

BNU 2112: Sociology & Psychology in Nursing

FAMILY STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lesson, student should be able to:

- Define the term family
- Explain the essential characteristics of a family
- Describe types of a family structure
- Describe the functions of a family
- Discuss the changes in a family life

Introduction to Family

- Most basic and important primary group of society
- Fundamental unit of human society
- Family as basic and essential building blocks of societies
- Family has a crucial role in social development
 - bear the primary responsibility for the education and socialization of children as well as instilling values of citizenship and belonging in the society.

“ If you want to improve society improve its families “ (Confucius)

Introduction to Family

- Organizational structure of family
 - a formal organizational structure
 - due to the hierarchy that exists, imposed by natural order and by the government through law enforcement; for example, parents and offspring, or adults and children under their charge
- These structures include:
 - Nuclear families.
 - Single-parent families.
 - Extended families.
 - Childless families.
 - Stepfamilies.
 - Grandparent families.

Definition of Family

“Two or more individuals sharing a residence, possess a common emotional bond, engaged in interrelated social positions, roles and tasks, share a sense of affection and belonging” (Murray & Zentner, 1997)

“A group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption; and residing together in a household”

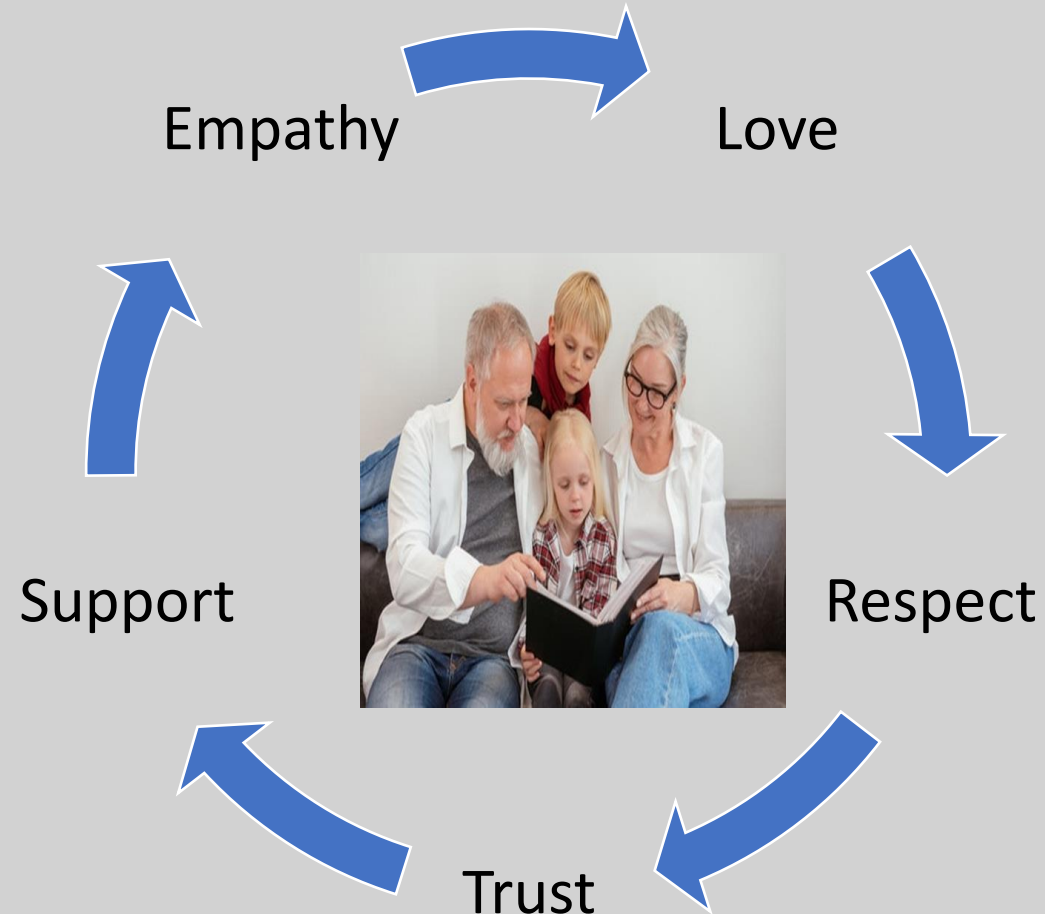
US National Centre for Health Statistics (1990)

