

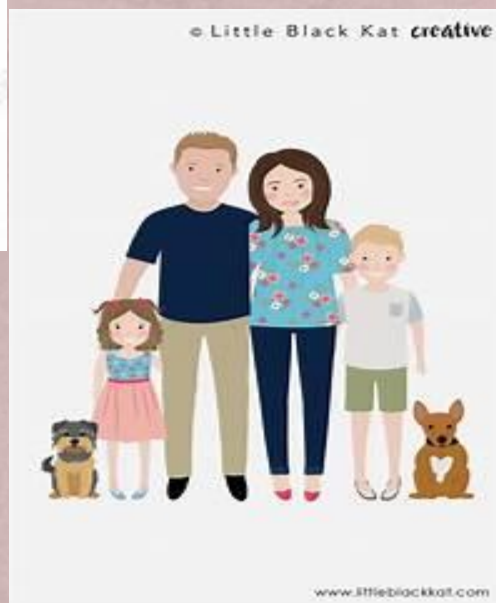
**BSW
SSW 502
WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES**

Lecture 1 – Understanding Families

- + https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_ZFQSVdXN4&t=960s
- + 年少日記 - 反映原生家庭影響

CLASS EXERCISE

- + What is the most significant influence of your family of origin on you?



DEFINING THE FAMILY

+ Questions to consider:

1. What is a family?
2. Is there a universal standard?
3. What do contemporary families look like?

DEFINING THE FAMILY



- + *“A primary group whose members assume certain obligations for each other and generally share common residences”* (Barker, 1991)
- + Social scientists usually feel the need to clarify the meaning by adding qualifiers (合資格的 人) such as nuclear family means husband, wife, and children sharing a household with no other adults present.

DEFINING THE FAMILY

- + Extended family refers to husband, wife, and children sharing a household with other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles.



FAMILY FUNCTIONS

*Functions performed
by families?*



SEVEN FUNCTIONS OF FAMILIES (SATIR, 1967)

- + 1. To provide heterosexual experience for mates
- + 2. To contribute to the continuity of the race by producing and nurturing children
- + 3. To cooperate economically by dividing labors between the adults
- + 4. To maintain a boundary
- + 5. To transmit culture to the children through socialization

- + 6. To recognize when one of its members reaches adulthood
- + 7. To provide for the eventual care of parents by their children

