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## Families : Then and Now



### Points to Know :

- ▣ New Members in The Family
- ▣ Changing Roles
- ▣ Family Values and Traditions
- ▣ Changes in Family Structure
- ▣ Redefined Relationships



### Getting Started

Pictures of some families are given below. Look at them and name the type of each family. Which family resembles your own?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In our society, there are two types of families : **immediate** and **extended**. An **immediate family** is made up of parents and their children. An **extended family** is made up of grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts and cousins. Members of an extended family get together on special occasions like birthdays, weddings and festivals. Family members on the mother's side are called **maternal relatives** while family members on the father's side are called **paternal relatives**.



### FACT TO KNOW

In the ancient times, marriage by kidnaping or abduction was the norm among some tribes. The man would kidnap a woman on his back, keep her hidden for a year and then have a marriage ceremony with the consent of her parents.



## New Members in The Family

The number of family members keeps on changing and is never constant. It changes as a new member arrives and an old one departs. The arrival of a baby in the family brings joy and happiness. The baby's birth adds a new member to the family besides bringing a lot of changes. Another occasion which adds a member to the family is marriage of a male member. According to Indian family tradition, after the marriage, the **bride** comes to live with the **bridegroom's** family. Marriage and the birth of a baby are happy occasions and the whole family gets together to celebrate them.



Changes in the family also take place when someone, old or young, dies. Death is an unwelcome event as it causes sorrow and brings down the number of family members.



### Activity

In your scrapbook, draw or paste a picture of a special occasion celebrated in your family recently.

## Changes in Family Structure

In the century gone by, the structure of the family has undergone tremendous changes.

### Old Family Structure

In earlier times, nearly every second family was joint family. The eldest male family member headed the family and took all the important decisions on its behalf. Only the male family members went out to work while the female family members took care of household chores. There were many children in the family. Boys were valued more and considered superior to the girls and so, were provided proper education. The girls were trained in household chores and married off at an early age.

### New Family Structure

The family structure has undergone tremendous changes in the last few decades. More often than not, both the parents go out to work. Such working couples hire maids and nannies to look after their children and household. All the decisions in the family are taken with the consent of all. In the present times, boys and girls are considered equal. Both are provided proper education in the field which they desire. Children too leave the family for higher education and better jobs.



## Changing Roles

With the passage of time, old familial arrangements have been replaced by new ones. In the new set up, opinion of each family member is given equal weightage in decision-making. Women's role has acquired added significance. They go out of the house to study, work and earn. Grown-up children express their decisions and opinions freely. Parents and children have mutual healthy and meaningful relationship.



## Redefined Relationships

Earlier, age of a person was accorded utmost importance. That's why, the family patriarch was valued and every decision was left to him. Other family members abided by his decisions even if they disagreed with him. Nowadays, nearly all the family members are well-educated and hence, more confident and independent. No decisions are imposed and they are taken after proper and mutual consultations.

## Family Values and Traditions

The family is our first school which teaches us basic values. We share our joys and sorrows and discuss each other's problems. It also teaches us the importance of cooperation, peace and harmony. Beliefs, customs, rituals and practices handed down from one generation to another constitute our core family values and traditions which are preserved and nurtured. When young members of the family are inculcated good and sensible values, it does well for the society.

### Tell Us Wh

Which are the values, beliefs and traditions cherished in your family? How have they contributed?

### Words to know

<b>Opinions</b>	:	Thoughts of a person about a particular topic
<b>Sorrows</b>	:	Hurtful or painful feelings
<b>Patriarch</b>	:	Male head of the family
<b>Abide by</b>	:	To follow
<b>Familial</b>	:	Of the family
<b>Mutual consultation</b>	:	Discussions with each other
<b>Harmony</b>	:	A state of peace and tranquility
<b>Inculcated</b>	:	Absorbed





## Revision

- ❖ Immediate family is made up of parents and their children.
- ❖ Extended family is made up of grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts and cousins.
- ❖ Marriage and a baby's birth add members to the family.
- ❖ Family structure has undergone tremendous changes down the years.
- ❖ Earlier, men went out to work and took all the important decisions.
- ❖ Today, grown up children are well-educated, confident and independent.
- ❖ Family values and traditions are handed down from generation to generation.

## Exercise

### A. Tick (✓) the correct answer :

1. In our society, the two types of family are :  
 (a) immediate  (b) extended  (c) Both of these
2. Members of extended family meet each other on:  
 (a) birthdays and festivals   
 (b) marriages   
 (c) Both of these
3. In ancient times, marriage by kidnapping was the norm among :  
 (a) some tribes  (b) some places  (c) some kingdoms
4. A member is added to the family in the event of a:  
 (a) marriage of male member   
 (b) arrival of a baby   
 (c) Both of these
5. Today, children are much more :  
 (a) educated  (b) confident  (c) Both of these

### B. Fill in the blanks :

1. Family members on the mother's side are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Family members on the father's side are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Kidnapping means the same as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Change in the family also takes place when someone \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Earlier, \_\_\_\_\_ of a person was accorded utmost importance.

### C. State whether True or False :

1. The bride stays with the bridegroom's family before marriage. \_\_\_\_\_



2. Death is an unwelcome event. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Family structure has not changed at all. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Old familial arrangements have been replaced by new ones. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Family structure has undergone changes in the last few decades. \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Match the following :**

**Column A**

1. Education
2. Peace
3. Bride
4. Values
5. Birth

**Column B**

- (a) Harmony
- (b) Occupation
- (c) Death
- (d) Bridegroom
- (e) Traditions

**E. Answer the following questions :**

1. What is immediate family?
2. What is extended family?
3. How were the families in earlier times different from the families today?
4. How are the decisions in the family taken today?
5. What is the importance of the family?

 **Activities**

**A. Write any two values you have imbibed from your family members.**

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**B. There are some family members you must have heard about, but never met. It is always good to keep in touch with them. Choose one of the ways given below and get in touch with them.**

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. send an e-mail | 2. make a call |
| 3. write a letter | 4. send an sms |
| 5. plan a visit   | 6. invite them |

