#### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Defining family is a very difficult task as the features of family are neither distinct nor properly explained.E.W.Burgess and H. J. Locke attempted a definition. "The family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption; constituting a single household; interactive and inter communicating with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister; creating a common culture". Commonly the word 'family' is used in several senses: (1) household where a body of persons live together, (2) the group consisting of parents and their children. (3) All those who are related by blood and affinity and (4) those descended or claiming descent from a common ancestor. Though the varety of definitions sometimes offer confusions in understanding the term family, MacIver has elaborated the distinctive features of family as follows —

- 1. Universality—Family is the most basic universal social unit. It is found all over the world and in every type of culture. We can hardly think of a situation in which there was no family. Till now, there is no substitute for family. Civilizations rise and collapse, but the family lives forever. Family, therefore is a universal group.
- 2. Emotional basis:—A family integrates all the family members in a coherent unit based on emotional closeness. Affection towards each other, mutual cooperation and blood ties are the integrative bonds of the family. This emotional bond ensures early education, cultural transmission and mutual trust. Thus, family becomes a true shelter for the people in this hostile and competitive world.
- 3. Educative role— The early years of life are spent in the family which is the time for building up personality and learning social behaviour. Both the processes require careful nurture and guidance. These are received from within the family. Family is the most informal institution to impart training to a child which is known as 'Enculturation'. The child recieves his first lesson of love, affection, respect, cooperation and customs of the society from the family and if anything wrong occurs in family the child bears the long lasting effects of such ills throughout the life.
- 4. Limited size—Size has always been a prominent feature of family. Because of its limited size family members can come close to one another, share pains and pleasures. when, the families are extended, several defects arise and families are split into smaller ones so that maximum amount of security and comfort can be gained from family.

- 5. Nuclear position—Family is the centre around which other social forces revolve. It is the primary group which prepares the individual for participation forces the secondary groups, for their demands and expectations. The newly born child in all to be taught and disciplined properly and only then he can be adjusted to the wide wide wide
- 6. Sense of responsibility among members:—Each member of the family acknowledges responsibility to help and improve the other members. This provides perfect protection to the family members. Both among tribals and other ethnic groups in India, the parents accept the responsibility to arrange the marriages for their matured children. The head of the family remains responsible for the well being of the family as a whole. The younger members are responsible to look after the aged people and so on. Even if there is a division in the family, all the members would make it a point to attend marriages and funerals.
- 7. Social regulation:—The family unity is maintained and the adjustment between the family and the society becomes possible as a result of social regulations. The social restrictions enable the members to behave in a socially useful manner and family is believed to be a strong basis on which the fabric of the society is dependent to a great extent. Thus, for example, there are social restrictions on divorce in almost every society.
- **8. Persistence and change :—**The family as an association is continuously changing with time. The composition and structure of family are subject to change as it is to cope up with dynamic environment around us. As an institution family is a permanent and universal one and as an association it changes with time and situation. Some sociologists claim that there is a trend of change from 'Joint family to elementary family' and some others are of the opinion that urbanisation does not lead to disintegration but only to transformation of the joint family.

Sometimes we find two brothers of the same family live separately with their wives and children but they are bound by a number of relationships of many kinds thereby giving a new dimension to the composition and nature of family in modern times.

#### FAMILY AS A PROCESS—STAGES

#### Stages of family life

The different stages of family life may be experienced by a social human being depending on his/her social background. With time the concept of stages is changing and starts varying from one society to another.

In Western societies courtship is an important and almost essential stage of family life but it is not the same in India, Srilanka or many of the low and middle income countries throughout the world. In such societies arranged marriage is an essential alliance between two extended families of similar social standing, the consent of the potential mates are not at all of much concern. In some parts of the world, specially in India, child marriage persists even today.

