

An ethnographic study of families with children on visits to the zoo

What family characteristics are elicited on visits
to the zoo and what is the mechanism by which such
characteristics are elicited?

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I adopted an ethnographical approach to a study of families with children during visits to a zoo.

In terms of chronological progression a family raising children is in its most cohesive, when ties among its members are deepened. It is meaningful, therefore, to clarify and examine the actual conditions of such a family. A zoo was chosen for this study based on the theory that a zoo provides families with occasions for reflection provoked through encounters with various animals as an interactive family event. Then and there, members of a family can review their relationships, or highlight family characteristics.

Through examination of the findings by individual trailing method, families with children on visits to the zoo often recreate their relationships and deepen mutual understanding among their members; and, this relationship appears as a reflection of their inner colors and properties. The relationship within a family can often be termed as an agreement to differ, a mutual validation, and a sharing of experiences as one unit at different levels of commitment and distance. Though its cohesive state may fluctuate, it functions as one entity. And this is well represented in "a family raising children".