

FAMILY

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Family:

- ❑ Universal concept.
- ❑ Most important Primary group.
- ❑ Ordinarily consist father, mother & one or more children.
- ❑ Undergone several changes.
- ❑ Despite various changes, continues to serve the community.
- ❑ Derived from Roman word 'famulus' meaning servant.
- ❑ In Roman law, word denoted- group of producers & slaves & other servants as well as members connected by common descent or marriage.



Definitions:

❑ MACIVER:

Family is a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise & enduring to provide for the procreation & upbringing of children

❑ ANDERSON & PARKAR:

Family is a socially recognized unit of people related to each other by kinship, marital & legal ties



Definitions conti...

□BURGESS & LOCKE:

Family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption; consisting of a single household, interacting and inter communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband& wife, mother& father, son & daughter, brother & sister creating a common culture



Definitions conti....

□ NIMKOFF:

Family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without children, or of a man or woman alone with children.

□ ELIOTT & MERRILL:

Family is a system of relationships existing between parents & children.



CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY

- A mating relationship
- A form of marriage
- A system of nomenclature
- An economic provision
- A common habitation



FEATURES OF FAMILY

- ❖ Universality
- ❖ Emotional basis
- ❖ Limited size
- ❖ Formative influence
- ❖ Nuclear position
- ❖ Responsibility of the members
- ❖ Social regulation
- ❖ Permanent & temporary



ORIGIN OF FAMILY

- It is difficult to determine if family originated from marriage or marriage originated from family.
- The family system existed even before Vedic age. E.g. finds of Harappa & Mohenjodaro, references in ancient Tamil literature.
- Family has been found in every human society.
- A Sanskrit myth is similar to Biblical story regarding origin of family as-
“In the beginning, man was created. Then woman was made & she has been given to man. But after one week, man came to the Maker & said- ‘Lord, this creature that you have given to me makes my life miserable & so I have come to give her back, as I can’t live with her’. So the Maker took her back. Then after another week, man came again to him & said- ‘Lord, I find that my life is very lonely, since I gave back that creature. So give her back to me again’.
cont.....



Conti...

So the Maker gave her back to man. Then, after only three days, man came back to him again & said- 'I know not how it is, but after all I have come to the conclusion that she is more of trouble than a pleasure to me, so please take her back again'. But Maker said- 'I will have no more of this. You must manage how you can'. The man said, 'but I cannot live with her' & the Maker replied 'neither could you live without her.....'



Theories about origin of Family:

□ Theory of Primitive Promiscuism OR Sex Communism –

- According to some **early anthropologists**- the original state of mankind was one of animal like sexual promiscuity with no stable marital relationships among them. There was neither marriage nor family.
- As per **Briffault**- man originally lived in a state of social promiscuity & the earliest human family consisted of a mother & her children. When mother began to realize the economic advantage of having a man attached to her, she tried to turn this casual attachment into a more permanent relationship.
- The advocates of this theory also cite the fact of **ignorance of paternity** in support of their hypothesis, when they state that at the beginning of human society there was no family in the accepted sense of the term.
- However, **modern sociologist** do not accept this theory completely. There is no information as to whether ignorance of paternity was real or conventional. There is no information of any people on earth among whom sexual promiscuity existed as a permanent practice. Freedom of conception outside marriage is never allowed.



Theories about origin of Family:

❑ Patriarchal Theory –

- Greek Political thinker Plato and Aristotle and modern thinker Sir Henry Maine believe that- family started with the authority of patriarch.
- The theory does not hold sound for the origin of the family. But it may be said that the patriarchal family was a kind of family in the past and exist even today.

❑ Matriarchal Theory –

- The exponents of this theory believe that family originated with the mother. As per them, it is not patriarchal but matriarchal family which was prevalent in the past and beginning of family life.
- But the modern sociologist do not accept this theory for the origin of family.



