

UNIT: 4 FAMILY AND MARRIAGE



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INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The word “family” has been taken over from the ‘roman’ word “famulus” means a servant.
- ▶ Of all human groups the family is the most important primary group.
- ▶ It is the simplest and the most elementary form of society.
- ▶ It is an outstanding primary group, because, it is in the family that the child develops his basic attitudes.
- ▶ It provides for the most enduring relationship in the one form or other.
- ▶ It is a small social group consisting ordinarily of a father, mother, and one or more children.

DEFINITIONS

- ▶ **Nimkoff** – “Family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without children or of a man or women alone, with children.”
- ▶ **Clare** – “Family is a system of relationship existing between parents and children.”

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY

- ▶ Biological
- ▶ Emotional basis
- ▶ Affection
- ▶ Status
- ▶ Social regulations
- ▶ Provision of homes
- ▶ Permanent and temporary natures
- ▶ Responsibility of members
- ▶ Protection and rearing of child
- ▶ Transmission of culture and an agent of socialization

BASIC NEEDS OF FAMILY

Affectional

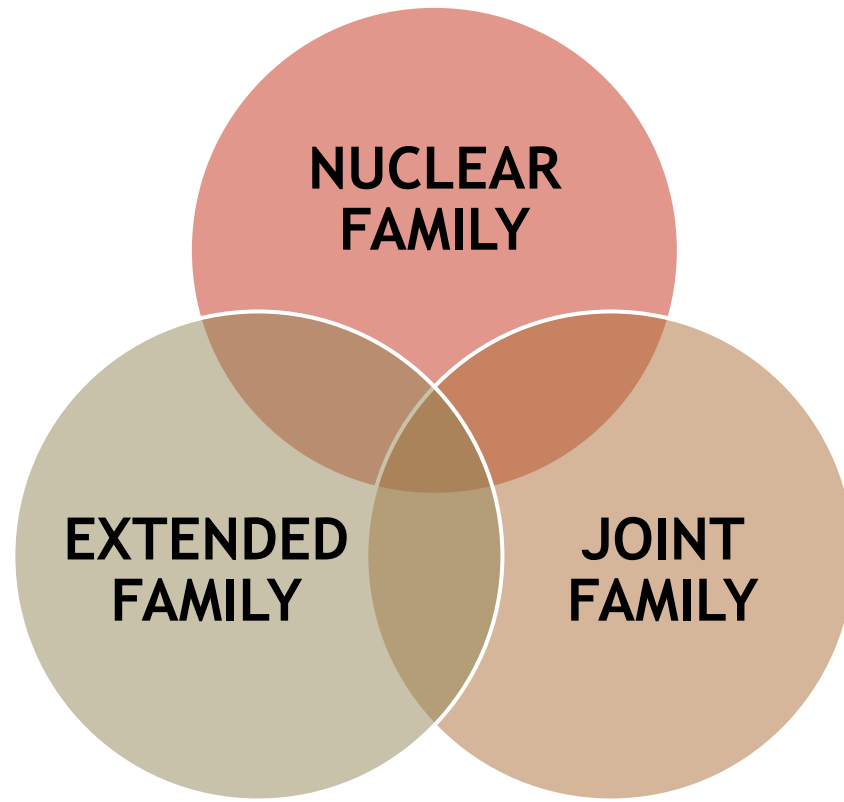
Physical

Psychological

Economic

Biological

TYPES OF FAMILY



The nuclear family

- ▶ The individual nuclear family is a universal social phenomenon. It also called modern family.
- ▶ A nuclear family is one which consists of the husband, wife and their children.
- ▶ The children leave the parents as soon as they are married.
- ▶ A nuclear family is an autonomous unit free from the control of elders.
- ▶ There is minimum interdependence between them.



The joint family

- ▶ The family in India does not consist only of husband, wife and their children but also of uncles, aunts and cousins and grandsons.
- ▶ This system called joint family or extended family system, is a peculiar characteristic of the Indian social life.
- ▶ A son after marriage does not usually separate himself from the parents but continues to stay with them under the same roof and holding property in common.
- ▶ The earnings of all the members are put in a common fund out of which family expenses are met.
- ▶ The family in India is based on patrilineal descent.



The extended family



- ▶ An extended family can be viewed as a merger of several nuclear families.
- ▶ An extended family may be crammed into a single house, or it may occupy a cluster of houses within an extended family compound. There are two types of extended family.
- ▶ **Small extended family:** May included an old man and his wife, their son, the son's wife and the son's children.
- ▶ **Large extended family:** May include the old man and his wives, their unmarried children and married sons, and the son's wives along with their unmarried children.

FUNCTIONS OF FAMILY

Biologic function

Behavior patters

Cultural functions

Division of labour

Economic functions

Educational functions

Protection function

Religious function

Recreational function

Socialization function

Symbolic culture traits

Satisfaction of sex need

MARRIAGE



- ▶ Marriage is a social institution which admits men and woman to family life.
- ▶ It establishes rights and obligations between them, as well as between them and their children and between them and their in-laws.
- ▶ It is universally present in all civilized societies though its forms and objectives have been different at different times and places.

DEFINITIONS

Different scholars and sociologists have tried to define it. They differ from each other.

- ▶ According to Gillin and Gillin, "Marriage is a socially approved way of establishing a family of procreation."
- ▶ According to Malinowski, "Marriage is a contract for the production and maintenance of children."
- ▶ According to Lowie, "Marriage is a relatively permanent bond between permissible mates."

