

Sociology

Chapter - 1

Family

i. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1. The word family is derived from the Latin word _____
2. The cell of the society is _____.
3. If the father is the head of the family, that family is called as _____
4. Among the Nayars of Kerala _____ family is found.

Ans: (1) famulus; (2) family; (3) patriarchal; (4) Matriarchal.

ii. Answer the following.

1. How does the family become a social unit?

Family is a unit of society. It is like a living cell. The community develops from a family, leading to the creation of a nation.

2. Mention the types of family.

Families are classified based on different principles.

(A) Based on authority, a family can be classified as Patriarchal and Matriarchal.

(B) Based on marriage, it can be classified as Monogamy, Bigamy and Polygamy.

(C) Based on size, it can be classified as Undivided and Divided.

3. What is a joint family?

The family which has people of more than two generations consisting of parents, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren is called joint family.

The group of people living under one roof, eating food prepared in one kitchen, having equal rights to the property, engaging in same type of worship and having specific blood relatives is called joint family.

4. What is a nuclear family?

A family having husband, wife and their unmarried children is called nuclear or modern family.

5. What are the characteristics of a family?

- **Family is universal-** It is a social system seen in all ages and all countries.
- **It is the basic unit for all social activities.**
- **Continuous responsibility and social accountability.**
- **Bringing up and Nurturing.**
- **Teaches social behaviour-** Right from childhood, the members of the family not only realize their social responsibilities but also understand the need for cooperation.
- **It instructs the tradition-** The social traditions, morality and behaviour are all controlled by the family.

6. Discuss the role of family in individual's social development stages.

- Every activities of social institutions start from the family.

- The political, economical, educational and several other activities of the society begin from the family.
- A child learns its mother tongue in the family.
- It understands the social life around it through the mastered mother tongue.
- Children develop as per the social situation around the family.
- The family teaches the children about the ways of interacting with elders and the peer group.
- This means, the social behaviour, its demands and taboos, indirectly control the children.
- The family teaches behaviours like friendship, freedom and security during childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age.

7. Explain the characteristics of a joint family.

Characteristics of Joint Family:

- 1) Large in size
- 2) Co-ordination and co-operation:
- 3) They reside together under the same roof and use same kitchen.
- 4) Members of the joint family believe in the same religion and practice.
- 5) Self-sufficient unit.
- 6) The senior members of the joint family are entrusted with the authority and responsibility.

8. What are the reasons for the increase of nuclear families in the present days?

Main reasons for the increase of nuclear families in the present days are-

- Individuality, focus on individual achievement, concept of individual happiness,
- change in value system with regard to rights of property,
- progress in the areas of science and technology,
- rapid urbanization,
- democratic values and concept of equality and
- many other things have contributed to the rise of nuclear families.