Theories about origin of Family:

❑ Theory of Polygamy –

- Sociologist like Darwin, Zukerman, Watermarck hold the view that in the beginning of society, powerful male members thought it their dignity and honour to possess a female. It was then considered as a source of honour and prestige.
- This system gradually received social recognition & subsequently became the basis of family.
- This idea is not acceptable as family did not start anywhere in this manner.
- ❑ Other theories also do not make much appeal and have not been accepted by sociologists and anthropologist.
- ❑ Therefore, origin of family cannot be explained in any historical fact or circumstance which at any stage in human history might have determined its existence.
- ❑ It is to be explained in a complex of human desires & conscious needs which find fulfillment in the family. As soon as man felt these needs, family emerged to satisfy them.

Theories about origin of Family:

❑ Multi Factor Theory –

○ Modern sociologists opine that – more than one reason contributed in the origin of family. Some important factors are-

-Need for procreation

-Sexual urge

-Economic needs

-To share life's joys & sorrows

-To have a partner in life

-To get love & affection, tenderness and devotion

❑ In conclusion, it can be stated that family did not come into existence all of a sudden on a particular date but it emerged as soon as the aforesaid needs were felt by mankind. Its origin can not be explained on an instinctive basis, it must be recognized as a cultural product.



Types of Family:

On the basis of-

- Lineage - Patrilineal & Matrilineal
- Authority - Patriarchal & Matriarchal
- Location - Patrilocal & Matrilocal
- No. of Conjugal Units - Nuclear, Extended, Joint & Composite



Types of Family: on the basis of lineage

- **Patrilineal Family –**

- Ancestry continues through father.
- Common type of family prevalent today.
- Just reverse of matrilineal family.
- Right of inheritance is decided in the lineage of father.

- **Matrilineal Family –**

- Mother is basis of ancestry.
- A woman is believed to be the ancestor of the family.
- Rights of each member depend on his relation to the mother/woman.
- Right of inheritance is decided in the lineage of mother.



Types of Family: on the basis of authority

- **Patriarchal Family -**

- Prevalent among Hebrews, Greeks, Romans, Aryans etc.
- Male head of family is possessed of inclusive powers.
- He is owner & administrator of family property.
- All family members are subordinate to him.
- He (head) presides over the religious rites of the family.

- **Characteristics:**

- Wife comes to live in the home of husband after marriage.
- Father is the Supreme lord of family property.
- Descent is reckoned through the father
- Children are known by the name of the family of father.
- Children can inherit the property of their father only.
- No rights over the property of mother's family.



Types of Family: on the basis of authority:

- **Matriarchal Family –**

- Prevailed among primitive people who led a wandering or hunting life.
- Prevailed in North American Indians, few parts of India i.e. Nairs in Kerala, Khasis & Garos in Assam.
- The authority vests in the woman head of the family.
- Males are subordinate to the female/s.
- Woman/mother is owner of property.
- She is ruler over the family.

- **Characteristics –**

- Descent is reckoned through the mother & not the father.
- Marriage relations are transient. Sometimes husband is merely a visitor.
- Children are brought up in the home of the wife's relatives.
- Descent is matriarchal & matrilineal.
- Authority rests in the hands of wife or her kin.
- Property is transferred through mother & only females could succeed to it.

Types of Family: on the basis of location

- **Patrilocal Family -**

- After marriage, wife goes to the house of husband.
- Husband does not go to live in the house of his wife.

- **Matrilocal Family –**

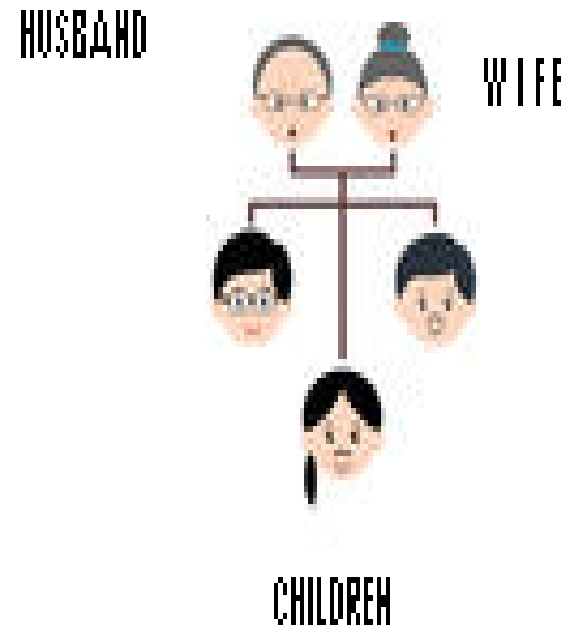
- After marriage, wife does not go & lives in the house of her husband.
- Husband goes to the house of his wife.



