

**14****KINSHIP**

**M**an is social by nature. He establishes many types of relationships with a number of persons. The most important of these relationships is known as *kinship*. You find yourself surrounded by several kins in your family as well as outside it.

A normal adult male is a son, a brother, a nephew, an uncle and so on. Similarly, a female is a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother and aunt etc.

Such relationships based either on marriage or blood-ties are known as KINSHIP relations. In the present lesson you will learn about kinship ties and its various aspects.

**OBJECTIVES**

After reading this lesson, you will be able to:

- define and understand the meaning of kinship;
- describe the different types and degrees of kinship;
- explain the function and importance of kinship;
- describe various kinship terms;
- describe different kinship groups; and
- describe kinship behaviour usages.

**14.1 MEANING AND DEFINITION OF KINSHIP**

Kinship is a method of acknowledging relationship. It is a social bond initiated by genetic or blood ties as well as marriage. Kinship ties are of fundamental importance



in every society all over the world. Everywhere, it is the social recognition and expression of family relationships formed on the basis of marriage, procreation or adoption. In fact, social recognition of a relationship is more important than biological bond. If a relationship is not recognized or accepted socially, then it is not included within the realm of kinship.

Kinship relations are socially recognized based on descent, marriage or adoption. It is the expression of relations in biological idioms. Kinship can be defined as relationships based on descent, marriage or adoption.

The spread of kinship relations is possible because every normal adult belongs to two types of overlapping families - viz. *family of orientation* and *family of procreation*. The prohibitive rules of marriage and incest restrict his becoming father and husband in the same family in which he is a son or brother.

A person is born in a family of orientation and later establishes the second elementary family through marriage i.e. family of procreation.

## 14.2 TYPES OF KINSHIP

Family is the point of departure for studying kinship. There are basically two types of kinship within a family:

- (i) Affinal Kinship
- (ii) Consanguineous Kinship

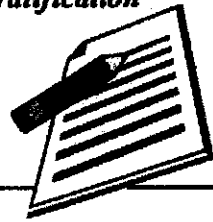
### (i) Affinal Kinship

This type of kinship is based on marriage. The most primary affinal relationship is the one between a husband and a wife which in its extended form includes parents and siblings of both sides and their spouses and children. Hence, the relationship between son-in-law and father-in-law is an example of affinal kinship. Similarly, one's brother-in-laws and their children are also examples of affinal kins.

### (ii) Consanguineal Kinship

The type of kinship based on descent is called consanguineal kinship, commonly known as blood relation.

The relationship between a child and his parents, between children of the same set of parents, between uncles and nephews/nieces are examples of consanguineous kinship.



Notes

Blood relationship or consanguineous kinship is based on biological fact of genetic relationship between parents and children. The relationship between mother and child is the starting point of consanguineal kinship, which in its extended form includes the child's father, grandparents, uncles, cousins, aunts and so on.

The kins may not be always related to each other by real blood or marital ties; rather there might be imaginary or assumed relationship between them. Such assumed relationship may be called fictive kinship. In fact social recognition of biological fact overrides the actual biological connection in kinship.

Among the Todas of Nilgiri hills, a woman has more than one husband at a time. Hence, her children may have different biological fathers but all the children are considered to be of the husband who last performed the armorial presentation of bow and arrow to the common wife. Even though such a person may not be alive, he will be considered to be the husband of the common wife and the father of all the children until another husband performs the ritual. Adoption of a child is also an example of establishment of kinship between a child and his adopter.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 14.1

1. Write 'True' or 'False' against the statement.

Kinship is a relationship based on blood ties or marriage.

2. Fill in the blank

Kinship based on descent is known as \_\_\_\_\_ kinship.

