THE FAMILY AS AN ASSET

An International Perspective on Marriage, Parenthood and Social Policy

Edited by Stella R. Quah

TIMES ACADEMIC PRESS
Stella R. Quah, ed. (1990)

The Family as an Asset
An International Perspective on Marriage, Parenthood
and Social Policy.
Singapore: Times Academic Press
ISBN 981 00 1706 5
x + 388 pp.

Contents

The Contributors v
Preface ix

Part I
MARRIAGE, PARENTHOOD AND FAMILY POLICY:
SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

1 Family as hindrance or asset? An overview of current
controversies
Stella R. Quah 1

2 The study of family policy: Sociological approaches
and perspectives
Peggy G. Koopman-Boyden 23

3 Marriage, parenthood and family policy: Some
conceptual considerations
Jan Trost 47

4 Sociological research strategies in the study of family
support systems
Helena Znaniecka Lopata 63

5 What do we mean when we say “family crisis”? Rethinking
the theory and its concepts
Lea Shamgar-Handelman

Part II
THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE AND
PARENTHOOD IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

6 The social reconstruction of marriage and parenthood
in Australia
Don Edgar 96
7 Leisure and the crisis of motherhood: A study of leisure and health among mothers of first babies in Sydney, Australia
   Betsy Wearing 122
8 Marriage and parenting in the United States
   Marvin B. Sussman and Kris Jeter 156
9 The social significance of marriage and the family in China
   Dai Kejing 174
10 Cross-cultural perspectives on the Japanese family and policies
   Fumie Kumagai 213
11 The social significance of marriage and parenthood in Singapore: Policy and trends
   Stella R. Quah 247
12 Marriage and divorce in Thailand: Case studies from Bangkok
   Somchintana T. Ratarasarn 290
13 Marriage, parenthood and social policy in Czechoslovakia:
   A look from the West
   Jarmila L.A. Horna 304

Part III
CROSSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

14 Youth, sexuality and public policy in Asia: A research perspective
   Peter Xenos 324
15 The “optimum” family: Policy experiences in Eastern Europe
   Katja Boh 355

Part IV
EPILOGUE

16 Family and social policy: The shared experiences
   Stella R. Quah 378

Index 385