Definition of Family

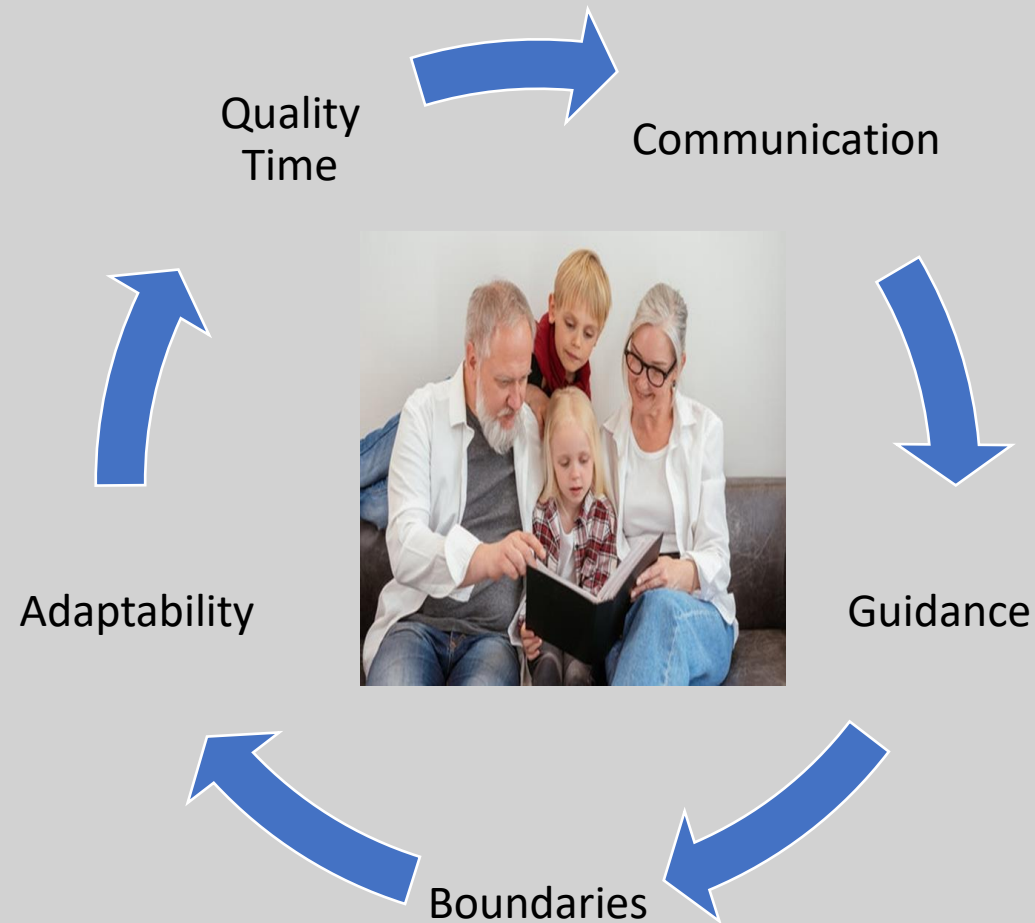
A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together; all such related persons are considered as members of one family.