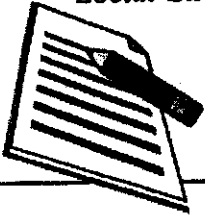
3. Mark the correct answer

The family in which a person is born is his

- (i) family of procreation
- (ii) family of orientation
- (iii) None
- (iv) Both

### 14.3 DEGREE OF KINSHIP

We can also categorize the kinship relationships in terms of degree of closeness into following types:



Notes

**(i) Primary Kin**

Primary kins or first degree kins are those who are directly related to each other. These kins may belong to the family of orientation i.e. the one in which we are born and brought up. For example, our father, mother, brothers and sisters are our primary kins because we are directly related to these persons through blood or genetic ties. Husband-wife relationship is an example of primary affinal kin. A person (or ego) may have seven types of primary kins viz. mother, father, son daughter, brother, sister, husband or wife.

**(ii) Secondary Kin**

The primary kins of our first degree kins are our secondary kins. They are not directly related to us but through primary kins. There can be 33 types of secondary kins. Examples of secondary kin are : Father's father i.e. paternal grandfather, mother's father i.e. maternal grandfather, father's mother i.e. paternal grandmother, wife's or husband's brothers and sisters, parents and so on.

**(iii) Tertiary Kin**

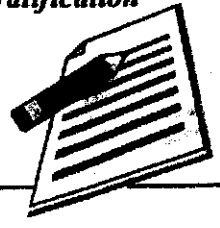
The primary kins of our secondary kins or secondary kins of our primary kins are known as our tertiary kins or third degree kins. For example, your brother-in-law is your secondary kin and his wife or children who are his primary kins become your tertiary kin.

These are 151 types of tertiary kins. For example, Father's brother's wife, father's sister's husband, father's mother's brother, father's mother's sister and so on.

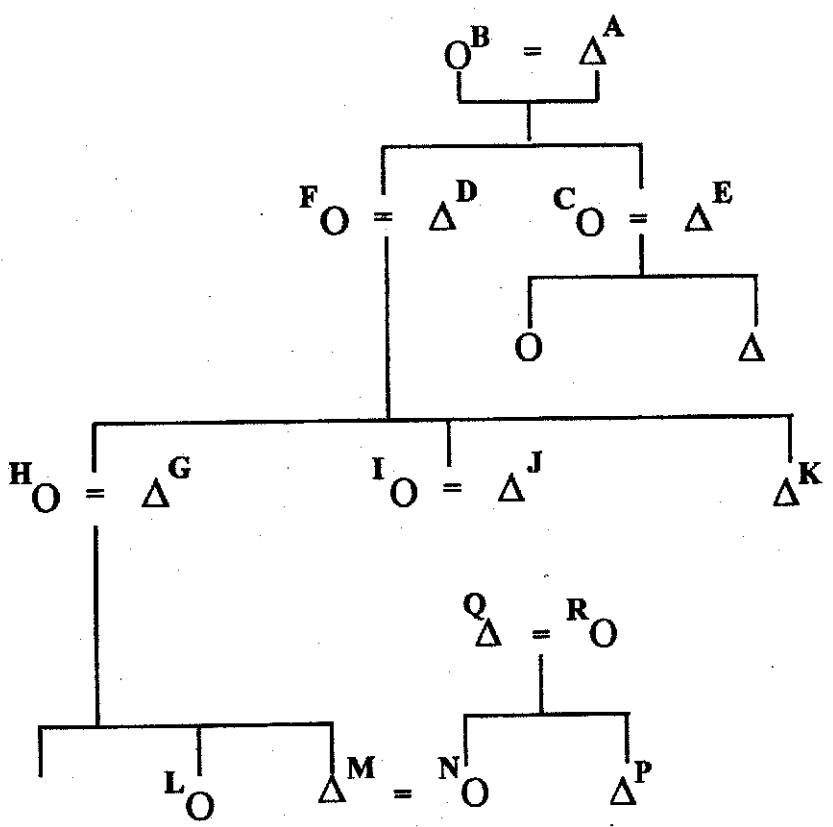
In this way, the degree of kinship can be extend to 4th, 5th, 6th to nth degree. The primary kins of our tertiary kins are called fourth degree kins and so on. Such kins may include all those with whom we share even remote consanguineous or affinal ties. They are classified as distant kins. In some societies, distant kins are significant like in many simple and rural societies, while in others they may not even be recognized.

