

# INTRODUCTION

# Family

The family is a universal Institution found all over the world.

A Family is a group of people related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Blood relations are often called consanguinal. Marriage relations are called affinal.

Some sociologists feel that the family is a social group characterised by common residence, economic and cooperation.

# Definitions of family

According to Davis Family is "a group of persons whose relations to one another are based upon consanguinity and who are therefore, kin to another."

According to MacIver family is "a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children."

# Various Approaches

- Universal –functional approach

Sexual

Reproductive

Economic

Educational

- Structural approach
- The interactions approach

# Features of family

- Small size
- Universality
- Close relationship
- Permanent relations
- Relation are based on emotions
- Cohabitation
- Recognition of the children
- Socialization
- Authority pattern
- Division of labour

# Functions of the family

## 1. Essential function

Davis and Murdock have classified the functions of the family into four divisions:

- Reproduction
- Maintenance
- Placement
- Socialization

## 2. Non-essential functions

- Economic
- Religious
- Educational
- Health
- Recreation
- Civic
- Social

# Functions of family for the individual

- Gratification of sex
- Physical protection
- Social placement
- Economic function
- Socialization
- Development of personality
- Education functions
- Recreational functions
- Affectional function

# Functions of the family for the society

- Reproduction
- Social placement
- Socialization
- Social control
- Cultural transmission



# Rules of Descent

The fundamental rules of descent are three in numbers.

- Unilineal
- Bilineal
- Double descent

# Forms of family

- The nuclear family
- The compound family
- The joint family
- The extended family

# Meaning of Joint family

The joint family is the oldest and most important institution of Hindu social life.

“A joint family is 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 worship and are related to each other as some particular type of kindred.”

# Characteristics of joint family

- Large size
- Common residence
- Cooperative organisation
- Common religion
- A productive unit
- Mutual rights and obligations

# Merits of joint family

- Ensures economic progress
- Division of labour
- Opportunity for leisure
- Social insurance
- Social virtues
- socialism

# Demerits of joint family

- Home for idlers
- Hindrance
- Encourage litigation
- Leads to quarrels
- Privacy denied
- Unfavourable
- Un-controlled procreation

# Change in the joint family

- Rules of residence
- Authority
- Decision making
- Property
- Coparceners

# Functions of the joint family

- Educational function
- Economic function
- Occupational training
- Marriage
- Recreational functions
- Religious functions