The traditional societies are culturally homogenous, thus parents can arrange marriages without considering the element of personal compatibility of individuals and emphasizing on the aspect of cultural compatibility of the partners. However, in an industrial society the extended families are weakened as the members often

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change places to suit occupational demands. Young people choose their own mates and delay marriage upply the and delay marriage until they have financial security & the experience needed to select a suitable partner. The select a suitable partner. Thus pre-nuptial stage of family life may include the preparation for selecting many pre-nuptial stage of family life may include the preparation for selecting mates. In western societies the romantic love comprising affection and sexual page. However, often affection and sexual passion is considered as the basis for marriage. However, often this romantic love proves to be an illusion for the young couple and it fails to stabilize marriage in the stabilize marriage in the midst of economic and social considerations shaping real life marriage. Sociologist life marriage. Sociologists pointed out, not only romantic love but marriage between people with the same societies. people with the same social characteristics is encouraged in western societies.

The post-nuptial stage is divided into two parts – settling in and child rearing. The riage takes place gith an divided into two parts – settling in and child rearing. After marriage takes place either as a result of social arrangement or romantic love. After the marriage both the factorial sexual the marriage both the partners start adjustment process and that includes sexual relationships and sharing the responsibility relationships and sharing household activities. Of late comes the responsibility sharing in the sphere of sharing in the sphere of child rearing. In pre industrial societies children were considered as labour to be considered. considered as labour to be added to the family to increase family income. Thus people regarded having all incomes to the family to increase family birth control, people regarded having children as a wife's duty, and without effective birth control, child bearing was a feet economically child bearing was a regular event. But in the post industrial society, economically speaking, children bare to event. speaking, children have been transformed from an asset to a liability. The trend towards smaller families. towards smaller families is most pronounced in high income nations, but the picture is different in Latin Am most pronounced in high income nations, but the picture is different in Latin America, Asia and specially Africa, where child rearing is a compulsion for married. Asia and specially Africa, where child rearing is a compulsion for married couples. So in post – nuptial stage most people consider family as a place for child rearing, though in modern urban societies children are under the supervision. under the supervision and guidance of different centres outside home. Traditionalists in the family value of their in the family value debates charge that many mothers work at the expense of their children, who receive less parenting. Most adults in modern world have to juggle parental and occupational responsibilities.

After the children grow up and leave parental home to settle in new home, the final stage of family life sets in. The departure of children demands adjustments in the family. In most cases it is found that marriage often becomes satisfying in midlife as mutual understanding and companionship increase. The grown up adults take care of the aging parents in most occasions, otherwise they have to accommodate without help from young company. Most grand parents help with child care and other responsibilities and thus family life takes a new turn. The final and surely the most difficult transition in married life comes with the death of a spouse. The challenge of living alone following the death of a spouse is specially great for men, who usually love fewer friends than widows and may lack housekeeping skills.

It is believed that an individual develops himself being within a family. The supportive quality of family makes it not only an association but also a process through which the growth and development of a human being becomes definite and concrete.

Family as a process can be divided into four stages —

- (a) Formative stage
- (b) Pre-Nuptial stage
- (c) Nuptial stage
- (d) Post-nuptial stage
- (a) Formative Stage—The child in a family is in formative stage. The child gets training from other members so that he can be adjusted to adult role in future. At

- this stage he is the developed so that he can grow up in a positive way.

  (b) Pre-nuptial stage—At the end of the formative stage a pre-nuptial stage—At the end of the formative stage a pre-nuptial in. Though this is not very common among the Indian people, it is followed by the primitive tribal societies. The Naga tribes is spent in mono or had the primitive tribal societies. (b) Pre-nuptial stage—At the end of the Indian people, it is followed in. Though this is not very common among the Indian people, it is followed modern western societies and some of the primitive tribal societies followed among the middle-Indian and some Naga tribes is spent in mono or his among training in all the activities of adult life including the relations. modern western societies and some Naga tribes is spent in mono or among the middle-Indian and some Naga tribes is spent in mono or among dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of adult life including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of adult life including training in all the activities of adult life including training in all the activities of adult life including training in all the activities of adult life including training trainin among the middle-indian and dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and in taking training in all the activities of additional including dormitories and including dormitories and the activities of additional including dormitories and additio Among some of the allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed by cerestian allowed to develop in pre-nuptial stage which is to be followed by cerestian allowed by cerestia allowed to develop ... remaining the marriage of an adult  $\frac{1}{b_{0v}}$  would be spouses should spend some time together before entering the family life.
- (c) Nuptial stage—This stage corresponds the marriage of an adult boy and the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial enters a new phase of life sharing don (c) Nuptial stage—This stage corresponds the marriage of an adult boy and adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. The newly married couple enters a new phase of life sharing domestic for procreation. adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases the child marriage is allowed, where nuptial adult girl. Though in some cases and planning for procreation.
- ies, economic responsibilities and planning.