**14.4 KINSHIP DIAGRAM**

Very often you may find kinship represented through a diagram which gives you a picture of kinship relationship and genealogy as follows:



Notes



In the diagram the symbols used are as follows

- △ : Male
- : Female
- = : Marriage
- ┌  
└ : descending generation

Ego is the person through whom the relationship is traced. In the present diagram, ego (M) is the son of G (father) and H (mother). L is his sister, D is his grand father and himself is son of A and B (parents). N is ego's wife and Q his father-in-law, and R his mother-in-law. P is his brother-in-law.

### 4.5 FUNCTION OF KINSHIP

Kinship is significant in a general sense for an individual as well as a group. As the saying goes, blood is thicker than water. Kinsmen are expected to provide support

## MODULE - II

### Social Institution and Social Stratification



#### Notes

#### Kinship

and security at every moment in a person's life; it also gives him identity as a member of certain kinship group. The kinship groups assign an individual certain status such as that of father, mother, brother husband and so on. Certain roles too are assigned to them through which they fulfil their duties towards society at large.

In the moment of crisis, it is the kinsmen who rush to a person's help. Similarly, in hours of joy they are very much there to share his happiness. The presence of kinsmen is a source of psychological support and strength to a person.

Kinship relations define the mutual relationships of various members of the family. The expected mode of behaviour is clearly defined, thereby making everyone in the group aware of it. The kinsmen are treated as brothers and sisters. They co-operate with each other as one family and provide the support of men and material as and when required. Their support is a source of emotional and psychological strength to individuals.

The kinship groups such as family, lineage (*vansh*) and clan (*gotra*) play extremely significant roles in regulating the life of their members in traditional societies and to a certain extent in modern societies as well.

Family members belonging to one lineage participate together in family functions such as birth-rites, marriage and death-rites. Their family-god or *kuldevta* is common and they follow the common restrictions related to worship and daily ritual. Kins belonging to the same lineage share a sense of oneness i.e. a feeling that they belong to the same family and hence must uphold the family tradition and family name.

In a traditional society, the kinship groups known as the clan or *gotra* are also very significant since they are a relatively larger group of kinsmen who trace their origin to a fictional ancestor. Their day to day co-operation and strong bonding is very much evident. But among most of the Hindus, the members of a single *gotra* do not inter-marry as they are considered siblings or brothers and sisters. Hence, *gotra* regulates the marital ties.

Villagers give much importance to the fictive kins too. In order to ensure reciprocity and allegiance, they establish fictional bonds of kinship with each other. These kinsmen widen each other's circle of support which would otherwise have been confined to only blood or marital kins.

All types of kinsmen play a significant role in securing political, economic and occupational benefits for each other. They pass on vital information to each other and supply manual, material and intellectual support in furthering political ambitions

by helping them win elections. Those kins, who are well-placed, try to find jobs and business assignments for their kinsmen who, in turn, form a strong support-base for their helper.

## INTEXT QUESTIONS 14.2

1. Write 'True or 'False' against the statement

A person's grandfather is his primary consanguineal kin.

2. Fill in the blanks:

Kinship is significant for the individual as well as \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Mark the correct answer

Kinship is significant for the individual because

- (i) it gives him identity and status.
- (ii) it provides psychological security.
- (iii) defines his role and behaviour pattern.
- (iv) all of the above.

## 14.6 KINSHIP TERMS

In day-to-day interaction with our relatives, we use certain words to address them and certain other words to refer, identify and categorize them. These various kinds of words are collectively known as a kinship terminology. Examples of kinship terminologies are father, mother, wife, husband, aunt, uncle and so on.

These kinship terms help us understand the inter-relationship between various members of a family and their status and role within the family. 'Kin' terms give us a clue about the kind of family, its rule of residence and its rules of descent and other aspects of social organization. Kinship terms are not merely linguistic in nature, but are also sociological, meaning related to an individual's status and behaviour.

Kinship terms are of various types. Anthropologists have adopted different bases to classify these terms.