Characteristics of a Family



Characteristics of a Family



Types of a Family

- Blood relationships
 - Conjugal family
 - Spouses, their off springs and relatives through marriage – consanguineous family
 - Consists of blood relatives together with their mates and children

Types of a Family - Ancestry

- Matrilineal
 - Mother is basis of ancestry
 - Mother is believed to be the ancestor of the family
 - Rights of each member of the family depends on their relation to the mother
- Patrilineal
 - Father is basis of ancestry
 - Ancestry continues through the father
 - Prevalent in most societies

Types of Family – Structure

- Nuclear/Elementary family
 - Consists of husband, wife and their children
 - Children leave parental home as soon as they are married
 - Autonomous split
 - Free from control of elders



Types of Family – Structure

- Extended/Joint family
 - A few number of nuclear families together
 - Usually 3 generations – husband and wife with married and unmarried children and married and unmarried grand children
 - Controlled by the eldest member of the family



Types of Family – Structure

- Blended or reconstituted family
 - A family consists of children from previous marriages living together with new families
- Single parent family
 - Divorce, separation, desertion or death of one partner
 - Live separately or individually

Single Parents



Types of Family – Structure

- Cohabiting family
 - Two people live together with mutual consent without marriage
- Foster family
 - Couples who offer to care for children from broken homes or orphaned
 - Needs legal authorization

Types of Family – Structure

- Homosexual family
 - gay and lesbian families
 - same goals of caring and commitment as in heterosexual relationships



Types of Family – Authority

Patriarchal – Most common

- Male head of the family possesses the powers
- Owner and administrator of property, rights, all in the family are subordinates
- After marriage wife lives in the home of the husband
- Father/eldest male member is supreme lord of the family property
- Descent through father
- Children are known by the name of the father
- Children can inherit father's property but no right over the mother's family property

Types of Family – Authority

- **Matriarchal**
 - Woman as head of the family
 - Males are subordinate
 - Owner of property and rules over the family
 - Descent through mother
 - Marriage relations are transient.
 - Sometimes husband is only a visitor
 - Children are brought upon the home of the wife's relations
 - Property transferred through mother and only to the female

Types of Family – Marriage

- Monogamous
 - One man married to one woman
- Polygamous
 - One man marries many women at one time/several occasions
- Polyandrous
 - One woman marries many men and lives with all of them or with each of them alternately

Other Types of Family

- **Residence**
 - Matrilocal
 - Husband goes to live in the house of the wife after marriage
 - Patrilocal
 - Wife goes to live in the house of the husband after marriage
- **In group or Out group**
 - Endogamous
 - Sanctions of marriage only among members of the in group
 - Exogamous
 - Sanctions members in group to marry with an out group

Functions of a Family

Affective and coping

- Keeps family united and bonded
- Provide emotional comfort to family members
- Affection, sympathy, love and psychological security
- Provide companionship
- Sympathetic relationships and encouragement for lasting relationships

Functions of a Family

Economic

- Division of labor
- Man, women, children
- Arrangement for financial income
- Organization and care of property
- Monetary needs of society

Protection

- Care of children
- Weak and helpless

Functions of a Family

Recreational

- Group activities arranged to provide entertainment
- Holidays, birthdays , religious functions
- Enjoy life and activities which are satisfying and meaningful

Educational

- Agent of education
- Basic learning begins with family

Functions of Family

Socialization

- Transmits beliefs, values, attitudes, coping mechanism
- Acquire characteristics from family
- Provides feedback
- Conveyor of traditions
- Mother tongue
- Guides problem solving

Functions of Family

Socialization

- Societal controls
- Norms of the culture -obey elders, sympathy for young and old,
- Relationship –legitimate marriage & children
- Accumulation and transmission of social heritage (customs, values) intact and pass on to next generations

Changes in Families – Recent

- Decline of mores and religious beliefs
- Economic independence and emancipation of women
- Decline in birth rate
- Parent youth conflict
- Children dominate the family with their wishes determine decisions -career

Nurse-Family Partnership Video



Summary



Question Time

The family in which spouses, their offspring and other relatives through marriage, live together, is called as _____

- (a) conjugal family
- (b) consanguineous family
- (c) monogamous family
- (d) polyandrous family

Question Time

The 'nuclear family' means:

- (a) a group of people sharing living accommodation and meals
- (b) a network of relatives extended within or between generations
- (c) the new family created when an adult leaves home and gets married
- (d) two generation unit of parents and their children