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The Family



Points to Know :

- ❑ What is a Family?
- ❑ Mother as a Child
- ❑ Adoption and Foster Parents
- ❑ Different Types of Families
- ❑ Where Do Babies Come From?



Getting Started

Family life has undergone tremendous changes in the last 40-50 years. As education has spread and new jobs' opportunities has come up, people have begun to move. This has led to the break-up of joint families and now, nuclear families have become the norm.

Some pictures are given below. Look at them and tell what do they inform you about :



What is a Family?

A **family** is the smallest or the basic unit of society. It is made up of parents and their children who are called its **members**. Depending on the number of its members, the family may be small or big. Family members love and care for each other. They cooperate with each other and help each other. The children in a happy family lead a happy and prosperous life.



Different Types of Families

Families may be small or big. A small family is called a **nuclear family**. It has only the parents and their children living together under the same roof. A big family is called a **joint family**. It has grandparents, parents and their children uncles, aunts and cousins, all living together under the same roof.

Many a times, both the parents in a nuclear family are working. So they cannot devote much time to their children and look-after them. In such a scenario, children stay in **creches** or nannies look-after them; but in a joint family, even if the parents go out to work, the grandparents and other relatives look after the children.



Children of many working parents are looked after by professionally trained caretakers at a creche

In the last few decades, the Indian society has undergone through tremendous changes. In search of better educational and better employment opportunities, members of joint families are leaving behind their families and homes and settling in different towns



Wedding is an occasion for family members to come together

and cities. As a result, the number of joint families is dwindling quite fast while that of nuclear families is going up. Members of joint families who live elsewhere, get together on special occasions like festivals, birthdays, weddings, etc. This strengthens the bond between the family members. The family in which all the members do not stay at one place, but are tied in a strong emotional bond is called **extended family**. Such a family may, sometimes, include both maternal and paternal relatives. Some names by which relatives are addressed are as follows :

Terms used for some relatives	What they mean	Terms used for some relatives	What they mean
mother-in-law	wife's or husband's mother	father-in-law	wife's or husband's father
son-in-law	the husband of the daughter	daughter-in-law	the wife of the son
sister-in-law	husband's sister or wife's sister	brother-in-law	husband's brother or wife's brother
uncle-in-law	wife's or husband's uncle	aunt-in-law	wife's or husband's aunt



Mother as a Child

All the people in this world have one thing in common that they were all born to a mother. Our mother too was once young like us. Talk to your mother and ask her about her childhood, her family, education, friends and ambitions. Also find out about the food she liked, hobbies she had and games she played.



A mother nursing a baby

If you look at your mother's photographs when she was a child, you would barely believe your eyes. But habits and appearances change with time and ages.

Tell Us Wh

Why is the mother called the first teacher of the child? Why is she called Grihalakshami?



The egg of a bird hatching and its young one coming out

Where Do Babies Come From?

All living beings reproduce so that their species may continue. Some animals like birds, fish and reptiles lay eggs from which the babies hatch out. While human beings and animals like cat, dog, cow, camel, monkey, whale and dolphin give birth to their young ones.



FACT TO KNOW

Animals which do not lay eggs, but give birth to their young ones are called **mammals**.

In human beings, the baby develops and grows in the mother's body for nine months. All this while, the baby is provided nutrition through a tube called **umbilical cord**. Once the baby is born, it is fed on its mother's milk. She also cares for it till the child learns to do things on its own. Baby's birth is celebration time in the family. The entire family loves the child and helps it to develop into a confident human being.

Adoption and Foster Parents

There are many unfortunate children who lose their parents due to accidents, natural calamities and wars, etc. Such children are called **orphans**. Government agencies and



some voluntary organisations take care of such children. These agencies and organisation run orphanages, a type of homes for orphans.

Some children leave their homes due to poverty or harsh treatment at their homes. Such children also find shelter at such orphanages.

There are many couples who do not have a child of their own or have lost one. So naturally, they wish to have a child. Such couples can legally take a child from such organisations. This process is called **adoption**. The child so taken in a family is called an **adopted child**. The couple who adopt a child are called its **foster parents**. They love the child as their own.



The reasons for adoption are many. Some couples do not have a child due to medical reasons. Some couples may have lost their children due to some unfortunate accident. Some couples also wish to give a home to a homeless child.

The family also provides us an identity besides fulfilling our basic needs and providing us love and care. Hence, one must take care of the family, respect elders and keep the parents happy.

Words to know

Creche	:	The place where babies and children are cared for while their parents are out for working
Nanny	:	The lady who takes care of young children at the latter's home
Voluntary	:	Organisations which work for social causes and not for profit
Legally	:	As per law
Hobbies	:	Things done in free time



Revision

- ❖ A family is the smallest unit of society.
- ❖ Basically families are nuclear and joint.
- ❖ Everyone in this world is born of his/her mother.
- ❖ A mother's life before and after her marriage is different.
- ❖ Living beings reproduce babies just like themselves so that their species continue.
- ❖ Animals either lay eggs or give birth to their babies.
- ❖ The process in which childless couples take a child into their family legally is called adoption.
- ❖ Reasons for adoption are different.



Exercise

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer :

- Family has undergone tremendous :
(a) turns (b) twists (c) changes
- People have begun to move due to:
(a) education (b) job opportunities (c) Both of these
- The smallest unit of the family is:
(a) an individual (b) the family (c) None of these
- Families may be:
(a) small (b) big (c) Both of these
- Living beings reproduce by :
(a) laying eggs
(b) giving birth to their young ones
(c) Both of these

B. Fill in the blanks :

- A small family is also called a _____ family.
- Grandparents, parents and their children uncles, aunts and cousins live together in a _____ family.
- Extended family members gather together on _____ occasions.
- _____ are animals which give birth to their young ones.
- Children who have lost their parents are called _____.

C. State whether True or False :

- Non-living things also reproduce. _____
- Human baby develops and grows inside the mother's body for nine months. _____
- Birds and reptiles lay eggs. _____
- Some people also adopt a child. _____
- Mother's relatives are called maternal relatives. _____

D. Answer the following questions :

- Why has the family undergone changes?
- Who is an orphan?



3. Write some qualities of a happy family.
4. Who are mammals?
5. What is adoption? Who can adopt a child legally?



Activities

A. In groups of five, collect pictures of various animals with their young ones and make a colourful collage. Put it up on the class noticeboard.

B. Do a 'baby survey'. Find out all about a baby in your family or neighbourhood. Answer the questions given below :

1. When was the baby born? _____
2. Is the baby a boy or girl? _____
3. Where was the baby born? _____
4. Who does the baby look like? _____
5. What is the colour of his/her hair? _____
6. What is the colour of his/her eyes? _____
7. Does the baby have any teeth? _____
8. How many hours a day does the baby sleep? _____
9. Who does the baby stay with most of the time? _____
10. What different sounds does the baby make? _____

C. Find out more about your mother's childhood. Ask her the following questions :

1. In which city did she live? _____
2. In which school did she study? _____
3. What games did she play? _____
4. Who were her best friends? _____
5. What were her hobbies? _____
6. What type of dresses did she wear? _____

D. Name the members of your family in the space given below :