- (A) On the basis of linguistic structure. Kinship terms have been classified into three types:



## MODULE - II

Social Institution and  
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## Notes

- (i) **Elementary Terms:** These terms are such that they cannot be further reduced or broken down into simpler words. Examples of such elementary terms are father, mother, brother, sister, nephew, niece etc. In Hindi, we have elementary terms such as *mata, pita, bhai, bahen* etc.
- (ii) **Derivative Terms:** Those kinship terms which are coined by joining suffixes or prefixes to the elementary kinship terms are known as derivative kinship terms. Examples of such terms are grandfather, sister-in-law, step-son, great-grandfather and so on.
- (iii) **Descriptive Terms:** The kinship terms which are formed by combining two or more elementary terms are known as descriptive term. For example, wife's sister, brother's wife, son's wife, daughter's husband and so on. In Hindi we have, *mausera bhai* (mother's brother's son), *Chacheri bahen* (father's brother's daughter) etc.
- (B) On the basis of **mode of use**, kinship terms have been classified into two types :
- (i) **Terms of Address :** Kinship terms which are used by us for addressing our kins or relatives are known as terms of address, for example, papa, daddy, *maa*, mummy, didi, *bhaiya*, etc. In Hindi, terms of address are *annan* (elder brother), *tambi* (younger brother), *akka* (elder sister) etc. in Tamil.
- (ii) **Terms of reference :** Kinship terms which are used by us for indirectly referring to a person are known as kinship terms of reference. Examples of terms of reference are father, mother, brother and sister etc. In Hindi we have, *pita, maa, bhai bahen* etc. In Tamil, the terms of reference are *mama maga/magan* (maternal) uncle's daughter/son), *attai magal/magan* (father's sister's daughter/son).
- (C) **On the basis of range of application :**
- The kinship terms are of two types depending on the range of application of the terms:
- (i) **Denotative/isolative/descriptive term:**
- The term which applies to only one particular kin category is known as descriptive/denotative/isolative term. For example, the term 'father' and 'mother' is applied to our parents only and to no one else.
- (ii) **Classificatory term :**
- The term, which applies to persons of two or more kinship categories is known as





Notes

classificatory term. For example, the term 'cousin' is used for referring to father's brother's son, father's sister's son, mother's brother's son as well as to mother's sister's son. Similarly, the term 'uncle' refers to mother's brother, father's brother, mother's sister's husband and father's sister's husband.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 14.3

- a) Write 'True' or 'False' against the statement :

A descriptive term applies to one particular kin of specific status.

- b) Fill in the blanks

The kinship terms which are formed by joining suffixes and prefixes to the elementary kinship terms are called \_\_\_\_\_ kinship terms.

- c) Mark the correct answer :

Kinship terms help us in understanding

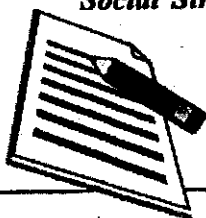
- (i) the interrelationship between various members
- (ii) the status and roles of the members
- (iii) the prevailing kinds of family - structure
- (iv) the extinct social features
- (v) all the above.

### 14.7 RULES OF DESCENT

Rules that connect individuals with particular sets of kins because of known or presumed common ancestry are called rules of descent. These rules vary from society to society. Individuals are affiliated to a set of kins by these rules. Succession and inheritance are also related to these rules. Social organization and groupings are also based on rules of descent.

There are two broad types of rules of descent viz:

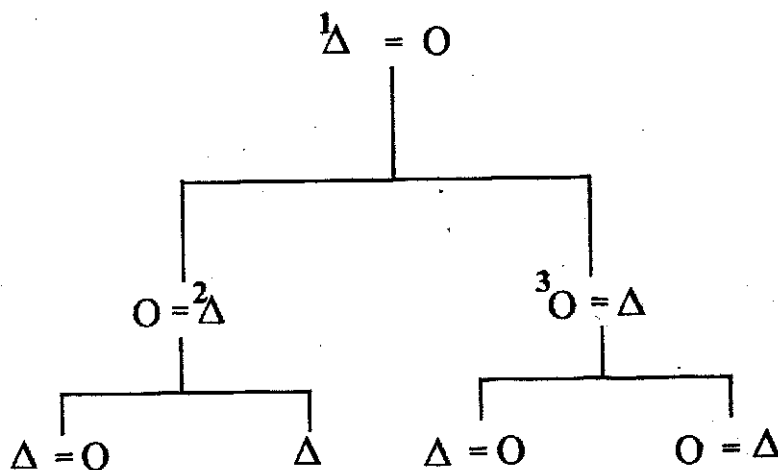
- (A) unilateral descent rules;
- (B) bilateral descent rules



