



মণিপুরৰ শিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংসদ)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur

**UNIT-II**  
**FAMILY: A UNIT OF SOCIETY**

**SOLUTIONS**

**TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**SHORT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q1. Define family.**

**Ans:** Various sociologists have defined family differently.

“By family we mean a system of relationships existing between parents and children”.

**- CLARETHOMAS H.**

“The family is a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise and ensuring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children”.

**-MACIVER.RM and PAVE. C.H.**

“A family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household, interacting and intercommunicating with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister and creating and maintaining a common culture”.

**-E.W.BURGESS and H.L.LOCKE.**

**Q2. Name any four types of family.**

**Ans:** Nuclear family, Joint family, Hindu family and Muslim family.

**OR**

Monogamous family, Polygamous family, Rural family and Urban family.



**Q3. What do you understand by the welfare of the family members?**

**Ans:** Welfare of the family members means

- a) Providing quality education to all children.
- b) Having less number of children.
- c) Eating healthy food (balance diet) for a healthy life.
- d) Avoiding early marriage.
- e) Economic freedom of women.
- f) Small family size to maintain standard of living.

**Q4. What is the importance of family towards mental development and education of each member?**

**Ans:** Family plays a great role in mental development and education of the children. Establishment of nuclear family is needed for a higher and good education as they are costly/expensive. Quality education plays an important role in bringing high level of mental development.

**Q5. Define Hindu family on the basis of marriage.**

**Ans:** Marriage is one of the necessary rights for Hindus. Generally, it is monogamous family with joint family system. Culture and traditions have important roles to play in day to day life. The trend is now becoming towards nuclear family.

**Q6. Define Muslim family with reference to system of marriage.**

**Ans:** Marriage is a religious duty of every Muslim and it is considered to be a moral safeguard and a social need. There is trend polygamy under Muslim law. They are quite orthodox and women are strictly kept under veil.

**Q7. Mention important characteristics of a western type of family with reference to marriage and culture.**

**Ans:** Monogamous marriage system is observed among the people of western culture. The families are nuclear set up in most cases. The culture gives equal rights to men and women. The work responsibilities are equally shared between husband and wife.



## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q1. “There is a change from joint family system to Nuclear family system.” Do you agree? Explain giving reasons to support your views.**
- Q2. Mention various reasons for changes in type of family.**

**(Common Answer for Q1&2)**

**Ans:** I agree with the statement based on the following:

### Social reasons:

- a) **Urbanization:** In the past years, movement of people from rural to urban in hopes of better livelihood change the traditional set up of a family leading to establishment of nuclear family.
- b) **Mobility of population:** Generally people prefer to move to new places to earn more and thus maintain a good standard of living. This resulted to mobility of family and formation of nuclear family.
- c) **Women's education:** With better women education, the marriageable age has also increased and generally has lesser children.
- d) **New sexual morality:** In old times sexual morality had different standards for men and for women. But in modern times, moral code for men and women has become the same. Both are punishable for any offence.
- e) **New direction of recreation:** Most of the recreation today is sought outside the family from outside agencies like movies, club, bars, discos, video houses, etc. For this reason, members of family prefer to stay out more and devote less time to each other.

## Political reasons:

- a) **Changes in authority-** In the past father or head of the family exerted full authority over the members of the family. Now the state (government) has taken lot of responsibility of a family in important areas like education, health care and other welfare services.
- b) **Women's right-** The present day women enjoy equal rights as men which were previously denied. Now they can vote, stand election and has right to inherit parental property. These reforms have raised the status of women and resulted in drastic changes in family patterns.

### Philosophical reasons:

In olden times marriage was thought to be a religious binding, separated them (husband and wife) from bondage only after death. Today, marriage is more like a contract which can be broken by either partner when adjustment becomes a big problem.



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In ancient times there were very close ties with blood relations. Even a person of the same village or town was considered as one's own. This kinship is no more to be seen. The importance placed to self is the most striking change in the philosophical outlook of men.

**Q3. Explain the importance of family in respect of education and health of its people.**

**Ans:** The various function of a family towards education and health has been increasing. Formal education is a must of every child, though it was considered unimportant for girls previously. Professional training and courses are considered better of practical life. Informal education regarding family traditions and culture which a child used to inherit from elder members in joint family, has become almost non-existence because the families are mostly nuclear and both parents are working.

In traditional system, most health related problems were dealt by the old ladies with household method. Only some major problems were treated in the government hospitals. Today most health problems are given more attention and refer to private doctors. Nowadays people are more conscious about health and try to maintain their health through healthy food, exercise and timely treatment.

**Q4. Some of the functions which were being looked after by the family are now being attended by social institutions. Is it going to affect the importance of the family? Explain with reasons.**

**Ans:** Even though some of the functions such as health education and recreation are now taken up by the government /private institutions, the importance of family remain the same. These institutions only provide platform, however it is the family/home that provides the steps to the platform.

