action (Lewis, Judith, et al. 2010).

Some prevailing social justice problems in society includes drug abuse, teenage delinquency, family breakdowns, welfare dependency, poor urban environments, poverty, educational failure,

loss of traditional values, teenage pregnancy, dysfunctional families, binge drinking, children involved in killing have all been cited as proof that the society is a broken one (May, Tim 2011).

In 1995, Tony Blair was questioned to look at the wreckage of the broken society and making use of the known language of rights and responsibilities, it was termed as a new civic society which involved the role of everyone. During the Conservative leadership campaign which took place in 2005, the phrase became popular when Liam Fox and then David Cameron further promoted the term in leadership acceptance speech. There is a strong linkage with Iain Duncan Smith's task for the Centre for Social Justice and the Conservative's Social Justice Policy Group and this serves a promise to repair Britain's broken society which changed into a refined theme of the Conservative general election campaign (Giddens, Anthony 2013).

Statement of the Issue/Problem:

What role does the government of UK play in order to solve the family breakdown problems prevailing in the country and figure out its causes?

Background of the Problem:

To know the heart of strong societies, one should look at the stable and healthy families which contribute to good societies. An individual's physical, emotional and psychological development occurs within the family environment and the family should learn unconditional love and comprehend the difference between right and wrong and also gain empathy, respect and self-regulation. These attributes can help individuals to keep a good disposition at school, at work and in society. According to an estimate in UK, half of the children born presently are going to suffer family breakdowns around the age of sixteen.

Statement of interests in the issue:

The existence of damaged children in society is due to dysfunctional family life and chaotic relationships which ruins the lives of the people involved since their birth years. The outcomes of the children's well-being are impacted by family formations which vividly show that the strongest families belong to the two-parents. The most stable form of relationship is that of a married couple. A research carried around displayed that nearly 97 percent of intact couples bearing 15 year old children are bonded by marriage. Apart from the social damage, the breakdown of families impacts the economy of UK and results in the annual cost of family breakdowns up to 44 billion pounds. The government, in that case, is required to put stable families and initial intervention at the heart of its social and economic forum (Long, Lesley-Anne, Jeremy, and Debbie, 2010)

Pre-existing Policies to control family breakdowns in UK:

In UK, Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has been involved in policy work since the year 2004 when the summer's rioting gained exposure and there was brokenness of families in many parts of the society observed. Upon investigation, it was found out that poverty is the most prominent hallmark but the research showed it was not only related to lack of money. There are other factors affecting the breakdowns which include educational failure, intergenerational joblessness, welfare reliance, drug and alcohol addiction and also severe personal debts.

There is a correlation to the 'pathways to poverty' and the children going through family breakdowns and are the likely ones to flunk in the school exam. The ones failing at school are later seized by joblessness and when they grow up, they are likely to suffer a lot. When the

individual who grew up in a wrecked family realizes his life is devoid of purpose, he will indulge in debts and drug and alcohol abuse. The destruction and demoralizing patterns of life will be preceded from one generation to another. The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has devised a set of policies which have helped people to change their lives by providing them with opportunities for an optimistic and productive future. There has been consistent research which has indicated that by preventing family breakdown, the turbulence can be reduced among children and among adults. A research carried out by speaking to thousands of people and organizations reached to a conclusion that poverty is found to be the root cause of the other pathways. Some grown up individuals also gave their views about the positivity of choices they are able to make as they are coming from supportive families. The polling conducted by CSJ showed that over 80 percent of the people would vouch and realize that family breakdown is a serious problem in UK (Haddon, Catherine, et al. 2012).

CSJ does not believe in finger-wagging and telling people how the lives are to be lead and also helps motivate strong and stable families with the help of initial intervention with the most vulnerable of them and improvising support for relationships after eliminating the important obstacles to formation of couples and marriage which ceases the yearning in the under-privileged areas.

The foundations of stable childhoods and healthy families are the basis of a healthy Britain. With the help of strong families, many other reforms are given to take root. However since the last forty years, the social trends have pushed in the retaliation direction. The rates of divorce around UK have increased and also there is a rise observed in the unmarried parenthood which has been

followed by the family breakdown problem. The research indicates that the poorer the families, the worse they have suffered in this regard.

According to September 2011 polling, 83 percent of people think that family breakdown is a weighty problem and around one third of the people are of the opinion that it is highly consequential. According to the 75 percent, when the Britain's most troubled families are stabilized, the society can wholly be assisted.

Another survey revealed that there should be a policy of introduction of extra tax allowance for married couples and this opinion was voiced by nearly 70 percent of the people. 75 percent of the people indicated that family breakdowns are caused by fatherlessness and

Policy Options:

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) worked on the policy devising strategies in order to stop chaotic family lives and their harmful affect on the minds of the children. Marriage is a social and a justice issue and the aspirations to marry are more across the social classes but when we descend down the ladder, we find out that many economic and cultural reasons are a part of them.

The September 2011 polling stated that around two-thirds support the identification of marriage in the taxation system.

The clear-cut commitment has an affective effect into responsible fatherhood and also gives those who lack purpose in the living and working ways beyond themselves.

