


Cultural Festivals and Family Cohesion: Highlighting an Understudied Area

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ABSTRACT

Cultural festivals are a significant aspect of social life, providing communities with opportunities for celebration, identity expression, and social cohesion. While there has been extensive research on the economic and social impacts of festivals, there is a pressing need to delve deeper into how these events influence family cohesion and dynamics. This letter aims to highlight the importance of studying the impact of cultural festivals on family relationships, drawing on existing literature to advocate for more comprehensive research in this area. In conclusion, cultural festivals play a significant role in promoting family cohesion by offering shared experiences that reinforce social bonds and cultural identity. However, there is a need for more focused research on how these events impact family dynamics across different cultural contexts. By addressing this gap, we can better understand the potential of cultural festivals to strengthen family relationships and promote social cohesion. We urge researchers and practitioners in the field of psychosociology to prioritize studies on the impact of cultural festivals on family cohesion. Such research will not only contribute to the academic understanding of family dynamics but also inform the design and implementation of festivals to maximize their positive impacts on families.

Keywords: Cultural Festivals, Family Cohesion, Cultural Studies, Family Studies.

Cultural festivals are a significant aspect of social life, providing communities with opportunities for celebration, identity expression, and social cohesion. While there has been extensive research on the economic and social impacts of festivals, there is a pressing need to delve deeper into how these events influence family cohesion and dynamics (Dewilde et al., 2021; Khuong & Uyen, 2018; Ryan et al., 2021). This letter aims to highlight the

importance of studying the impact of cultural festivals on family relationships, drawing on existing literature to advocate for more comprehensive research in this area.

Cultural festivals serve as vital platforms for the transmission of cultural values and traditions, offering families a shared space to engage in collective experiences that reinforce social bonds. According to Adha et al. (2021), the Lampung Krakatau Festival in Indonesia not only boosts tourism but also fosters active citizen participation,

strengthening community civic virtue. This sense of community involvement is essential for families, as it provides a context in which family members can participate together, enhancing their collective identity and unity (Adha et al., 2021).

Similarly, Banga, Kilic, and Musarapasi (2021) found that residents of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, perceived positive impacts from the Jameson Festival, noting improvements in community attachment and well-being. Festivals can thus act as catalysts for stronger family bonds by encouraging shared experiences and communal engagement (Banga et al., 2021).

One of the critical aspects of festivals is their ability to bring together different generations within a family. As Liu et al. (2023) observed, parents' attendance at art festivals influenced family cohesion and satisfaction. The shared enjoyment and participation in festival activities can create lasting memories and strengthen familial ties (Liu et al., 2023).

Furthermore, Dewilde et al. (2021) highlighted that multicultural festivals in Norway provided young people with meaningful experiences that contributed to their sense of identity and belonging. These experiences are particularly important for families from diverse cultural backgrounds, as they offer a space where cultural heritage can be celebrated and passed down through generations (Dewilde et al., 2021).

Despite the recognized benefits of cultural festivals, there is still a lack of detailed research on how these events specifically impact family cohesion. As noted by Khuong and Uyen (2018), the success of cultural festivals depends on various determinants, including community involvement and cultural relevance. Understanding these factors in the context of family dynamics could provide valuable insights into how festivals can be designed to better support family relationships (Khuong & Uyen, 2018).

Moreover, Brownnett and Evans (2020) emphasized the role of community arts festivals in placemaking, suggesting that these events can foster a sense of belonging and social cohesion. Investigating how such festivals influence family cohesion could reveal strategies to enhance their positive impacts on families (Brownnett & Evans, 2020).

It is crucial to consider the diverse ways in which different cultural contexts and family structures experience festivals. As Maráková et al. (2018) pointed out, visitors' motivations for attending cultural events vary, and understanding these motivations can help tailor festivals to meet the needs of different families. Similarly, Catalani (2013) advocated for integrating Western and non-Western

cultural expressions to enrich cultural tourism, a principle that can also apply to enhancing family engagement in festivals (Maráková et al., 2018).

Wilks (2011) discussed the concept of social capital at music festivals, highlighting the potential for festivals to bridge social gaps and build bonds. Extending this research to explore how festivals contribute to building social capital within families could provide a more comprehensive understanding of their impact (Wilks, 2011).

In conclusion, cultural festivals play a significant role in promoting family cohesion by offering shared experiences that reinforce social bonds and cultural identity. However, there is a need for more focused research on how these events impact family dynamics across different cultural contexts. By addressing this gap, we can better understand the potential of cultural festivals to strengthen family relationships and promote social cohesion.

We urge researchers and practitioners in the field of psychosociology to prioritize studies on the impact of cultural festivals on family cohesion. Such research will not only contribute to the academic understanding of family dynamics but also inform the design and implementation of festivals to maximize their positive impacts on families.

Authors' Contributions

Authors contributed equally to this article.

Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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Declaration of Interest

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Ethics Considerations

None.

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