

Marriage and the Family

Chapter 9

Family

- ...a social unit characterized by economic cooperation, the management of reproduction and child rearing, and a common residence. (and then)
- ...a group united by marriage, blood, and/or adoption in order to satisfy intimacy needs and/or bear and socialize children. (and then)

Family- Cont'd

- ...a social unit composed of two or more people who live together and are related by blood, marriage or adoption.
- ...any group of persons closely related by blood or marriage.
- What function(s) does the family provide?

Functions of the Family

- Sexual Relations
- Reproduction
- Socialization of children
- Economic cooperation
- Human Needs-

Human Needs - Cont'd

- Food
 - Shelter
 - Companionship
 - ...(that marriage provides)
 - Sexual Gratification
- ...is sexual behavior instinctual?

Types of Families

- Nuclear Family-
- ...Husband, wife, children (most common arrangement since the 16th century)
- Extended Family-
- ...a group of three (3) or more generations
- Why is the extended family not common?

Marriage

- ...is a socially approved union between a man and a woman that regulates the sexual and economic rights and obligations between them.
- Functions of Marriage-
- Regulate sexual mating & reproduction
- Regulates the sexual division of labor
- Material, educational, emotional needs of children

Incest Taboo

- ...sexual relations between individuals who are so closely related that they are forbidden to marry by law or custom.
- Natural Aversion Theory-
- Inbreeding Theory-
- Family Disruption Theory-
- Expanding Social Alliances-(Cooperation Theory)

Mate Selection

- Exogamy-
- ...marrying outside of a certain group.

- Endogamy-
- ...marrying within a certain group, requiring a person to select a mate from within one's own group.

Mate Selection- Cont'd

- Arranged Marriages-
- ...the decision of whom one will marry is made by one's parents or other influential family member.
- Preferential Cousin Marriage-
- Cross Cousins
- Parallel Cousins

Mate Selection - Cont'd

- An individual's choice may be limited by a form of mate selection that requires a person to marry the husband or wife of deceased relatives.
- Levirate-
- ...the custom whereby a widow is expected to marry the brother of her dead husband.
- Sororate-
- ...a widower marries the sister (or some close relative) of his deceased wife.

Number of Spouses

- Major types of marriage based on the number of spouses permitted:
- Monogamy-
- ...the marriage of one man to one woman at a time.
- Polygyny-
- ...the marriage of a man to two or more women at a time. (Wodoabe of West Africa)

Number of Spouses - Cont'd

- Polyandry-
- ...the marriage of a woman to two or more men at a time. (Nyinba of Northwestern Nepal)

The Economics of Marriage

- Bridewealth-
- ...the compensation given upon marriage by the family of the groom to the family of the bride. (Approximately 46% of all societies give substantial bridewealth payment as a normal part of the marriage process).
- Bride Service-
- ...occurs when men give their labor to the bride's family instead of material goods in exchange of wives. (14% of societies).

Economics of Marriage- Cont'd

- Dowary-
- ...a transfer of goods or money from the bride's family to the groom, or the groom's family. (Less than 3% of societies).
- Women Exchange-
- ...two men exchange sisters or daughters as wives for themselves, their sons, or their brothers. (Less than 3% of societies).

Economics of Marriage - Cont'd

- Reciprocal Exchange-
- ...involves the roughly equal exchange of gifts between the families of both the bride and the groom. (Approximately 6% of societies).

Residence Patterns

- Patrilocal Residence:
- ...the married couple lives with or near the relatives of the husband's father. (69% of the societies).
- Matrilineal Residence:
- ...the married couple lives with or near the relatives of the wife. (13% of the societies).

Residence Patterns - Cont'd

- Avunculocal Residence:
 - ...the married couple lives with or near the husband's mother's brother. (4% of the societies).
- Ambilocal (Bilocal) Residence:
 - ...the married couple has a choice of living with either the relatives of the wife or the relatives of the husband. (9% of the societies).

Residence Patterns: Cont'd

- Neolocal Residence:
- ...the married couple forms an independent place or residence away from the relatives of either spouse. (5 % of the societies).