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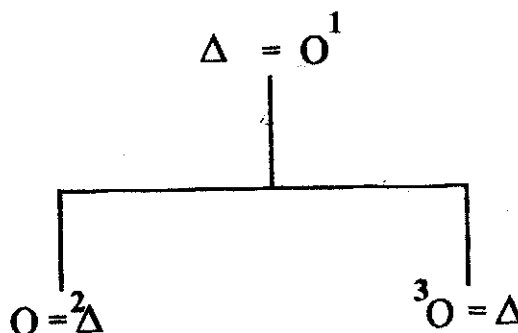
(A) **Unilateral descent rules:** Under unilateral descent rules, a person's descent is traced through either father's or mother's line. It can be further sub-divided into two types :

(1) **Patrilineal Descent:** In patrilineal system a person belongs to the kin group of his father. The descent is traced through male line. A man's son inherits his status, name and property.



1, 2 & 3 are members of a patrilineal descent group

(2) **Matrilineal Descent:** When the descent is traced through the female line, it is called matrilineal descent. The children of both sexes belong to their mother's descent group. Although a women's sons and daughters are all members of the same descent group, only her daughter can inherit her name, status and property and pass it on to her daughter. The son is a member of matrilineal group but can not inherit anything.



1, 2 & 3 are members of a matrilineal descent group.



Notes

**(B) Bilateral descent:** Many societies give equal importance to kins of both father's and mother's side. The transmission of property rights and descent is through both the father and the mother in a manner which either emphasizes both lines equally or does not emphasize either line.

The term '**kindred**' describes a person's bilateral set of relatives who may be invited to weddings, funerals or other ceremonial occasions.

## 14.8 KIN GROUPS

Kinship in itself is not a group but is one of the strongest basis for group formation.

You will come across names of several unilateral kinship groups such as family, lineage, clan, phratry and moiety while going through any discussion on kinship.

These kinship groups consist of persons who are genealogically related to each other through descent or marital ties. The feeling that 'blood is thicker than water' binds the kinsmen to each other in several kin groups which may be close-knit and small like family and lineage or may be, loosely-knit like clan, phratry and moiety.

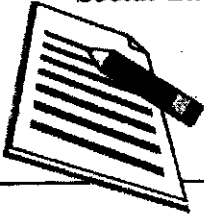
Let's discuss these kinship groups one by one.

You are already aware of family which is the smallest kinship group. It is basically made up of a man, his wife and their unmarried children. While the man and wife are related through marriage, the children and parents are related to each other through descent or blood ties. The children are related to each other through the kinship link of siblingship and common descent i.e. blood tie.

Some of the important groups based on principles of unilateral descent are as follows:

**Lineage:** Family is bilateral but lineage is a unilateral descent group. It consists of all the consanguineal blood relatives who claim their descent from a known common ancestor or ancestors who existed in reality in the known past. The ancestor is not a myth as is the case with a clan. Lineage is an exogamous group. It is a unilateral descent group. It implies that a lineage includes all such family members who belong to the father's line alone. If the ancestor is a male figure, then the lineage is called patrilineage. The descent is traced in the male line from father to son. If the lineage is traced from a female figure, it is called matrilineage. Lineage members of a matrilineal group trace relationship to each other through the mother.

Lineage members may or may not share a common residence. Joint family is also an example of lineage where members of three or four generations may live together. A lineage is strictly exogamous.



## Notes

**Clan:** A clan is also a unilateral descent group. It includes a set of kins whose members believe themselves to be descended from a common ancestor, but the actual genealogical link may not be demonstrated. The common ancestor is often a mythical figure such as a saint or a *Rishi* in case of Hindu society. It may also be a supernatural character or a totemic object such as tiger, fish and snake etc.

