

Recorded Society Class 02

1st July, 2024 at 9:00 AM

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS LECTURE (01:06 PM)

JOINT FAMILY (01:08 PM):

- a) Concept.
- b) Types of family:
 - Based on marriage.
 - Based on residence.
 - Based on ancestry.
 - Based on composition.
- c) Features of a typical Indian joint family.
- d) Functions and dysfunctions.
- e) Lifestyle of joint family.
- f) Impact of globalization on joint family.
- Concept:
 - It is defined as a social group consisting of people united by ties of blood, marriage, or adoption.
- Family performs the following functions:
 - i) Common residence.
 - ii) Economic cooperation.
 - iii) Sexual gratification.
 - iv) Reproduction.
- When a family extends for three or more generations, it is referred to as a "Joint family".
- Types of family on the basis of marriage:
 - Globalization - Secularisation - If the social significance of religion has declined - no longer marriage is considered sacred - Therefore, divorce/separation is no longer a taboo.
 - Hence, we can conclude that due to globalization, we are moving from straight to serial monogamy.
 - Under polygyny, one husband has more than one wife, whereas under polyandry one wife has more than one husband.
- Polygyny:

- It is prevalent in Islam along with certain tribes.
- For example, Naga, Juang, Lushai, Gond, etc.
- Polyandry:
 - It is prevalent among the Khasa tribe, Toda, and Kota tribes.
 - According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), data with respect to polygamy (which includes both polygyny and polyandry), maximum incidences among tribals of the North-East, 2.1% among Christians, 1.9% among Muslims, 1.3% among Hindus, and 1.6% among other religious groups.
- Question:
 - Discuss the implication of a skewed sex ratio in Indian society.
 - Due to the skewed sex ratio, polyandrous marriages are on the rise.
 - According to a report by Punjab University, there is a rise in polyandrous marriages due to poverty, lack of agricultural land, and skewed sex ratio.
- Sologamy:
 - Sologamy has recently emerged in the context of India where a female named "Kshama Bindu" practiced it.
 - It's an act of self-love where individuals marry themselves in public ceremony but it doesn't have legal recognition.
 - It's a symbolic ceremony to emphasize self and independence.
 - It is perceived that education and economic empowerment have made women independent and she is no longer dependent on others for survival.
- Types of family on the basis of residence:
 - On the basis of residence:
 - i) Patrilocal - After marriage, the wife goes to the husband's house.
 - ii) Matrilocal - After marriage, the wife stays in her house.
 - iii) Neolocal - Both husband and wife going to third place.

- **Note:**
- According to the Economic Survey, one of the reasons for the skewed sex ratio at birth is the patrilocal nature of families as it is believed that it would lead to the fragmentation of assets.
- A joint family (Cultural Concept) - The daughter-in-law is part of the joint family but the married daughter is not.
- Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) (Economic Concept) - The married daughter is part of HUF but the daughter-in-law is not.
- **Types of family based on ancestry (01:51 PM):**
- a) Patrilineal.
- b) Matrilineal.
- According to the Economic Survey, patrilineality is also one of the main reasons for some meta preferences (Son Meta preference leading to unwanted girl child).
- **Types of family on the basis of composition:**
- a) Joint family (3 or more generations).
- b) Nuclear family (at max two generations).
- In a joint family, blood relations are more important than marital relations whereas in a nuclear family, marital relations are more important than blood relations.
- **Features of a typical Indian joint family:**
- a) Patrilocal.
- b) Patrilineal.
- c) Common residence.
- d) Common Sality (having food together).
- e) Centralized authority where power is wielded by the oldest male member.
- f) Common sharing of property.
- g) Age and sex are the main ordering principles of family hierarchy.
- **Functions and Dysfunctions (02:00 PM):**
- **Functions (positive role):**
- i) Primary socialization:
- **Note:**
- Disintegration of joint families has resulted in incidences of juvenile crime, corruption of the value system, etc.

Functions

Dysfunctions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Primary socialization | • Lack of privacy |
| • Agency of Social Control | • Low standard of women |
| • Agency of social insurance | • High fertility rate |
| • Economic cooperation | • Low standard of living |
| • Emotional and social support | • Self-alienation |

- ii) Agency of social control:
 - In the absence of social control, crime against children is also on the rise, with increasing incidences of suicide in the absence of social support.
- iii) Agency of social insurance:
 - From each according to their ability and to each according to their need.
 - With disintegration, the vulnerability of the marginalized has aggravated.
 - For example, old age, a person with a disability, children, a single woman, etc.
- iv) Economic cooperation:
 - It prevents the fragmentation of assets and secures the economy of expenditure.
- v) Emotional and social support:
 - A joint family acts as an ingroup for many individuals.
- Dysfunctions:
 - i) Lack of privacy.
 - ii) Low standard of women.
 - iii) High fertility rate.
 - iv) Low standard of living.
 - v) Self-alienation (detachment from your own self).
- In a joint family, what we absorb is "us vs them".
- In the context of joint family, there might be the formation of ghettos which leads to a lack of cultural integration.