  (d) Post-nuptial stage—The parents rear up the children so that they

  can be educated in the proper way. It is to help the children in constitution help the children in constitution. (d) Post-nuptial stage—The parents rear up the children in continuity of the father and mother of the family to help the children in continuity of the father and mother of the family to help the drowing denoting the children in continuity of the father and mother of the family to help the drowing denoting the children in continuity as the growing denoting the children in children i adjusted in the society, they can be educated in the proper way. It is the responsibility of the father and mother of the family to help the children in continuing responsibility and in a wider sense, society. As the growing generation of family and in a wider sense, society. responsibility of the father and mother of the farming to help the continuity of the process of family and in a wider sense, society. As the growing generation the process going again. Thus, family is the stability of the stabi the process of family and in a wider sense, society. The society of the process of family and in a wider sense, society. The society of the s children come of age, they set the same process going again, ramily in process continuing through stages and on it's continuity the stability of the society is

### ORIGINS OF FAMILY: MORGAN'S EVOLUTIONARY SCHEME

In the words of MacIver and Page, "The family has no origin in the sense that the family was absent to another the family was absent to the family w In the words of Maciver and rage, The family was absent to another there ever existed a stage of human life from which the family was absent to another there ever existed a stage of human life from which the family was absent to another there ever existed a stage of human life from which the family was absent to another than the family was absent to be another than the family was absent to be a supplied to the family was absent to be a su stage in which it emerged." However, this statement is not universally accepted and different sociologists have varying opinion regarding the origin of family. The earlier Anthropologists and sociologists believed in evolutionary development of human institutions and mostly the evolutionary process was conceptualised as unilinear in its development.

The American Sociologist Lewis Morgan has put forward the evolutionary theony of family and to him family as an institution was absent in ancient times, lately evolved with the development of society. He offered the evidences that, in primitive societies, the society was too flexible as the wives could be exchanged, same kinshin term 'father' was being used for several individuals, free sex was allowed etc. He further held that, in primitive societies father was unimportant as the role of paternity was ignored. Morgan postulated a sequential growth of the institution of the family though this can hardly be accepted in its entirety.

Morgan has listed five successive forms of family which came into existence following stages. Each stage is associated with a distinctive type of marriage.

- 1. Consanguine family could develop on the basis of marriage between blood relations i.e. the siblings both own and collateral.
- 2. Punaluan family developed in the next stage when the brothers of one family rere married to the sisters of another family. Thus, the marriage between own rothers and sisters was forbidden. The marriage could take place between males nd females of two different families. Also the husbands and wives might not be

necessarily brothers and sisters, i.e. a female could be married to more than one unrelated males and vice versa. In actual practice, husbands as a group and the wives as a group, must have been kin of each other.

- 3. Syndasmian family consisted of one man and one woman with their children. But, this family was not based on the principle of total loyalty between the husband and the wife. They could change partners at any moment. The sex relationships are not defined.
- 4. Patriachal family was founded upon the marriage of one man with several wives, each wife being secluded from every other i.e. they are not the sisters. In this family the unquestionable authority of the husband was established. He was free to have sexual relationship and marital relationship with as many girls as he liked and his wives did not have such freedom, they were bound by his authority only.
- 5. Monogamean family emerged finally, in which a single pair forms the family having exclusive loyalty between husband and the wife and none could develop any sex relations going beyond the family structure.

Evolution in the institution of family is ever possible but the continuity of sequential stages could hardly be maintained in all the socieities. So, it can be held that, though Morgan could offer a definite frame to explain the origin and development of family, he was no doubt hypothetical in his approach.