Among the Hindus, the common descent is traced from some sages such as Kashyap, Bhardwaj, Gautam etc. In fact, the common ancestor of the kinsmen is most often an unknown figure or object in the far off antiquity.

The members of a clan consider themselves to be blood relatives of each other as they believe in common descent or blood tie. Hence, most often, the members of a clan do not marry each other. In other words, the clan is an exogamous kinship group.

The clan is patrilineal when the descent is traced through male lines. If the descent is traced through female line, it is called matrilineal clan, as found among Khasi or Garo of north-east India.

Clan is also known as '*Gotra*' in Hindi. The clan grouping is mainly taken into account while initiating marriage negotiations. Marriage is negotiated only with those who do not belong to one's own clan.

**Phratry:** A phratry is unilateral descent group composed of two or more clans which are supposedly interrelated.

Like clan, the phratry organization is also exogamous. The members of phratry organization believe that they have a common ancestor.

The clans constituting a phratry may retain their individual identities. But, they fulfil special obligations on ceremonial occasions.

**Moiety:** Moiety is a large social group that results from the splitting of a society into two equal or unequal halves on the basis of descent. Each half thus formed is called a moiety.

The members of a moiety have a belief in a common ancestor which may or may not be actually traceable.

Each moiety is again sub-divided into a number of phratries. Each phratry is split up into a number of clans and each clan into a number of lineage and finally, each lineage into a number of families.

The Aimol Kuku tribe of Manipur has a set of moieties which are further divided into phratries and so on.



Notes

The two moieties provide marital partners to each other as members of one moiety cannot marry each other. But, the Toda moieties are endogamous, although they are further sub-divided into exogamous clans.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 14.4

1. Write 'True' or 'False' against the statement :

Rules of descent connect an individual to a particular set of kins on the basis of ancestry.

2. Fill in the blanks

The term \_\_\_\_\_ describes a person's bilateral set of relatives.

3. Mark the correct answer

A clan is a set of kins

- (i) whose members believe themselves to be the descendants of a known ancestor.
- (ii) whose members have a belief that they have descended from a common mythical ancestor.
- (iii) such as mother, father and children.
- (iv) None of the above

### 14.9 KINSHIP BEHAVIOUR

Kinship behaviour or usages refer to definite and comparatively stable patterns of behaviour of different members of a kin group. These behaviour patterns may be verbal and/or non-verbal. Some of the kinship usages are the following :

#### Avoidance

It is a type of usage through which some restrictions are imposed on close interaction of certain kinsmen. Among the Hindus, as a result of such restrictions, certain relatives avoid talking to each other directly, avoid physical contact and maintain minimum social interaction with each other and so on. Some of the kins covered by such restrictions among the Hindus are - parent-in-law and daughter-in-law, mother-in-law and son-in-law, husband's elder brother and younger brother's wife etc.



### Joking Relationship

It is just the opposite of avoidance. The relatives are free to crack jokes at each other's expense, tease each other and make fun of each other under this form of behaviour. The relatives under this category are expected not to take offence or to mind each other's conduct.

Joking relation is generally found between a man and his wife's younger sister or between a woman and her husband's younger brother.

### Teknonymy

When the two kinsmen do not address each other directly rather through a third person or a symbol, the usage is known as teknonymy.

The practice is very common in rural India, where women generally do not utter the names of their husbands or elderly in-laws. Women refer to their husbands as the father of her child.

### Avunculate

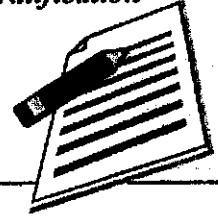
It is the kind of behaviour or usage which gives the maternal uncle an important status so far as his sister's children are concerned. The maternal uncle is considered more important than even the father. The maternal uncle transfers his property to his nephew (i.e. the sister's son). The nephew works for him rather than his own father. Sometimes the sister's children are brought up in their maternal uncle's family. Avunculate is common in matrilineal societies.