FORMS OF MARRIAGE

MONOGAMY

POLYGAMY

POLYANDRY

**GROUP
MARRIAGE**

Monogamy

- ▶ It is a form of marriage wherein one man marries one woman at a time.
- ▶ This is the leading form of marriage. Its advantages are now well recognized.
- ▶ It produces the highest types of affection and sincere devotion.
- ▶ Affection between parents, between parents and children and between children themselves is more wholesome under this monogamy.

Polygamy

- ▶ It is a form of marriage in which one man marries more than one woman at a given time. This form of marriage is divided into two.
- ▶ **Sororal Polygyny:** It is a form of marriage wherein one man marries more than one woman at a given time those are related as sisters by birth.
- ▶ **Non-Sororal Polygyny:** It is a form of marriage wherein one man marries more than one woman at a given time those are not related as sisters by birth.

Polyandry

- ▶ It is a form of marriage whereas one woman marries more than one man at a given time. This form of marriage is further divided into two as Fraternal polyandry and Non-fraternal polyandry.
- ▶ **Fraternal Polyandry:** It is a form of marriage whereas one woman marries more than one man at a given time those who are related as brothers by birth. The children are treated as the offspring of the eldest brother.
- ▶ **Non-fraternal Polyandry:** It is a form of marriage whereas one woman marries more than one man at a given time those who are not related as brothers by birth.

Group marriage

- ▶ Group marriage means the marriage of two or more women with two or more men.
- ▶ Here the husbands are common husbands and wives are common wives.
- ▶ Children are regarded as the children of the entire group as a whole.
- ▶ This type of group marriage is found total tribes of Australia.

SOCIAL CUSTOM RELATING TO MARRIAGE

- ▶ Social customs of marriage is the most widespread institution of human society.
- ▶ Among Hindus marriage is a religious duty, not a social contract.

IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

- ▶ Marriage not only unites husband and wife but also it brings their family members and relatives nearer to one another and thereby it establishes group unit.
- ▶ Marriage is the main source of love and affection between parents and children
- ▶ Marriage is a source for division of labour
- ▶ There cannot be any family without marriage.
- ▶ Marriage is intended to provide security, both financial and emotional
- ▶ Married men and women are healthier and live longer and they accumulate more money for their life.

LEGISLATION IN INDIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

The Hindu Marriage Act 1955.

- ▶ This Act is applicable for the total India and Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists and the scheduled castes.
- ▶ Condition for Valid Marriage as Provided under this Act;
- ▶ Prohibits polygyny, polyandry and child marriage.
- ▶ The bridegroom must have completed 21 years of the age and bride 18 years of age.
- ▶ Equal rights for men and women in marriage.
- ▶ Given permission for inter-caste and inter-religion marriages.

The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.

- ▶ As a custom all are following dowry system, so that the fathers faced great difficulties in marrying their daughters
- ▶ Hence, in order to abolish the custom of dowry the Government passed this act.
- ▶ It extends all over India and does not include “Mehtar” prevalent among Muslims.
- ▶ It permits exchange of gifts for not more than Rs.2000/-
- ▶ It prescribes the penalty of 6 months imprisonment or a fine up to Rs. 5000/- or both.
- ▶ The act got amended in 1986 and there after its rules became still more severe.

Special Marriage Act 1872.

- ▶ It is also known as civil marriage act
- ▶ This is provided legal permission for inter-caste, inter-religious and registered marriages.
- ▶ It was modified in 1954.
- ▶ Couple has to inform the marriage officer a month before the scheduled marriage and two witnesses has to be present during the time of marriage.

The prevention of Sati Act 1829.

- ▶ Widows are often forced to make a vow or sankalpa to die after their husband's death.
- ▶ Sri Rajaram Mohan Roy took up the causes of women and impressed upon.
- ▶ Lord Bentinck, the British Governor General of India brings out a legislation prohibiting the of "Sati".
- ▶ The formation of Sati Act, 1829 includes saving the lives of widows, and punishing and fining those instigates the practice of "Sati".

Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1855.

- ▶ Through prevention of Sati Act, even though widows were saved, but they were subjected to exploitation and humiliation.
- ▶ Pandit Ishware Chandra Vidya Sagar brought pressure on the British Government to make legal provision for widow remarriage.
- ▶ It has provided protection for the widow

Provision of divorce

Conditions Under which Divorce as per this Act;

- ▶ Lunatic (mad) at the time of marriage.
- ▶ The spouse must have been impotent (useless) at the time of marriage.
- ▶ The wife was pregnant by some person other than the petitioner at the time of marriage.
- ▶ The dissolution of marriage may be obtained on the grounds of cohabitation not resumed after 2 years judicial separation; adultery; unsound mind; rejection; conversion of religion; sexual transmitted disease; leprosy; desertion for 7 years.

Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929.

- ▶ According to this Act boys under 18 years of age, girls under 14 years of age, if get married is an offence.
- ▶ Later the Act was amended in 1978 to 21 years of age for boys and 18 years of age for girls.
- ▶ Violation of the Act prescribes penalty of 3 month imprisonment and Rs.1000/- fine.

The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956.

- ▶ It provides provision for childless women the right to adopt a child.
- ▶ To claim maintenance from the husband is she is divorced.
- ▶ Medical Terminal of Pregnancy Act 1971.
- ▶ Legalizes abortion conceding the right of a woman to undergo abortion on the ground of physical and mental health.

INFLUENCE OF FAMILY AND MARRIAGE ON HEALTH AND HEALTH PRACTICES

- ❖ Family health concept
- ❖ Married life
- ❖ Health care for family
- ❖ The family in health and disease
- ❖ Problems in families
- ❖ Upbringing of children
- ❖ Family as strength in crisis
- ❖ Care during sickness
- ❖ Socialization in the family
- ❖ Influence of family on personality
- ❖ Family health cares

Thank you