



Joint Family	Nuclear Family
highly hierarchical structure	less hierarchical structure
multiple adult models	fewer adult models
greater infant indulgence	lesser infant indulgence
authoritarian structure and use of severe child-rearing methods	more permissive and less harsh methods
conformity	greater freedom
from de-emphasis on autonomy or separation	greater emphasis on autonomy and individuation

the norms and practices of the family have undergone changes though traditional values have lingered. As a result, the child often experiences unstable and contradictory patterns of child-rearing.

parental behaviour has become inconsistent, sporadic and unreliable. Such inconsistencies in child-rearing generate anxiety.

a shift from the permissiveness of early childhood to a rigid social code, with a decrease in affection experienced by the adolescent, might lead to insecurity and anxiety in him

Thus the Indian family in this transitional stage is neither presenting stable values to the growing child nor clearcut norms, practices and experiences of the nuclear families of the West. The transition and change have increased the vulnerability to mental health disturbance, and can be considered (Sinha, 1979) to underlie the tensions among contemporary youth in India.