### Amitate

The kinship behaviour which assigns a special role to one's father's sister is called amitate. Her role is similar to that of the maternal uncle under avunculate. The children show special respect to their father's sister. Sometimes, the children are brought up in her house and inherit her property. She is called female-father in societies practising amitate. It is usually found in patrilineal societies.

### Couvade

It is kinship behaviour in which a husband imitates the behaviour of his wife during pregnancy and child birth. The husband also leads the life of an invalid along with his wife whenever she gives birth to a child. He refrains from active life, goes on sick diet and observes certain taboos. This practice is common among Khasi tribe of Assam and Toda tribe of Nilgiri Hills.



Notes

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 14.5

1. Write 'True' or 'False' against the statement

Amitate is a kinship usage which assigns special role to one's father's sister.

2. Fill in the blanks

The kinship usage in which two kinsmen do not address each other directly is called \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Mark the correct answer

The kinship usage in which the maternal uncle plays significant role is termed as

- (i) couvade
- (ii) avoidance
- (iii) joking relationship
- (iv) avunculate
- (v) none of the above.

- (II) What is Couvade? Define in one sentence.

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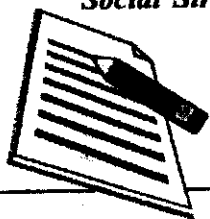


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### WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

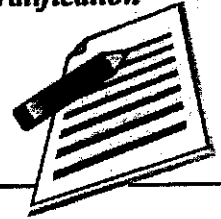
- Kinship is a relationship among individuals based on marriage, blood tie or adoption.
- Kinship is the social recognition and expression of family relationship.
- The relationship which is not recognised socially is not included within the sphere of kinship.
- Kinship is an outcome of desire of human beings to reproduce or to give birth to children through legitimate relationship.
- Kinship is of two types-
  - (i) Consanguineal kinship
  - (ii) Affinal kinship



## Notes

- Some assumed or imaginary relationships are called fictive kinship. Adoption is one of the examples of fictive kinship.
- Consanguineous kinship or blood relationship is based on common ancestor.
- Affinal kinship is based on marital relationship between two people which in turn, connects the two families to each other.
- Kinship relationship can also be categorized in the following ways in terms of degree of closeness :
  - (i) Primary kin
  - (ii) Secondary kin
  - (iii) Tertiary kin
- Kinship is significant in several ways for individual as well as groups.
- It provides identity and status, social and psychological security and definite patterns of behaviour and roles to individuals.
- Kinship is the basis of group formation.
- It enhances group solidarity, organizes the group against enemies, controls religious and social interaction, including marriage and regulates gathering on rituals and religious ceremonies.
- Inheritance of status, property and family name is decided on the basis of kinship.
- Kinship groups help their kinsmen in securing political power, occupational benefits and economic gains.
- There are varied types of kinship terms which are used for address and reference of kins.
- The basis of classifying kinship terms and their types are the following :
  - (i) Linguistic Structure
    - (a) Elementary Terms
    - (b) Derivative Terms
    - (c) Descriptive Terms
  - (ii) Modes of use
    - (a) Terms of address
    - (b) Terms of reference

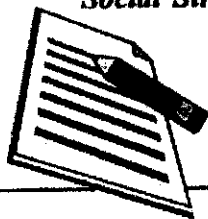




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**(iii) Range of application**

- (a) Descriptive Terms
- (b) Classificatory Terms
- Rules of descent connect or affiliate individuals with particular set of kins on the basis of known or presumed ancestry.
- There are two rules of descent
  - (i) Unilateral descent rules
  - (ii) Bilateral descent rules
- **Unilateral descent rules are two types -**
  - (i) Patrilineal descent
  - (ii) Matrilineal descent
- Societies, without unilateral descent rules, are bilateral societies. Relatives on both the mother's and father's sides of the family are of equal importance or more usually, unimportant.
- Kindred refers to bilateral set of relatives who may come together temporarily on ceremonial occasions.
- There are some unilateral kin groups such as :
  - (i) Family
  - (ii) Lineage
  - (iii) Clan
  - (iv) Phratry
  - (v) Moiety
- Family is basically made up of a man, his wife and their unmarried children. It can be extended to include affinal and consanguin kins upto three or four generations.
- Lineage is a set of kins who trace descent from common ancestor through known links.
- Clans are a set of kins who believe that they have descended from a common ancestor who is often a mythical figure and not a real one.
- Phratry is a unilateral descent groups made up of two or more clans which are supposedly inter-related.
- Moiety is a large social group that results from the splitting of a society into two halves or unilineal descent group. Each half is called a moiety.