Westermark and Briffault studied the origin of family following the basic scheme offered by Morgan though they were often critical in their attitude to Morgan. Westermarck believes that monogamous family has existed at all levels of society and even some birds and animals are monogamous, while others have found and even some birds and animals are monogamous, while others have found polygyny side by side with monogamy. He felt, any further evolution which had taken polygyny side by side with monogamy. He felt, any further evolution which had taken place regarding family was essentially in moral ideas evolved by man with regard to marriage and not in the institution itself.

Briffault, on the other hand, rejected Westermarck's ideas and accepted Morgan's views to a great extent. He viewed family as an institution originated from the idea of supreme authority of the mother. The patriarchal and monogamian families are regarded by him as later in point of time and development.

The recent scholars are not much concerned about the historical origin of family, rather it is almost universally accepted that family emerged to fulfil some basic biophysical and emotional urge of man. "The sex and hunger urges, the economic compulsives, and the cultural traditions have every where provided the theoretical compulsives, and the recognition of the existence of the family," pointed out D. N. "Justification for the recognition of the existence of the family," pointed out D. N. Majumdar and T. N. Madan.

We are so much familiar with the concept of monogamian and patriarchal 'families' in its wider sense. Family consists of a group of persons who live under the 'families' in its wider sense. Family consists of a group of persons who live under the 'families' in its wider sense. Family consists of a group of persons who live under the 'families' in its wider sense and develop a same roof and are connected by nuclear and mutuality of obligations consciousness on the basis of locality, interest and mutuality of obligations sometimes, brothers separate themselves setting different families elsewhere while distant relations and friends become members of the family and are addressed as uncle. son, brother and sister, even if there is no consanguinity or territorial affinity. In this sense, family has been found at all levels of culture and often denying this fact we invited confusions and controversies.

## RESIDENCE AND DESCENT

The family is always composed of two persons initially, origin. Depending on the couple to share both the harmonic of their cravs with the huse of the hus the couple to share both the households of each of their stays with the husband descent are and descent are and family. social regulations and customs the married couple either and descent are applied family or with the wife's family or with family or with the wife's family. The principles of residence the female. always partially neglecting the demand of either the male or kinship

A typology of families can be built on the basis of a kinship group. If the descent implies how one specified patrilineal descent in the basis of a control of the patrilineal descent implies how one specified patrilineal descent in the basis of a control of the patrilineal descent implies how one specified patrilineal descent in the basis of the control of the con term descent implies how one acquires membership called patrilineal descent descent is traced through father. descent is traced through father in every generation, it is called descent through father in every generation, mother in descent through father in every generation. agnatic descent, if the descent is traced through mother in descent. If an incument of the called matrilineal descent are mother in the called matrilineal descent are mother in the called matrilineal descent are mother. called matrilineal descent or uterine descent. If one traces mother and father on each grant descent. mother and father on each generation it is called but through but through but through but through mother and father on each generation it is called but through mother and father on each generation it is called but through mother and father on each generation but through mother and father on each generation it is called but through mother and father throu traces descent through mother in one generation to the types of descent we the generation it is called ambilities. generation it is called ambilineal descent. According to the families, bilateral families and classify the family as—Patrillineal families and classify the family as—Patrillineal families. Classify the family as—Patrilineal families, matrilineal families, matrilineal families.

nbilineal families.	Typology based on deser
Type of Family Patrilineal family Matrilineal family Bilateral family Ambilineal family	Type of descent Origin traced through father. Origin traced through mother. Origin traced through both mother and father. Origin traced through father in Origin traced through father in one generation and through mother in the next generation.
	and willing