**For education and health - (Please see answer to question no.3 above)**

Recreation in olden times was neither considered necessary nor important. Whatever entertainment did exist, it was by medium of folk music, animal fights etc. Today, its significances and sources have increased tremendously. Radio, TV, multimedia channels, VCDs, clubs, fashion shows and many other alternatives are available for recreation of different age groups.

**Q5. Mention different types of family systems. What are the significance of various family systems?**

**Ans:** There are different types of family all over the world. The classification of families is based on the following:



1. On the basis of type of marriage, families are classified as monogamous and polygamous families.
2. On the basis of descent authorities- matriarchal and patriarchal family
3. On the basis of size- nuclear and joint family.
4. On the basis of community- rural and urban family.
5. On the basis of orientation and procreation- family of orientation and procreation.
6. On the basis of relationships-consanguineous and conjugal family.
7. On the basis of religion- Hindu, Muslim and Christian family.
8. On the basis of culture- families of eastern and western culture.

### SIGNIFICANCE

**Monogamous family-** It is formed on the basis of single marriage that is married couple and their biological children.

**Polygamous family-** When one male or one female marries more than one female or male, a polygamous family is formed. These type of family is not common in modern society.

**Matriarchal family-** The family name of the mother's side runs through her children. The husband comes to stay with the wife's relatives.

**Patriarchal family-** Children carry father's name. The father holds the authority to take major decisions.

**Nuclear family-** It refers to such families in which a husband, his wife and their children stay together.

**Joint family-** Husband, wife, their children and husband's relatives stay together.

**Rural family-** It is characterized by early age of marriage, high birth rate and low divorce rate.

**Urban family-** It is characterized by late marriage, less number of children, secular outlook, freedom of women and less attachment of tradition.

**Family of Orientation-** In this family along with the individual, his parents and siblings stay together.

**Family of Procreation-** It is the family which an individual establishes after marriage. Such family consists of husband, wife and their children.

**Consanguineous family-** The family consists of husband, wife and other blood relatives.





**Family with Eastern Culture-** Family members are closely bound to their culture and traditions. Parents in old age are looked after by the family unlike in the western culture.



**Q7. How does the size of the family affect the society? Mention the advantages of small family (i.e. nuclear family) and joint family systems.**

**Ans-** Status of family is judged by the living standard maintained by the family. This can be ensured when family size is small but in large family it becomes difficult to maintain high standard of living as they have to take care of large number of family members.

**Advantages of nuclear family:**

1. As numbers of children are less, parents can provide them with opportunities and safe environment.
2. Nuclear family may have the means to provide good health care for children.
3. Nuclear family provides strong bonding for family members.
4. Quality education is possible.
5. Reduce child birth contribute good health to mothers.

**Advantages of joint family:**

1. Better attention to individual by different family members.
2. Functions of the whole family are control by the head of the family.
3. Fixed role of women to do household work and men to earn a living.
4. Parents in old age are looked after by their family.
5. Family traditions and culture are learned informally from elders.

**EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q1. Name the Latin term of family.**

**Ans.** "FAMULUS".

**Q2. What was the Philosophical reason of marriage in olden times?**

**Ans:** Marriage was thought to be religious binding but separated only after death of a partner.

**Q3. Classify family on the basis of size.**

**Ans:** Nuclear family and Joint family.

**Q4. What is urbanisation?**

**Ans:** It is the movement of the rural population towards urban or cities.

**Q5. Cite some rights given to women which helped to raise their status.**

**Ans:** (i) Voting right, and (ii) Equal right to inherit parental property.



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**Q6. In a nuclear family who has the decision making power?**

**Ans:** Decision making power lies equally in the hands of both husband and wife.

**Q7. What types of recreation do today's family members generally prefer?**

**Ans:** They prefer movies, clubs, bars, multi-media channels, VCDs, video- houses, fashion shows etc. according to their social status.

**Q8. Differentiate between monogamous and polygamous family.**

**Ans: (a) Monogamous Family:** It is formed on the basis of single marriage consisting of husband, wife and their children.

**(b) Polygamous Family:** When one male or a female marries more than one female or male, a polygamous family is formed.

**Q9. Differentiate between rural family and urban family.**

**Ans:** A rural family lives in rural setting, generally an extended family. It is generally characterised by low literacy rate and divorce rate, early age of marriage, high birth rate, agricultural works and traditions.

Whereas, an urban family stays in a city, it is generally characterised by nuclear family, high literacy rate, varied occupation and less orthodox.

**Q10. Differentiate between matriarchal family and patriarchal family.**

**Ans: Matriarchal Family:** In such a family the mother wields the major authority. The mother and her family stay together. The family name of the mother's side runs through her children. The husband comes to stay with the wife's relatives.

**Patriarchal Family:** The authority in such a family lies with the father. The wife goes to stay with her husband and his relatives after their marriage. Children carry father's name. The father holds the authority to take major decisions.

**Q11. What changes have been brought out by industrialization and urbanization to the family?**

**Ans:** As a result of urbanization the family has shifted its role from production unit to a consumption unit.

The movement of rural people to the cities in search of jobs has resulted in disintegration of joint families into nuclear families. Also they no longer continue their traditional household occupation.

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