

### **American Women and Social Change – Women and the Family, 1975**

Narrator: American women, like those in many parts of the world, adjust and revise their lifestyles to keep pace with the impact of the miracles of 20th century scientific and industrial progress. Rapid changes in transportation, communication, urbanization, the electronic media, and medicine influence the physical environment of their lives. Increased education broadens their minds and opens them to the desire for and the reality of new opportunities outside the home.

With more choice about how to spend their lives comes a conflict of both psychological and emotional decisions, how they can best fill their multiple roles of adult female, worker, wife, mother, and citizen. Little wonder that traditional family life is immediately affected.

Here to discuss the implications of these changes and the nature of American family life today are two experts on the changing lifestyles of American women. Jessie Bernard is a family sociologist and is currently a fellow at the National Institute of Education. Long a student in this field, her most recent books are *The Future of Marriage* and *The Future of Motherhood*. Edna Rostow is a psychotherapist and welfare administrator specializing in the study of the older adolescent and young adult, from ages 18 to 28. At present she is a consultant in psychiatry for the Division of Mental Health at Yale University.

Edna Rostow: But I think, uh, that at— at this moment, we certainly are facing a very big change, I think, in the future of the family.

Jessie Bernard: Oh, definitely

Edna Rostow: Partly because...