Another typology of the families can be constructed with the help of the criterion Another typology of the families can be constructed with it is known as patrilocal of residence. If residence is with or near the groom's parents it is known as patrilocal or uxorilocal in patrilocal or uxorilocal in the patrilocal of uxorilocal in the patrilocal in the patrilocal of uxorilocal in the patrilocal in the patrilocal of uxorilocal in the patrilocal in the patriloca or residence. If residence is with or near the groom's parents it is matrilocal or uxorilocal. If any or virilocal. If the residence is with bride's parents it is matrilocal any definite restriction. or virilocal. If the residence is with bride's parents it is matriced. If any one of the bride's or groom's residence is chosen without any definite restrictive rule one of the bride's or groom's residence is chosen without any definite restrictive rule. one of the bride's or groom's residence is chosen without any couple can be in groom's it becomes bilocal or ambilocal. The residence of the couple can be in groom's maternal uncle's place and then that family is avunculocal. If the couple settle separately without being part of any of the previous households it is known as neolocal. Though not for any compelling reasons, we find in most occasions the property inheritance, descent and succession are often traced through only one of the lines, either of the male or of the female. However, in almost all socieities the possibility of forming a new residence only with the husband and wife remains. Even in this type of neolocal families the rule of descent and inheritance follows the same traditional principle of that society.

TYPOLOGY BASED ON RESIDENCE		
Type of Family	Type of Residence	
Patrilocal	Groom's residence	
Matrilocal	Bride's residence	
Bilocal	Either of the bride's or groom's residence	
Avunculocal	Groom's maternal uncle's residence	
Neolocal	A new household set up by both the	
	groom and the bride.	

# MATRIARCHAL AND PATRIARCHAL SOCIETIES IN INDIA

The evolutionists assumed that the matriarchal form of family organisation is prior to the patriarchal form. In the matriarchal form of family organisation is transmited to the children as they become the mother's family designation is transmited to the children as they become the parts of the mother's family the Husbands in the matriarchal societies are only visit to the mother's family. Husbands in the matriarchal societies are only visitors and they do not enjoy any authority over the children. Some matriarchal societies and they do not enjoy and ently with his wife and children. Though gazartis allow the husband to live independently with his wife and children. Though, generally property passes on from mother to daughter, in some occasions father's property may be inherited by the son

Khasi tribe is one of the important examples of matriarchal type of society in India. The Khasis vest the family property in the youngest daughter. A common Khasi family is monogamous, primary or joint, matrilocal, matrilineal, matronymic and matripotestal. They follow such a pattern in which the source of authority is the mother and always a female member acts as the head of the family.

Among the Nayars of Southern India a form of polyandry is observed and the matriarchal type of social system is prevalent. So long as a woman lives with one of her husbands, the other husbands can not have any effective marital rights over the wife. In most cases Nayars follow the fraternal polyandry that is one woman is

Thus, in matriarchal societies, though some of the characteristic features are commonly found, the nature and structure of family may vary from one place to another even inside India.

Patriarchal societies are those where the source of authority is the father and this type is also called the patripotestal family. Throughout India, these patriarchal societies are most common and popular ones. We can take the examples of Ho, Munda, Toda, Santhals etc, all of which are organised into patriarchal societies. The Khasas of Jaunsar-Bawar live in patriarchal joint family. A group of brothers live together with one or more than one wives, the brothers share the wives without any exclusive right of any brother to cohabit with any one wife. Patrilocal, patriarchal and patronymic family exists among them, otherwise, one man and one woman may live together after marriage with their children and the family may be patriarchal as the male head of the family enjoys supreme right over the others and his property is inherited through male lives, also his family name is used by his successors.

## NUCLEAR AND JOINT FAMILY

A small group composed of husband, wife and immature children which constitutes a unit apart from the rest of the community is generally known as a nuclear family. In modern world such families emerged as a consequence of the growth of individualism with the development of industries and urban societies. Its solidarity depends mainly on sexual attraction between husband and wife and companionship between parents and children. As soon as the children are grown up they try to establish seperate family of their own.

In most cases the nuclear family is more often incorporated in or subordinated to some longer, composite family structure. G. P. Murdock distinguished between two forms of composite family structure. forms of composite family— (a) extended family in which two or more nuclear families affiliate the same of composite family— (b) extended family in which two or more nuclear families affiliate the same of the s families affiliated through an extension of parent child relationship i.e. the addition of or daughters affiliated by their parents. (b) son or daughter's family with that of the original one formed by their parents. (b)

Polygamous family i.e. the extension of the family caused by plural marriages by plura male member, in most cases, the male head of the family. Generally the members of a nuclear family live kin-group for a nuclear family live kin-group for a nuclear family live kin-group for a nuclear family live would constitute.