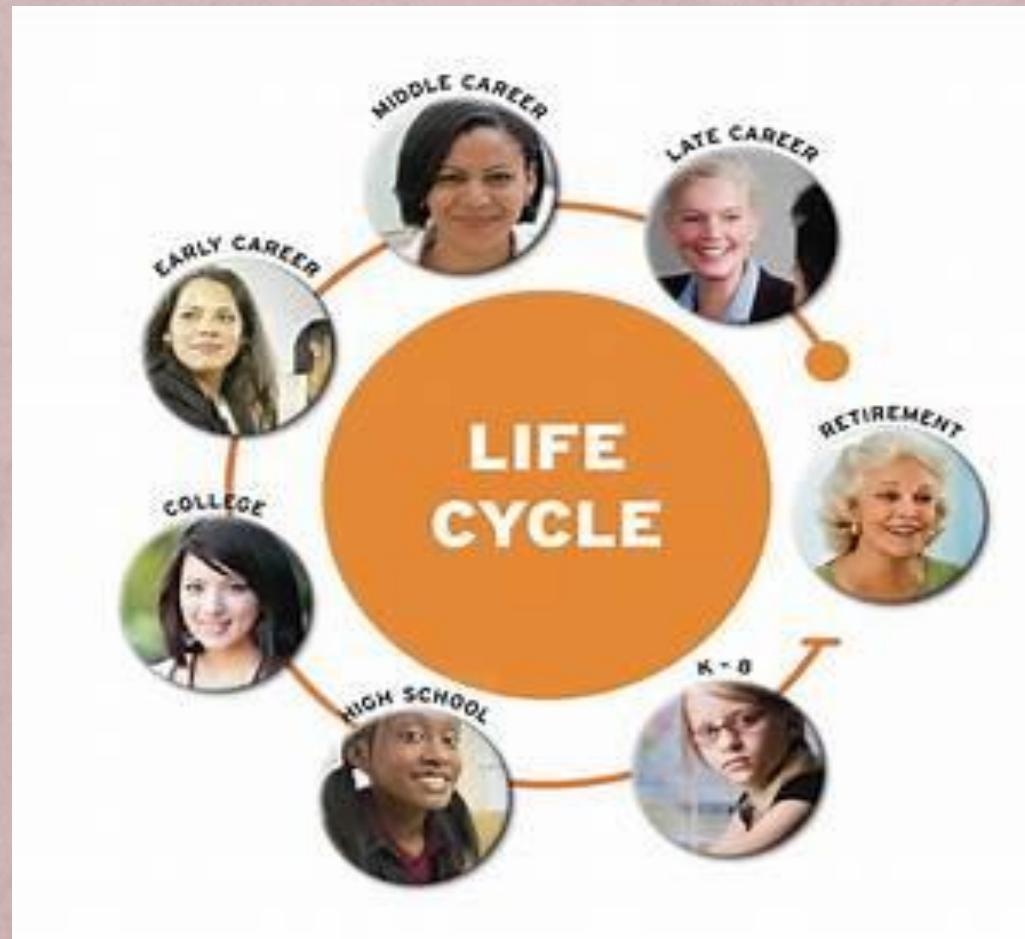


FAMILY LIFE CYCLE (HILL, R, 1987)

- + To understand how a family is functioning
- + The predictable growth and crises
- + Focuses on the developmental tasks facing family and their members and reveals why family stress appears at critical points of development



STAGES OF FAMILY LIFE CYCLE



STAGES OF FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

- + Stage 1 – Marriage / couple
- + Stage 2 – Families with young children
- + Stage 3 – Families with school-aged children
- + Stage 4 – Families with teenagers
- + Stage 5 – Launching
- + Stage 6 – Boomerang stage
- + Stage 7 – Middle-aged parents
- + Stage 8 – Aging family members



STAGE 1 – MARRIAGE / COUPLE

- + On entering a new relationship, they encounter unfamiliar ways of living that may contrast sharply with what is familiar to them in all areas of family life.



- + **Areas of negotiation include:**
- + Economic decisions
- + Emotional / intimacy, dependency, communication style
- + Power arrangements
- + Interpersonal boundaries with each other
- + Deciding whether to have children
- + Domestic responsibilities



STAGE 2 – FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- + Changes include disequilibrium resulting from new roles
- + Preparing for and adapting to the birth of the child
- + Conflict can first arise



- + Carter (2005) identifies 3 unresolved problems of the work-family dilemma:
- + Unequal participation of men in the work at home
- + The inflexibility of the work place
- + The growing number of hours of work in the lives of both men and women



STAGE 3 – FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

- + Establishing strong connections with the institutions
- + Close involvement with the school
- + Involvement of parents
- + Supporting children's adjustment to a formal structured learning situation
- + Parents are challenged as they juggle work responsibilities



STAGE 4 – FAMILIES WITH TEENAGERS

- + A period of paid change for the teen and the family
- + They are moving toward adulthood, causing the family structure to change and emotions to intensify
- + Teenagers face issues regarding sexuality, dating, and navigating between social norms and family norms



- + Struggle to define self-identity
- + Develop a new self-image
- + Centered on peer standards



STAGE 5 – LAUNCHING

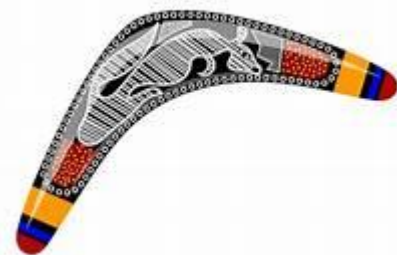


- + Start their own families
- + Finding job or getting into post-secondary education
- + The move to independence is compromised by a continued dependence on parents
- + Today, tend to live with their parents longer
- + Parents face issues of their own and have a renewed opportunity to focus on their relationship
- + Parents find an alternative to their usual focus on their children



STAGE 6 – BOOMERANG STAGE

- + Young people leave and return home for different reasons
- + This leaving-returning cycle requires flexibility and active negotiation
- + Challenge: parent no longer is the authority role and childhood dependence as earlier parent-child days, expect individual freedom



STAGE 7 – MIDDLE-AGED PARENTS



- + At this stage, parents are retiring and often becoming grandparents
- + Middle-aged parents who no longer have their children living with them
- + Parents need to re-establishing themselves as a couple
- + Children roles with their parents are reversed
- + Some children may move far away from their aging parents



STAGE 8 – AGING FAMILY MEMBERS



- + Adjust to becoming older and facing inevitable death
- + Couples become isolated
- + Even more difficult if the couple has inadequate finances
- + Older parents moving into the residence of one of the adult children
- + Role reversal: adult child may take on a caregiving role which disrupt homeostasis as new rules are made



TAKE HOME EXERCISE:

+ What factors influence the family life cycle?



