

Living Alone

There is an increasing trend for people to live alone. What is causing this to happen? Will it have a negative or a positive impact on the society?

An increasing number of people are choosing to live by themselves. My belief is that the changing nature of the family is the root cause of this and that it will have a negative effect on society.

There are two main ways in which changing family relationships are responsible for more people living by themselves. Perhaps the most significant of these is that not only has marriage become less popular, but the rate of divorce has risen dramatically in the last 20 years. This naturally leads to fewer people sharing accommodation. Another related factor is that there is a tendency for children to leave home earlier than before. This can have the effect of leaving a single parent living alone in the family home and the child living in a bedsit in another town.

This phenomenon is likely to be harmful to society at two different levels. At the personal level, there is a clear risk that people living by themselves can become isolated and lonely because they live without the daily support that a family can provide. This is particularly the case with elderly people and the divorced who are more at risk of depression, which is becoming an increasingly severe problem in society. Then on the social level, if fewer people are sharing accommodation, the housing shortage is only likely to increase and this is a serious problem in our overcrowded towns and cities.

My conclusion is that people living by themselves is strongly connected to new patterns in family life and will cause harm.

(257 words)