

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The extended family (grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles) is less important now than it was in the past.

In today's world, with the rise of technology and the need of financial security, people do not dedicate as much time for family as they did a few decades ago. I personally agree with the statement and believe that the role of the extended family in an individual's life is becoming less and less important. I feel like this for ~~to~~two major reasons, which I will discuss in the following paragraphs.

To begin with, nowadays, a lot of people are deeply involved in their jobs and are really busy. To be successful in a full-time office job, or any kind of job for that matter, one must dedicate a considerable amount of effort and time. Especially with the progression of equal rights for women, in today's world, women are as equally active and present in social and corporate situations as are men ~~are~~. For example, in my country in the past, all family members, including grandparents, aunts, uncles ~~and etc.~~ lived in one big house. In that case there was no need for a specific time for visiting, everyone was right there, everyday. Although in recent years, the younger generation has moved to the bigger cities, looking for work and therefore, there is not much time left for them to spend time with the extended family.

Furthermore, the widespread use of technology and internet has led people to prefer virtual communication over visiting each other, like the old days. A lot of people would rather stay at home after a hard day at work, and send a text message or video chat, instead of going a long way to visit a family member. The rise of smart phones and availability of high-speed internet have has caused people to have more secluded and private lives and talk with anyone from their own rooms. My own experience is a good example of this. I personally prefer sending a message to my uncle, rather than spending my time and energy to go visit him.