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Nuclear war

The foundations of the American family, past versus present, has had a chilling affect on American education. The one thing that has been lost in society and especially education is how all facets of the community would come together and educate children. In times gone by it was likely to have two parents in the household, one working and one raising the children and a family philosophy of hard work and adoration for community and family. This trend is especially visible in the one room schoolhouse era of 1640 to 1930. As massive consolidations occurred and fieldstone foundations became lost horizons, family, community and parents lost their handle on American society. Television and technology have replaced the loving parent at home or friendly neighbor who would help nurture and educate our children. Here is some my research on how and why the American family model of yesteryear has given way to a new American society without that foundation that was evident so many years ago. (Gaebe

1999) explained that “in a small country school like this it’s so easy to instill good family values”(p.5). When consolidation has occurred in different eras, it wasn’t all that it could have been. What would be wrong with a plan that incorporated a nice mix of the one room schoolhouse philosophy and advanced teaching methods with technology.

I would like to add the point that, Adoption.com (2011) “research on single parent families has changed over the years. The family deficit model dates back to the 1970’s viewing the nuclear or two parent family as the ideal family structure”(pg 7). The way that the family unit looks in 2011 is a far cry to how our ancestors participated in the rearing and education of children.

The 1970’s also began an economic shift with manufacturing heading south. When this occurred, families who had lost their main bread winner either had to follow the jobs south or find other employment. The blue collar jobs that had been ripped from the north due to cheaper labor and better tax initiatives in the south, left a vacuum of pink collar jobs that necessitated both parents needing to work due to low wages. This story spirals to

many other amalgamations that I will speak about in my dissertation at another time. As I talk about the one room school house era and nuclear family values of the past we must remember that today, (Haleman 2004) “the combined costs of housing, food, and childcare leave few remaining financial resources for single-mother-headed families and it is no surprise that many live in poverty”. As the landscape of the American family has evolved into a shell of its former self, the education of our students today has been directly affected.

Gulliford (1984) states that “The story of the one room schoolhouse begins with our ancestors in New England when the government of Massachusetts Bay enacted the first statute (in the year 1674) in America providing for the establishment of a school system” (p.204). Grove (2000) posits that “Ohio was the initial state to enact a land endowment to support public education. This 1825 law gave the districts the power to elect a committee that would oversee the school district. This meant that they could levy taxes on their rural citizens” (pg 87). In and around the state of Ohio during the 1840’s, school districts were

organized within the parameters of four square miles. There was a school located near the districts center and about every two miles in the township. So this meant that students usually had to walk no more than one mile to their school. In the winter, if they were lucky, they may be able to pick up the milk sleigh and hitch a ride to the creamery or the cheese factory which was generally located fairly close to the school at the center of the village. Citizens in the school district would elect three board members in the village. These boards were comprised to preside over school meetings and hire teachers. They would purchase supplies, authorize school repairs and pay bills. They kept track of enrollments and reported on them. They were also the main voice on curriculum and the textbooks that were to be purchased. The board members had a great influence over the students and teachers in pioneer times in rural America.

Discipline in the one room schoolhouse was swift and to the point. Family values took center stage and standards were set in the family unit. Everything from school, church and social events revolved around this educational pillar. This is where your

life started and ended oftentimes. You would go to school, be baptized, meet your wife, get married, go to church and sometimes go before the circuit judge all in this same social center of everyone's life in the community. This educational arena provided a safe and secure place in the village that was only seconded by your own given homestead. The role of educator was played by many in the hamlet and it started at home. More attention was paid to everything, especially children as they played a significant role in the home and community family while having extensive responsibilities at an early age. Everybody had to work. There was no spare money to go to the store every couple of days to buy something. You grew or produced the food you ate. Today parents are divorced, too busy or just clueless what is going on with their kids and this becomes an added pressure to our teachers and administration. Ultimately societal pressures elevate within our society and communities as many dropouts and even graduates are unprepared for what life will have in store for them.

(Dreikurs 1952) noted the fact that “traditional methods of raising children have failed and necessary new methods are not known to most” (pg.17). As I have stated, today educators have assumed the roles of parents unlike being an added asset as they were back in the one room schoolhouse days while parents and communities have lost touch with their children. With educational philosophies slipping, students often times do not have the basic attributes to take care of themselves because their parents have not acquired the skills themselves or don’t have the time to teach their children. Economics within the country has strangled families and the students of today have had to make the ultimate payment.

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