

**B. A. Part –III  
Paper–VIII  
Family Dynamics  
Unit – 1  
Topic –Introduction  
&Definition of Family**

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## **Introduction of Family**

**In human society, family (from Latin: familia) is a group of people related either by consanguinity (by recognized birth) or affinity (by marriage or other relationship). The purpose of families is to maintain the well-being of its members and of society. Ideally, families would offer predictability, structure, and safety as members mature and participate in the community. In most societies, it is within families that children acquire socialization for life outside the family. Additionally, as the basic unit for meeting the basic needs of its members, it provides a sense of boundaries for performing tasks in a safe**

**environment, ideally builds a person into a functional adult, transmits culture, and ensures continuity of humankind with precedents of knowledge.**

**Anthropologists generally classify most family organizations as matrifocal (a mother and her children); patrifocal (a father and his children); conjugal (a wife, her husband, and children, also called the nuclear family); avuncular (for example, a grandparent, a brother, his sister, and her children); or extended (parents and children co-reside with other members of one parent's family).**

**Members of the immediate family may include spouses, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. Members of the extended family may include aunts, uncles,**

cousins, nephews, nieces, and siblings-in-law. Sometimes these are also considered members of the immediate family, depending on an individual's specific relationship with them, and the legal definition of "immediate family" varies. Sexual relations with family members are regulated by rules concerning incest such as the incest taboo.

The field of genealogy aims to trace family lineages through history. The family is also an important economic unit studied in family economics. The word "families" can be used metaphorically to create more inclusive categories such as community, nationhood, and global village.

Some important definitions by famous philosophers are as below –

**According to 'Gillin and Gillin', “We may define social change as variation from the accepted modes of life. Whether due to alteration in geographical condition culture equipment composition of the population for ideologies and whether brought about by diffusion or invention within the group.**

**According to 'Jones', “ social change is a word used to describe variations in or modification of any aspect of social process patterns interaction organisation.**

**According to 'Mudrock', “ The family is a social group characterized by common residence economic cooperation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship and one or more children or adopted or sexually combining adults”.**

**According to 'Burgess and Locks', " family is a group of persons United by the types of marriage blood or adoption constituting a single household interacting and communicating with each other in respective social roles of husband and wife mother and father son and daughter brother and sister and creating and maintaining a common culture".**

**All these definitions have their own importance and each definition explained the effect of family. Still Burgess and Locks definition is recommended as a complete definition for a family but where is the question of social aspect of family the definition of Macleiver seems appropriate because Macleiver gives in faces on sex relationship. And nobody can deny from this that the manufacture of family depends on sex relationship. Some Learner's philosopher**

**recognised family as a group which is bounded by three blood relations: husband and wife, mother and father and brother and sister. In this way we can say that family is a social unit, institution and committee which is built to fulfill the familiar needs.**

**After considering the above all points we can explain as a conclusion that family is that legal committee where sexual relationship can be built and the biological and social needs of blood relatives are fulfilled.**

**The family can be conceptualized in numerous ways; underlying each is a fundamental idea about the structure of the family and its function in society. Some define a family purely in terms of sharing a household, a collection of individuals living together. Others define the family based on kinship. A family is a group of people who share common ancestors or a basic social unit comprised of**

parents and their children. Some assert that biological kinship is the defining element of family, while opponents assert that families can be a blended collection of individuals related by marriage, adoption, partnership, or friendship. Members of the immediate family may include spouses, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. Members of the extended family may include aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and siblings-in-law. Sometimes these are also considered members of the immediate family, depending on an individual's specific relationship with them, and the legal definition of "immediate family" varies. Sexual relations with family members are regulated by rules concerning incest such as the incest taboo.

