

Historical comparative analysis of family and parenting:

A feasibility study across sources and
timeframes

*Val Gillies and
Ros Edwards*

London South Bank University



Classic Sociological Collections and Studies Used

Collection:	Study	Key topics and location:
DENNIS MARSDEN	Parents and Education 1961	parental decisions about education, resources and philosophies, United Kingdom
	Salford Slum Re-housing 1962	rehousing of slum population on central redevelopment estate and over-spill area, employment, working class family life, working class community life, Salford
	Mothers Alone 1965-66	divorced, separated, widowed and unmarried mothers and their children, national assistance, living standards, poverty, support networks: fathers, wider family and friends, Colchester, Huddersfield
PETER TOWNSEND	Katharine Buildings 1957-1962	social change, housing, urban communities, urban renewal, working class life, family life, community life, rented accommodation, tenants, tenancy, East London
	Poverty in the UK 1967-68	poverty, deprivation, employment, unemployment, disabled, family, one parent families, children, elderly, housing, household budgets, living standards, nutrition, health, United Kingdom

I caught myself thinking that really her acceptance of this was too easy. She was too cheerful about it, too unprotesting, too grateful....thoroughly expecting at every possible occasion that the family would turn up with some items of clothing. This must be really what National Assistance does for you

My family have never tried to influence me in any way since I got married, my parents' attitude has always been that my life is my affair and I must run it my own way. None of that "come and live near home" attitude.

We used to see one of my brothers fairly often until he got married, but now we never see him either and I don't suppose we will see much of him again.

I help people in little ways and I think it comes back a thousand fold. It's surprising around here how people will help you. They'll come to you and say 'I've got a bit of so and so. I don't know whether you want it'.

I've never neighboured. My mother never did, and I were brought up the same way. Well, up here they don't bother anyway. You could be dead in the house and they wouldn't worry about you. Except the young women next door. She'd would live with you if she could. But I'm not one of those that wants people sitting in their house. I don't mind if there's something wrong, helping people, but I'm frightened to go out and hang up the washing in our back garden in case she collars me.

Oh, to think of children in one of them homes. Although they are very nice, I'm always meeting someone and she said, 'Don't be sorry for them, they've got seven pairs of different sorts of shoes, and they have two holidays a year, and at Christmas-time they are going for this trip, and that trip. They have a lot more than what ours have'.