

Chapter 12:

Marriage and Family



Marriage and Family in Global Perspective

- <u>Family</u>—consists of people who consider themselves related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
 - Nuclear vs Extended families

Which is most prominent in the U.S.?

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Descent

- A patrilineal system —descent is traced only to the father's side.
 - Patriarchy —men dominate women.
- A matrilineal system —descent is traced only to the mother's side.
 - Matriarchy —women dominate men.



Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective

How might a functional theorist view the family?

The family is universal because it fulfills basic needs or functions within society.

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Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective

What are some of the functions fulfilled by the family?

- socialization of children
- care of the sick and aged
- recreation
- sexual control
- reproduction
- continuation of the society

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Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective

 Functionalists —believe the <u>nuclear</u> family has some disadvantages when compared to the <u>extended</u> family.

What might these be?

- Nuclear family does not provide the social supports provided by extended families
- May create isolation and emotional overload



Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective

How might a conflict theorist view the family?

within the family there is a struggle over scarce resources.

- Power struggle between men & women
- Women pull a "second-shift" at home.

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The Second Shift

What is the second shift?

- —the household duties that follow the days work for pay.
 - Typically, this is seen as the wife's responsibility.
 - Men "help out" when they feel like it.
 - The strains from working the second shift affect not only the marital relationship, but also the wife's self-concept.

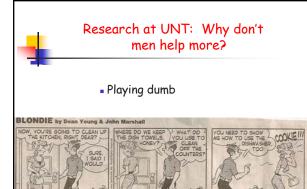
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Research at UNT

- Dr. Seward of the sociology department is an international figure in the study of the family and in particular fathers.
 - Men's behavior lags behind their attitudes (for example: Many men believe in sharing work equally but still resist doing housework.)

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Research at UNT

- Gail Markle—Masters Degree Work: Research on young women's preparation for work and family
 - Young women (and men) do not anticipate the difficulties in juggling the two



Symbolic Interactionists

What might a symbolic interactionist focus on when studying marriage and family?

What people perceive to be a "marriage" and a "family."

What people define as "love", "marriage", "family"?



The Family Life Cycle

- Love
- Marriage
- Childbirth
- Childrearing
- The empty nest
- The not-so-empty nest



The Family Life Cycle: Love

1. Love:

- Romantic love— people being sexually attracted to one another and idealizing the other.
- Often it is thought of as the only basis for Western marriages.
 - In the U.S. love produces marriage but in India marriage often produces love



The Family Life Cycle: Marriage

- 2. Marriage —a group's approved mating arrangements, usually marked by a ritual.
 - Mate selection —each human group establishes norms to govern who marries whom.



The Family Life Cycle: Marriage

What are the most common causes of divorce in the U.S.?

- Money
- Children



The Family Life Cycle: Childbirth

3. Childbirth:

- Marital satisfaction decreases with childbirth.
- For the average working class couple, the first baby arrives just 9 months after marriage.



4: Childrearing

Working Class:

- Physical punishment
- Sets limits but gives freedom (wild flower)
- Stresses conformity

Middle Class:

- Withholds affection
- Provides guidance thru planned activity (garden grown)
- Stresses curiosity and self expression



The Family in Later Life: Empty Nest

- The empty nest —when the last child leaves home, and the husband and wife are left.
 - Women's satisfaction generally increases when the last child leaves home
 - U.S. children are leaving home later.

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The Family in Later Life

6. The not-so-empty nest

—children often return home for an extended period of time

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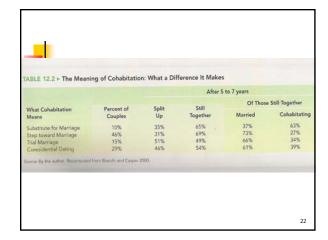
Trends in U.S. Families

- Postponing Marriage
- Cohabitation adults living together in a sexual relationship without being married.
 - Eight times more today than thirty years ago.

Why has cohabitation increased?

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Trends in U.S. Families

Why has cohabitation increased?

- pre-marital sex not stigmatized
- young persons' experiences with divorce and the desire to avoid it

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Trends in U.S. Families

- The sandwich generation people who are responsible for both their children and their aging parents.
- Grandparents as parents



Divorce and Remarriage

- A couple's chances of still being married at the end of one year are 98%.
- The United States has the highest divorce rate in the world.

Why is divorce so high?

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Two Sides of Family Life

- The Dark Side
 - Family Violence

 each year
 about 3 million
 children are
 reported victims
 of abuse or
 neglect.
- The Bright Side
 - Successful
 Marriages—two
 of every three
 married
 Americans
 report they are
 very happy with
 their marriages.

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Children Adapting to Divorce

What factors do you think contribute to a child successfully adapting to divorce:

- Child feels close to both parents
- Child experiences little conflict and feels loved
- Lives with a parent who is making a good adjustment
- Has consistent routines

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The Future of Marriage and Family

- Two out of three married couples report they are very happy with their marriages.
- Marriage is in no danger of becoming a thing of the past.
- Marriage is functional and exists in every society.

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