Generally the members of a nuclear family live kin-group for a nuclear family live kin-group family live kin-g frequently they are related to members of a wider he would consider purposes. I. P. Desai pointed out otherwise, stating that he related to as a nuclear family "if it is composed of the husband, wife and unmarried children, not related to their other and unmarried children, not related to their other and obligations pertaining to them and obligations from the idea and obligationship from as a nuclear family

"if it is composed of the husband, wife and unmarried children, not related to their other and unmarried children, pertaining to them and through or by property or income or the rights and obligations pertaining to them and through or by property or income or the rights and obligations kin relationship from the idea of the expected by those related by Vissalian and obligations and obligations are accounted by the expected by those related by Vissalian and obligations and obligations are accounted by Vissalian and obligations are accounted by Vissalian and obligations. unough or by property or income or the rights and obligations pertaining to them and obligations pertaining to the idea of the pertaining to the idea of the id Nuclear family may take two forms— (a) Complete, in which husband wife Complete, in which some of the members may which some of unmarried children are included in which some units and unmarried children are included in which some units and unmarried children are included in which some units and unmarried children are included in which some units and un

Nuclear family may take two forms— (a) Complete, in which some of the members may the children are included. (b) Incomplete, in which some of the members may the children are included. (b) Incomplete, in which some of the members may the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present, e.g. only bust and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present and unmarried children has present and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present and the children widow mother and unmarried children has present and the children ha the children are included. (b) Incomplete, in which some of unmarried children has present, e.g. only husband and wife or widow mother and unmarried children small nuclear familia. all nuclear families.

Joint families are those in which more than characteristics of which the there is the characteristics.

Joint families are those in which more than one nuclear included the several characteristics of which the together. Ideally the joint family had several characteristics of which the important ones are important ones are—

- (D) Sharing common kitchen.

  (c) Obeying the authority and command of the oldest member of the family. (c) Obeying the authority and command of the observer, property and hard like the specific of the specific of
- I. P. Desai defines jointness 'with reference to residence, p. opency and mandelbum pointed out that, joint family is obligations among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of normal cycles among the kin'. obligations among the kin'. Jointness is a process, it is a part of mormal cycle of the family. Mandelbum pointed out that, joint family is development of the family. Mandelbum people rather than amount of the family. Cultivators and wealthy people rather than amount of the family of the family. development of the family. Mandelbum pointed out the rather than among the owner cultivators and wealthy people rather than may common among the owner cultivators and income. Though always this may common among the owner cultivators and wealthy people always this may no poor and the people who subsist on cash income. Though always this may no In India, though the number of nuclear families is multiplying due to some  $s_0$  in India, though the number of nuclear family jointness still continues to be an in

In India, though the number of nuclear families is making in the south of the south economic and cultural forces, tamily jointness still contains a residential group social phenomenon. Thus, a family may be nuclear as a residential group social phenomenon. Thus, a family may be nuclear families with other nuclear families. social phenomenon. Thus, a ranny may be much other nuclear families. In a functionally it may be joined in obligational ties with of nuclear families. functionally it may be joined in obligational ties in the growth of nuclear families does of India and some other Asian countries the growth of nuclear families necessarily lead to the total decline of joint families.

## ALTERNATIVE FAMILY FORMS

Most families in the world are still composed of married couple and children, often their aged parents. In Asian, African and Latin American count these families are still existing with few exceptions. In Indian society we may fi joint or extended family structures even now, though sometimes with change functions. But in recent decades, our society has displayed greater diversity in fan life.

One parent families—Twenty nine percent of U.S. families with children und eighteen have only one parent in the household, a proportion that more loubled during the last generation. 80% of one parent families in U.S. are headed single mothor - resulting from divorce, death or an unmarried woman's decision ave a child. This is spreading in Eastern societies as well.

Research shows that growing up in a one parent family usually disturbs

Social Institutions

growth of the child. Some studies point out, as the mother and the father both have distinct and individual contribution in the socialization process of children, the absence of one can hardly give birth to a healthy atomosphere for the children in one-parent family. On average children growing up in a single parent family start out poorer, get less opportunities and end up with emotionally weak adults. Such children are also more likely to be single parents themselves. This trend is not only children and western part of the world but gradually gaining ground even in urban societies of the East.

