Chapter 2: Families Throughout the World: Marriage, Family and Kinship

Family Functions
1. What are the functions of the family?
2. Do the functions of the families vary depending on the structure of the family?
3. How have the functions of families changed since the turn of the twentieth century?

Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals
- Marriage
- Regulation of Sexual Behavior
  - Incest Taboo – A rule forbidding sexual activity (and marriage) among close family members
- Reproduction and Socializing Children
- Property and Inheritance
- Economic Cooperation
Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals

- Social Placement, Status, and Roles
  - Statuses – Social positions in a group or society
  - Roles – Behaviors associated with social positions in society
  - Ascribed Statuses – Statuses that we are born into
  - Achieved Statuses – Statuses achieved on our own
- Care, Warmth, Protection, and Intimacy

Sources of Comparative Data

- Human Relations Area Files, Inc. (HRAF)
  - Data that facilitates worldwide comparative studies of human behavior, society and culture
- Standard Cross Cultural Sample (SCCS)
  - A sample of preindustrial societies
  - Covers 186 provinces throughout the world

Marriage Patterns & Structures

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of monogamy and polygamy?
Variations in Marriage Patterns

- Endogamy – Norms that encourage marriage between people of the same social category
- Exogamy – Norms that encourage marriage between people of different social category
- Example: Marriage among the !Kung San of Southern Africa
- Monogamy – The law or custom that does not allow individuals to have multiple spouses
  - Example: Comparative Marital Patterns

Polygamy – A law or custom that allows for more than one spouse at a time (gender unspecified)

Polygyny – The marriage pattern in which husbands can have more than one wife
  - Example: A Personal Ad From Adolph, Mary, and Megan

Polyandry – The marriage pattern that involves one woman and several husbands

Power & Authority in Marriage

- What kind of marriage do you envision for yourself—egalitarian or patriarchal, for example?
- Do you believe husbands/fathers should be the “head of the household?” Discuss.
- What areas of family life do you believe are most vulnerable to patriarchy?
Patterns of Power and Authority

- Patriarchy – A form of social organization in which the norm is that men have a natural right to be in positions of authority over women.
- Matriarchy - A form of social organization in which the norm is that the power and authority in society would be vested in women.
- Egalitarian – The expectation that power and authority are equally vested in both men and women.

Patterns of Kinship, Descent, and Inheritance

- Bilateral – Descent can be traced through both male and female sides of the family.
- Patrilineal – A decent pattern in which lineage is traced exclusively (or at least primarily) through the man’s family line.
- Matrilineal – A decent pattern characterized as having the lineage more closely aligned with the women’s families rather than the men’s families.

Patterns of Residence

- Neolocal – The married couple is expected to establish its own residence and live there independently.
- Patrilocal – A married couple will live with the husband’s family.
- Matrilocal – The married couple is expected to live with the family of the wife.
Families Around the World

- Non-Industrialized Nations: Example: India
- Cultures in Transition: Example: Japan
- Towards Equality: Example: Sweden
  - Infant Mortality Rate – The number of deaths within the first year of life per 1,000 births in the population
  - Child Allowance – A cash grant from the government for each child

Video: Family Values: An American Tragedy

- Traces the experience of filmmaker Pam Walton as she struggles to reunite with her "family values" father after a long-standing rift.

Modernization Theory: Social Change and Families

- Modernization – A process of social and cultural transformation from traditional societies to modern societies that influences all dimensions of social life
- The Loss of Community
  - Gemeinschaft – A type of society that emphasizes the intimacy found in primary relationships
  - Gesellschaft – A type of society that is based on largely impersonal secondary relationships
World Revolution and Family Patterns

- Mate selection became freer
- Shifted away from the extended family
- Kinship evolved toward bilateral
- Families became more egalitarian

World Systems Theory: Social Change and Families

- World Systems Theory – A perspective that focuses on the economic and political interdependence and exploitation among nations