- The joint family also acts as an ideological conditioning device that always teaches us to obey our elders (Authority).
- It leads to the reproduction of social labour.
- In a joint family, the sexual division of labour is very prominent which limits the opportunity for upward mobility of women.
- In today's time, joint family is emerging as an arena of contradiction and conflict.
- Reproduction of social labour means you are reproducing members who are socially fit, will never question authority, and have no scope for conflict and change.
- Us vs. them means since a joint family creates a ghetto, they always tend to interact among themselves and have less interaction with outsiders - which reduces any cultural integration.
- Life Cycle of a Joint Family (JF) (02:34 PM):
 - a) Disintegration (Joint Family - Nuclear family).
 - b) Re-integration (Nuclear Family - Joint family).
- Disintegration:
 - a) Migration - two types:
 - i) Push:
 - Agriculture distress.
 - Lack of alternative employment opportunities.
 - Lack of basic infrastructure.
 - ii) Pull:
 - Industrialization.
 - Urbanization.
 - Better standard of living.
 - Modern value system.
 - b) Westernization:
 - It has encouraged people to inculcate values such as individualism, nuclear families, and friendship being more important than kinship.
 - c) Alternatives to marriage such as live-in relationships can also lead to the disintegration of a joint family.
- According to Milton Singer, the more a woman is empowered, the more she is aware of her rights, and the more she will assert her rights which will come in direct contradiction with the features of traditional Indian joint family.

- It is believed that certain laws such as minimum wages, property rights, and employment allowances, have reduced the financial dependence on the family which has also created grounds for disintegration.
- With the emergence of the modern value system, it has led to the questioning of regressive practices in society.
- For example, caste endogamy, female labour force participation, etc. has also created grounds for disintegration.
- To evade land ceiling laws, people resorted to theoretical partition which later sowed the seed for actual partition of the family.
- Re-integration:
 - a) (Chain migration + High cost of living) - (Lack of ability to afford separate households) - (Re-integration of joint family).
 - b) Child rearing in a dual-career family.
 - c) Despite the disintegration of JF (structural), functional jointness was still retained.
 - For example, ritual obligation, celebrating festivals, ceremonies, physical, and financial obligations, etc.
 - Hence, a concept was introduced by sociologists known as "Household".
 - Two features:
 - i) Common residence.
 - ii) Common kitchen.
 - Hence, they concluded it might be the joint household that is disintegrating rather than the families.
 - d) Feeling of nativism:
 - e) Changing nature of work (i.e. working from home has also encouraged re-integration).
 - f) Industrialization - Provides the economic basis to sustain a joint family.
- Question (03:06 PM):
 - The lifecycle of a joint family is governed by economic factors rather than social values. Discuss.
 - Approach:
 - Introduction - Define joint family or you can directly start with what is lifecycle.
 - Linking statement - No family remains static - undergoes a life cycle (Joint family to nuclear family and vice-versa).
 - Body:

- Social values impacting the lifecycle of JF (i.e. individualism, modern values, etc.)
- However, largely, determined by economic factors (disintegration, re-integration).
- Conclusion.
- Discussion on the Questions given in the previous class:
- 1. Discuss the negative consequences of abolishing child labour. (10 Marks/150 Words)
 - a) The standard of living will decline and the chances of falling into the trap of poverty will increase.
 - b) It will lead to the denial of opportunities with respect to early skilling and financial independence.
 - c) The cost competitiveness of MSMEs will be negatively impacted as they are dependent on cheap child labour.
 - d) Crime against children will increase.
 - For example, begging, trafficking, child marriage, etc.
 - e) Increased incidences of juvenile crimes due to a lack of educational infrastructure to absorb the withdrawn children.
 - f) Abandonment of children by the parents.
 - Since the resources would be limited, the major brunt will be borne by the girl child.
 - g) It will create a physical burden on the Government as they will have to launch various policies and schemes for rehabilitation.
 - h) Abolishing child labour may deprive the children of the opportunity to pursue education.
- 2. Explain the paradox where on the one hand, the sex ratio is improving whereas on the other hand, the sex ratio at birth is still a challenge. (10 Marks/150 Words) (03:26 PM)

- **Why the sex ratio is improving:**
- **i) Health infrastructure is improving.**
- **ii) Awareness with respect to reproductive health has improved.**
- **iii) Education along with job opportunities for women - delay in the age of marriage - Low fertility rate - Low maternal mortality rate (MMR).**
- **iv) Government schemes with respect to women especially pre-natal, perinatal, and post-natal care which have also reduced MMR.**
- **v) Feminization of old age.**
- **vi) Women empowerment, investment in safety and security infrastructure, Government laws with respect to violence against women, schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, etc. have also improved the health profile of women.**
- **vii) Changing societal norms and attitudes towards gender roles have positively influenced the perception of girls in society.**
- **Sex ratio at birth is still a challenge:**
- **i) A girl child is considered as a social liability because of patrilineality and patrilocality.**
- **ii) Economic liability due to the practice of dowry.**
- **iii) Cultural lag (within family planning desire for a male child).**
- **iv) Misuse of technology.**
- **v) Lack of proper implementation of the PCPNDT Act (The Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Determination) Act 2003).**
- **vi) In the absence of safety and security along with girls being associated with the honour of the family families don't prefer a girl child.**
- **Statement by Andre Betiella - "Law determines the direction in which society should move, but it is the culture which determines the direction in which society actually moves".**

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS - JOINT FAMILY (TO BE CONTINUED.....).