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Theory Introduction

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Theory

INTRODUCTION

As one thinks about the family in the 50's, 60's, 70's, or 80's, thoughts often drift to a favorite episodes of the TV families such as Father Knows Best, Ozzie and Harriet, Leave It To Beaver, or Cosby. These are often very stereotypical images and have nothing to do with the joy and pain that often occur within the family setting. The family has been glamorized and most of the interactions within the family setting has not been completely examined. Most of those old TV episodes show family interactions, especially in some type of leisure lifestyle. When one watches, it raises the question about the role of leisure in the family. Leisure's true role has often been obscured by the life issues and the individual's problems. The approach being taken for these particular issues is one of trying to define the role of recreation and examine the theoretical basis. The first article in this issue is devoted to the role of leisure and the changing nature of the family and how the role of leisure will change. The second manuscript is the development of an example family model based upon life cycles. The third is an examination of leisure education as a necessary element of model development to increase quality transactions. The fourth article raises the question about the nature of leisure education and is it different in families who have handicapped individuals.