# COHABITATION

Cohabitation is the sharing of household by an unmarried couple. In global perspective, cohabitation as a long-term form of family life, with or without children perspective, common in Sweden & other Scandinavian countries. This trend is has been common in other countries as well though to has been common of the scandinavian countries. This trend is popularizing itself in other countries as well, though in conservative areas it is yet to

Cohabiting tends to appeal people who cherish independence and gender Conadition of compatibility. Most couples cohabit for few years, either they end up in marriage after gain ground. equality. Proof with the prospect of compatibility or they fall apart acknowledging being satisfied with the prospect of compatibility or they fall apart acknowledging being saustice with the property of the saustice of the sausti incompanion. Conservation of the partners enjoy low-commitment relationships. But, when the children are born to the partners enjoy to the risk of losing parental and also they suffer from the risk of losing parental support at any moment.

# GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLES

Many countries have permitted same - sex marriages leading to a development in history of family formation. Many of such couples like to adopt children and have the taste of a novel family life, though it is not so popularized even in the western context. In several widely publicized cases courts have removed children from homosexual couples, citing the best interests of the children. This tendency may offer a challenge to the common family norms.

#### SINGLEHOOD

In recent years people prefer to live alone, it is no more a passing phase. Most striking is the rising number of single young women. They are now more interested in pursuing their career and maintain their individual identity. Presently they do not have much liking for motherhood as opposed to traditional women. Women who are economically secure view a husband as matter of choice rather than a financial necessity. With education, job and social security women are now ready to give up the responsibility that they had to take up due to marriage.

#### THE BREAKDOWN OF JOINT FAMILY AND ITS IMPACT ON **GREATER SOCIETY**

During 1950s several survey based studies revealed on the basis of data collected from urban centres like Kolkata, Pune, Nagpur, Mumbai, Bangalore, Mahuva and Navsari which showed the fact that joint families were very much present among trading casts and communities in a substantial proportion and the system was still

popular among the city dwellers. But by the end of the first-half of the popular among the city dwellers. But by the end of the first-half of the popular among the city dwellers. But by the end of the first-half of the popular and implied a steady departure the century, changes in the family organization abandoned joint families of the society from city life. The poorer section of the society Recently, joint families of the society and replaced it by nuclear family organization.

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way out in rural areas too.

Today, in rural areas, the joint family or joint household is surviving in the rural areas, the joint family or joint household in the rancestration or nominal form as a kinship group. The rural adults have left their ancestration or nominal form as a kinship group. The rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting a line of nominal form as a kinship group. The rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting in the rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting in the rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting in the rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting in the rural adults have left their ancestration in the rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting in the rural adults have left their ancestration or both accepting in the rural adults have left their ancestration or joint household in the rural adults have left their ancestration or joint household in the rural adults have left their ancestration or better occupation or better occupa

The census data have revealed that nearly some of the households in consist of 1-6 persons on the average. Only some of the households can be termed as either have members. Probably most of these households can be termed as either have members. Probably most of these households consisting of 10 or more persons consisted stem families. Large households consisting of 10 or more persons consisted stem families. Large households consisting of 10 or more persons consisted out by census report as 5% of the total households in towns as pointed out by census report as 1951. Thus joint family forms a very insignificant proportion of the total household. Thus joint family forms a very insignificant proportion of the characteristic feature in the country. 1981 census reflects nuclear family is the characteristic feature family system. Partition of household and joint family may not have lindian family system. Partition of household and joint family may not have lindian family system. Partition of household applied a positive association between

Occurred for same causes throughout the country

The studies have shown that there exists a positive association between the of education and incidence of nuclear family, and that the incidence of education and incidence of nuclear family, castes and Sikhs than among families is higher among the scheduled tribes, castes and Sikhs than among families. Also non caste Hindus, Muslims and other so called mainstream families. Also non owning people tend to record a strong inclination towards nuclear family owning people tend to record a strong inclination towards concluded. Anthropologist Kolenda, on the basis of her empirical investigations concluded families are least characteristic of untouchables and more characteristic families are least characteristic of untouchables.