Huge instability has been caused when the link between marriage and parenthood had been broken in society generally and specifically into the under-privileged communities as there is an increase in the risk of single parenthood. A report demonstrates that out of ten parents, one has split by the time the child became five years old in comparison to more than three who were single. In cases where parents were not living together of the birth of a child and the couple has been penalized in the benefits system which has discouraged the couple formation and the rate of break up in a period of five years which has reached to a staggering 60 percent.

- Around 97 per cent of all couples still perfect by the time a child reaches the age of 15 are married.
- Half of all children born at present, at current trends, will be witnessing the breakdown of their parents' relationship.
- Family breakdown is a key driver of poor living standards– specifically for women – and consequently the gap between rich and poor has broadened. Upon a split there has been a decline in their income on average, by more than a tenth, and half of all single parents are in poverty.
- There is a lot of risk involved in single parenthood everywhere– Swedish statistics reveal that parental separation is the gigantic driver into child poverty by a large area. The state cannot deliver any help to the people who are victimized by single parenthood and are facing poverty.

Since the past 12 years, the importance of family is sidelined with the government's shift in the focus for children who seem to be isolated from their family environment. There has been a repeated chorus of ministers rejecting the concept that the family form matters and that

two-parent family formation overall and a disadvantaged in marriage. Instead of permitting policy to be led by evidence and acceptance of families, there should be a support of married couple families which can result in excellent outcomes for children as the government will be held to their neutral stance. The ministers of the British society have a responsibility to act in the best regards of the people and when the policies are set-up, the narrative can be conveyed and this will impact the behaviour of the people. The evidence demonstrated that stable families result in strong societies and minister thus they have a responsibility to express that.

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has a believe that all ministers irrespective of their departments need to be working for strengthening families and they should publicly vocalize the significance of family forms and structure for the results of adults and children. The description of the government forms which are important should be placed in the hearts of the family. It is righteously said that the needs of the children are understood by the professionals and those needs are met. However with the entire focus on the child without addressing the requirements of the family, the results obtained are less likely to be anything else rather than improvised marginally. (Hancock, Lynn, and Gerry 2013)

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) also believes that with the help of restructuring at a local level, there would be a reflection of prioritization of family at a national level with the introduction of the post of Director of Family Services or similarly to be above Children's and Adult's Services in areas considering to the Family and might overlook the commissioning of family services which includes New Family Hubs, Parenting support and Early years Programmes. It would also help them become closer with the local Primary Care Trust. There has already been an introduction of some variations of this model by few local

authorities which includes elevating the Director of Adult's Services to Director of Family Services which retains the adult portfolio. There should be three key objectives which should be met with the direct delivery of services by vigilant referral to miscellaneous local services.

- **Strengthen families:**

This can be done by providing families without taking in consideration the structure, help with family relationships and parenting, emphasizing specifically on the social and emotional side of the development of child and the parental relationship.

- **Help prevent family breakdown:**

This can be done with the help of provision of preventive relationship support at key points in a couple's relationship. Also, supporting families in challenge by working where likeable and proper resolutions of conflicts are given and some solutions to problems are presented. There is a support program for families in attaining workable parenting arrangements which are in the interest of the teenagers and children and they would not feel the need to rush back and forth to the courts (Slater, Tom 2011).

Recommendations:

There is a recommendation on the implementation of family fostering. These programs are going to offer residential support to families having children and that too at a prevailing risk of entrance in care for preventable reasons. This will enable them to have an intensive 24/7 support which would help them subscribe in local authorities and thus a large number of children will enter care. The detected local authorities should supervise the programs wherever feasible and

Save the Family. This program is also practiced in Chester and the children and homeless and vulnerable people of families are able to live independently with the support of the program.

Additionally, there should be an establishment of an outreach model in every local authority where the families with children at an important but less immediate risk of getting care will be offered intensive daily support. The families would be expected to engage for at least six months for both residential and day programmes and an allotment of maximum time limit should be there. The family fostering service should provide a mix of practical skills which includes cookery, budgeting, IT and parenting classes as well as social and emotional skill development. The families should be referred to expert services which include family or individual therapists, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and mental health support.

Mr Justice Coleridge beautifully expressed the significance of family to society when he stated:

“For as long as history has recorded these things, stable family life has been co-extensive and co-terminus with a stable and balanced society. Families’ are the cells which make up the body of society. If the cells are reasonably healthy, the body can function reasonably well and properly.”

The rate at which there have been family breakdowns in Britain presently is catastrophically getting higher and the human, societal and financial areas are all under suffering. There has been no coincidence that the highest levels observed about family breakdowns are present in the under-privileged communities and the areas are likely to suffer due to the massive rate of addiction, unemployment, crime rate enhancement and literacy failure. There is a deep impact on our life about the family experiences and in case of a bad family experience; there might be a

social breakdown issue. If deprived children are asked to change their lives, then there will be a gap in the intergenerational cycle of poverty and social exemption which they have been born into and then there will be huge investment in support and strength of the institution of family. The government and communities are requested to act presently in order to benefit and save the future generation from the ills of family breakdown.

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