- Each moiety is again sub-divided into a number of phratries. Each phratry is split up into number of clans and each clan into a number of lineages and each lineage into a number of families.
- Kinship behaviour or usages refer to definite and comparatively stable patterns of behaviour of different members of a kin group.
- Some of the kinship behaviour are the following :
  - (i) Avoidance
  - (ii) Joking Relationship
  - (iii) Teknonymy
  - (iv) Avunculate
  - (v) Amitate
  - (vi) Couvade

## GLOSSARY

*Affinal kins* : kins related by marriage.

*Amitate* : Kinship behaviour which gives special importance to father's sister.

*Avunculate* : Kinship behaviour which gives special importance to maternal uncle.

*Bilateral kinship* : Kinship based on transmission of property rights or descent either equally through both the female and the male lines or in a manner which does not emphasize either line.

*Clan or sib* : A unilineal exogamous group of relatives who trace their descent from a common ancestor who may have existed in a mythological past. The ancestor might even be a legendary supernatural character, a plant or an animal.

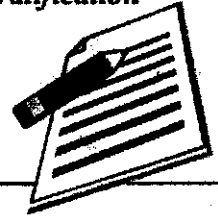
*Classificatory teams* : A kinship term that refers to or designates several relatives eg. uncle and aunt, etc.

*Consanguineal kins* : Kins related by blood or common ancestor.

*Couvade* : Kinship behaviour in which a husband follows a similar pattern of behaviour including dietary restrictions as those followed by his pregnant wife in child birth.

*Descriptive term* : Specific term for specific individual relationship.

*Ego* : A person who is the basic point of reference in determining and tracing kinship.



Notes

*Cross cousin* : Children of brothers and sisters.

*Kindred* : The grouping of relatives by bilateral descent. It includes the relatives of both the parents.

*Lineage* : A consanguineal kin group resulting from unilinear descent. The common ancestor of lineage members is usually an actual and remembered person. It is an exogamous group.

*Matrilineage* : Transmission of authority, inheritance or descent primarily through females. It is also called uterine descent.

*Moiety* : A primary social division in which the tribe is made up of two groups, each one of which is called a moiety.

*Patrilineage* : Transmission of name, property or authority through males. Patrilineal descent is also called agnatic descent.

*Phratry* : An exogamous unilinear sub-division of tribe. A phratry is often divided into a number of clans or sibs.

*Siblings* : Children born of the same parents.

*Teknonymy* : Kinship behaviour under which kinsmen do not address each other directly.

*Unilineal descent* : Succession, descent and inheritance through either the father's or the mother's line alone.

The term unilateral is also used for such descent.

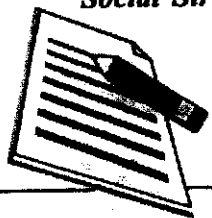


### TERMINAL EXERCISE

1. What are the types of kinship? Describe in detail.
2. What is the significance of kinship for the individual and the group?
3. What are the various basis of classification of kinship terms? Discuss in detail.
4. Describe the various types of unilateral kinship groups.
5. Discuss various kinship usages or behaviour.

**MODULE - II**

**Social Institution and  
Social Stratification**



Notes



**ANSWER TO INTEXT QUESTIONS**

- 14.1 (1) True (2) Consanguaneous (3) (ii)
- 14.2 (1) False (2) Group (3) (iv)
- 14.3 (1) True (2) derivative (3) (v)
- 14.4 (1) True (2) Kindred (3) (ii)
- 14.5 (1) True (2) Teknonymy (3) (iv)