Geographical conditions sometimes determine family organizations. All the clad and hilly states and union territories, such as Himachal Pradesh, Meghal Clad and hilly states and union territories, such as Himachal Pradesh, Magaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicolar Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicola

The percentage has to be higher in North Indian villages where the system close kin marriage is absent. Education among the young or their increasing ability secure work elsewhere implied the reduction in the pyramidal control structure of traditional joint or stem family.

Female discords particularly between mother-in – law and daughter themselves have contributed to the trend of disintegration of joint families Recent studies show the discord between brothers is a growing problem. Some disputes also originated in suspicions of unequal parental treatment and fallso on the death of the patriarch the disintegration of extended or joint becomes obvious if the other problems were already present in the family. The

in the partition of household does not necessarily mean tension or bitterness within the family, in many cases young couples prefer to settle in a new family to avoid or the laming the tension. This is a consequence of the growing spirit of individualism in lessen the society. The ageing parents now prefer to stay in a stem family, rather than in a the society. Migration of young adults from rural to urban areas, or from small town joint land also often their choice of spouse from the other community add to menors for disintegration of families. Changes are noticed the reasons. The kinship networks are be the reason. The kinship networks are becoming small, kinship obligations are not that intense as earlier. Now the conjugal family ties are becoming more intense than that michael the past & yet at the same time they have become more fragile, giving they we greater incidence of separation and divorce in urban areas.

Scholars have often sought to interpret changes in the Indian family system keeping in view the western nuclear family as 'Ideal Type'. They should not however keeping ... the fact that a drastic departure of the Indian family system from its conventional nature to a purely western kind of conjugal family is neither possible ror realistic, as the level of industrial and urban development is still very low and the people are not completely westernized in their outlook. But we have to agree with the people and the available evidence, both from the census and the All India surveys, bears ample testimony to the fact that the nuclear family has become a kind of basic residential unit in urban India.

## FUTURE TRENDS

Family life is changing for most of the people in the world. Sociologists can not predict the future but they can at least rationally indicate the possible trends.

- 1. Divorce rates are increasing day by day. When the people use their choice of ending family life, it is obvious that future of family becomes uncertain to a great extent.
- 2. With so many alternative forms of family it is difficult to expect that traditional family norms long attached to the concept of family would sustain. Cohabiting couples, one parent families and blended families are all on the increase. Though most of the families still follow the pattern of husband-wife-children, more personal choices are likely to grow with coming days.
- 3. The role of the male members to family is continuously being reduced. Though in modern times some of the husbands prefer to stay at homes with home based jobs, it is still an exception. On the other end, the number of the single parent families under the guidance of mother is on the increase. Even the divorced mothers mostly care for the children and they live separately from the male counterpart with children only. With working mothers the need of the fathers to run the family economically is not so strong.

The women can support the family with their caring and with all domestic activities as they have been socialized in this direction for long years.

- What is Kinship?
  What is the difference between consanguineous kin and affinial kin;
  What is the difference between? 5. What are the different usages of Kinship?
  6. Distinguish between classificatory and descriptive systems of kinship.
- 8. Do you believe kinship depends only on social recognition?

  9. What is 6:
- 9. What is Clan?
- 10. Define totemism.
- 11. Differentiate between moiety and phratry?
- 12. Describe clan structure of two Indian tribes.
- 13. Analyse Morgan's views on clan.
- 14. How can you relate clan and kinship?
- 15. Define following terms:
  - (a) Exogamy
  - (b) Endogamy
  - (c) Polygamy
  - (d) Anuloma and Protiloma
  - (e) Levirate and Sororate
- 16. How did marriage originate as a social institution?
- 17. Describe marriage systems among two Indian tribes.
- 18. Differentiate between Hindu marriage and Muslim marriage.
- 19. Discuss the major changes occurred in Indian marriage syster years.
- 20. What are the features of a family?
- 21. Do you think women enjoy equal rights in a family?
- 22. Differentiate between nuclear family and joint family.
- Identify main functions of modern family. 23.
- 24. What are the alternative family forms?