

Chapter 4 Families and households

Topic 7 Families and social policy

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Activity: Discussion

The impact of policy on family life

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of sociological perspectives on families and social policy.
 - Evaluate perspectives, highlighting strengths and limitations of each one.
 - Apply perspectives to the impact of social policy on family life.
- A. Divide into four groups. Each group will adopt one perspective on the family and social policy: functionalist, conflict (Donzelot), New Right or feminist.
- B. Prepare a 10-minute presentation on how your perspective explains the impact of policy on family life.

Here are some points to help you get started. Add as many as you can:

1. Read the sections relating to your perspective and the other perspectives in this topic and also in topic 3.
 2. What policies does your perspective support? Which are they against?
 3. What are the key concepts used by your perspective?
 4. Is your view of the impact of social policy family positive or negative?
 5. Use examples from your knowledge and experience of your own or other people's families/households to illustrate your points.
- C. Use your research to take part in a class discussion: 'The impact of policy on family life'.