Economic
Factors

Technology

Gender Roles

Health

Life Events

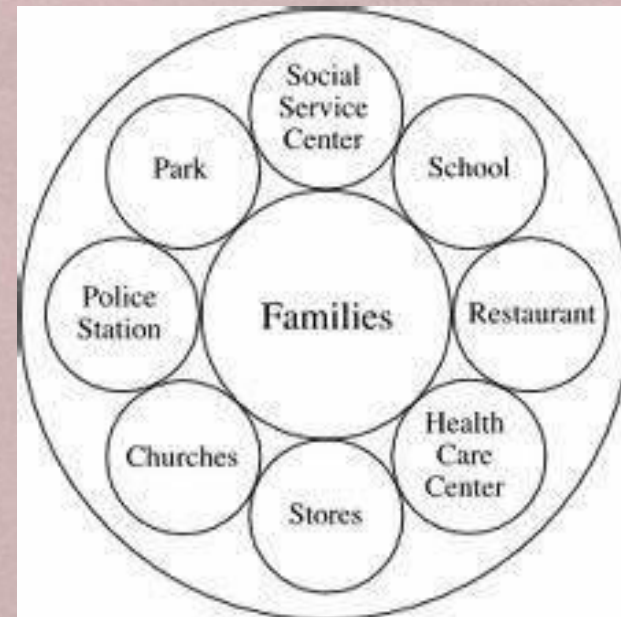
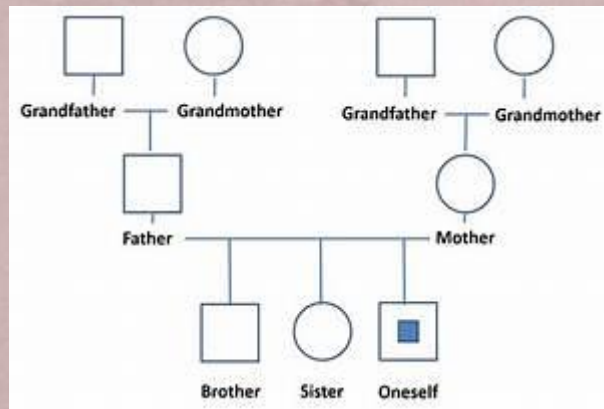
Socioeconomic
Status

SUMMARY

- + The family is the basic social unit in many contemporary societies
- + Family retain many of important functions of providing individual gratification and societal maintenance, such as socialization and social control.
- + The family has a powerful influence on individuals
- + The personality and behavior of individuals are shaped
- + A better understanding of the family

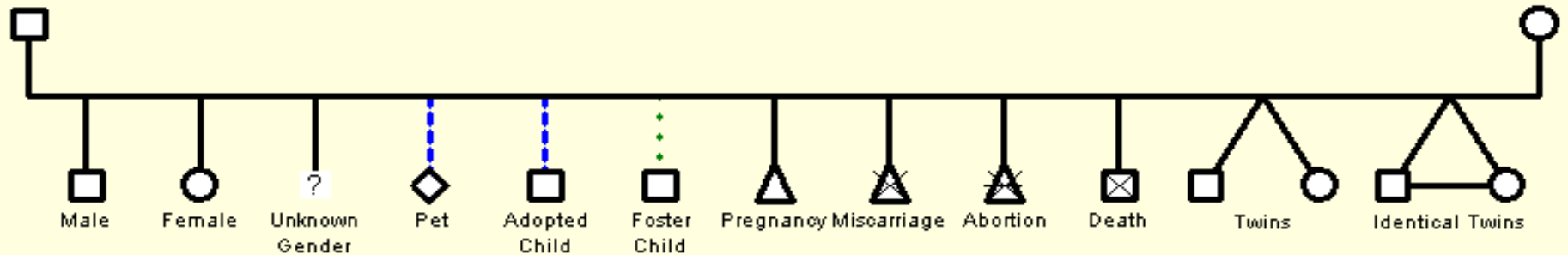
GENOGRAM AND ECOMAP

- + Please refer to the supplementary note.
- + <https://genopro.com/genogram/symbols/>



GENOGRAM SYMBOLS

Genogram Symbols



- + In a standard genogram, there are three different types of children: biological/natural child, adopted child and foster child.

