

Look B. A. Part – III

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Topic – **Types of family**

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Types of the Family

The family is the most important primary group in a society. It is the simplest and the most elementary form of society. The family as an institution is universal. It is the most permanent and the most pervasive of all social institutions. In case of the west family is defined as an economic and social unit. In case of India, China and Japan family is a cultural religious unit.

Sociologists have spoken of different forms or types of family. Different sociologists have different ways to type the family.

Types of Family in Sociology

Types of family On the basis of marriage:

On the basis of marriage family has been classified into three major types:

- 1. Monogamous family - This family is made by one couple where there is one wife and one husband live with their children. This is known as the most justified family everywhere.**
- 2. Polygamous family - In this kind of family two or more men and women get married and live together.**

This family divided into two groups :

- 1. Polygamous –When a man gets married with two or more than two women and makes a family then this kind of family is known as polygamous this kind of family is found in Muslims and in the Naga tribes.**
- 2. Polyandrous –In this kind of family a women gets married with two or more men and makes a family. This kind of families found in Dehradun and Shimla States of India.**

Types of family on the basis of nature of the residence:

On the basis of nature of the residence family can be classified into three main types:

- 1. Matrilocal –In this kind of family a where a boy has to live at either his wife's residence or his in law's residence. This**

type of family found in many Indian tribes like Khasi, Garo, Nayar etc.

- 2. Patrilocal–Patrilocal family is the opposite of matrilocal because here, a girl has to live with at her husband's residence or in law's residence. This concept of family is found almost everywhere.**
- 3. Family of changing residence –In this family there is no boundation with residence. A man or a woman can live anywhere at any residence of its own choices.**

Types of family on the basis of ancestry or descent

On the basis of ancestry or descent family can be classified into two main types:

- 1. Matrilineal – In this family the right to property is in the hand of mother. She is the honor of whole property and this kind of family is found in Khasi and Garo tribes.**
- 2. Patrilineal – In this family father has the right to property. He is the honor of whole property. This kind of family is found almost everywhere.**

Types of family on the basis of the nature of authority

On the basis of the nature of authority family can be classified into two main types:

Matriarchal Family

The matriarchal family known as mother centered or mother dominated family. The mother or the woman is the head of the family. She exercises authority and manages the property. The descent is traced through the mother hence it is matrilineal in descent. Daughters inherit the property of the mother. The status of the children is decided by the status of the mother. Matriarchal family is matrilocal in residence. After the marriage the wife stays back in her mother's home. The husband pays occasional visits to the wife's home. In theory mother exercises authority and power in the matriarchal family. She is the head of the family and her decisions are final. But in practice some relatives of the family, her brother exercises authority in the family. The maternal family brings together the kinsmen and welds them in a powerful group.

Patriarchal Family

The patriarchal family is also known as father centered or father dominated family. The father is the head of the family and exercises authority. He is the administrator of the family property. The descent, inheritance and succession are recognized through the male line. Patriarchal families are patrilineal in character because the descent is traced through the male line. Only the male children inherit the property. Patriarchal family is patrilocal in residence. Sons continue to live with the father in his own house even after their marriages. Only the wives come and join them. Women have secondary position in these families. Children are brought up in their father's family.

Types of family on the basis of size or structure and generation.

On the basis of size or structure and generations of family can be classified into two main types:

Nuclear Family

The individual nuclear family is a universal social phenomenon. It can be defined as a small group composed of husband and wife and children that constitute a unit apart from the rest of the community. The nuclear family is a characteristic of all the modern industrial societies in which a high degree of structural and functional specialization exists. The nuclear family comprises a cohabiting man and woman

who maintain a socially approved sexual relationship and have at least one child. The traditional nuclear family is a nuclear family in which the wife works in the home without pay while the husband works outside the home for money. This makes him the primary provider and ultimate authority according to Popenoe.

According to Lowie it does not matter whether marital relations are permanent or temporary; whether there is polygyny or polyandry the one fact stands out beyond all others that everywhere the husband, wife and immature children constitute a unit apart from the remainder of the community. T.B. Bottomore states that the universality of the nuclear family can be accounted for by the important functions that it has been performing. The nuclear family has been performing the sexual, the economic, the reproductive and the educational functions. The indispensability of these and few other functions has contributed to its universality. A major factor in maintaining the nuclear family is economic cooperation based upon the division of labor between the sexes. The structure of the nuclear family is not same everywhere. Bottomore makes a distinction between two kinds of family system

Type of Nuclear Family in India

Vogel and Bell have presented a functional explanation based on the intensive study of American families with emotionally disturbed children. Often the tension and hostility of unresolved conflicts between parents are projected onto the child. The child is thus used as an emotional scapegoat by the parents to release their tension. It serves as a personality stabilizing process for the parents and keeps the family united but the child pays the cost of such unity.

The Joint Family

The joint family is also known as undivided family or extended family. It normally consists of members belonging to two-three generations: husband and wife, their married and unmarried children and their married or unmarried grandchildren. The joint family system constituted the basic social institution in many traditional societies particularly Asian societies like Indian. The joint family is considered as bedrock on which Hindu values and attitudes are built. The joint family is a mode of combining smaller families into larger family units through the extension of three or more generations. In joint family the members are related through blood and spread over several generations living together under a common space and work under common head. According to Iravati Karve, the joint family may be defined as a group of people who generally live under one roof, who eat food cooked at

one hearth, who hold property in common and who participate in common family worship and are related to each other as some particular type of kindred. There are two forms of joint family:

The Patriarchal joint family is father centered and the matriarchal joint family is mother dominated. The patriarchal joint families are found among the Nambudaris of Malabar, the Mundus of Chotanagpur and the Angami Nagas of Assam. The Nambudaris joint family is generally described as illom. The matriarchal joint families are found among the Nairs of Malabar, the Khasis and Garos living in the Garo hills of Assam. The Nair joint family is known as Tarawad.