Types of Family: on the basis of no. of conjugal units

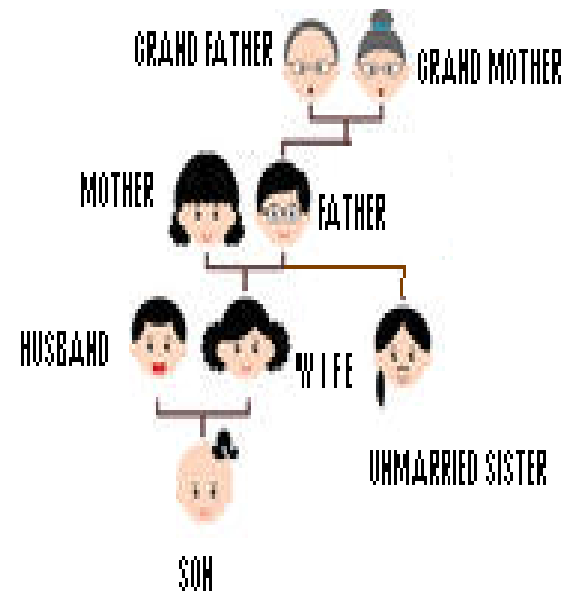
Nuclear Family-

- Family consists of husband, wife or wives & their children.
- Children leave the parental household as soon as they are married.
- It is an autonomous unit free from the control of the elders.
- E.g. American families.



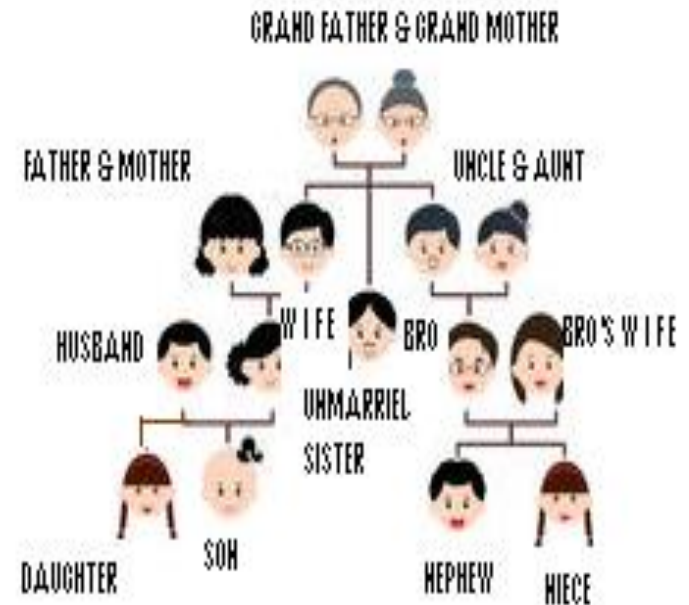
Types of Family: on the basis of no. of conjugal units

- Extended Family –
 - This is a merger of several nuclear families.
 - A small extended family may include an old man, his wife, their son, son's wife & son's son.
 - A large extended family may include an old man, his wives, their unmarried children & married sons, son's wives along with their unmarried children.
 - It is continuous & members may come and go but the group continues.
 - Usually run by the patriarch.



Types of Family: on the basis of no. of conjugal units

- Joint Family -
 - It includes husband, wife & their children along with father, mother, uncles, aunts & cousins and grandchildren.
 - A son, after marriage does not usually separate himself from parents but continues to stay with them.
 - Family has joint property .
 - Large size & common residence.
 - Cooperative organization and a productive (economically) unit.
 - Came in existence when people started to live settled life, constructing house & maintaining patrimony.
 - Still continues in India.



Types of Family: on the basis of no. of conjugal units

- Composite Family -
 - It includes husband, wife & their children along with father, mother, uncles, aunts, brothers with their wives & children, sisters with their husbands & children.
 - Daughters or sons, after marriage does not usually separate themselves from parents but continues to stay with them.
 - Family has joint property .
 - Large size & common residence.
 - Cooperative organization and a productive (economically) unit.

