

Q No. 1 What is family? Explain the function of family?

Ans

The family environment scale was developed and is used to measure social and environment characteristics of families. It can be used in several ways in family counselling and psychotherapy, to teach program evaluators about family system and in program evaluation.

In other words "People will say a family includes a mother, father and children all living together under a roof. Some might say a family can be anything that involves love."

A family is a group of people who are related to each other specially parents and their children.

* Functions of family : — Family is the most universal and fundamental social institution which performs a variety of function in human society. Different sociologists have viewed or classified the functions of family into different types.

Similarly Prof. Lundberg enumerated four basic functions of family such as (i) Regulations of sexual behaviour of members and reproduction, (ii) Care and training of children, (iii) Co-operation and division of labour, (iv) Primary group satisfactions.

Maclver classified the function of family into two broad categories such as essential and non-essential functions.

These two functions are also widely known as primary and secondary functions. Under essential or primary functions Maclver includes mainly three functions —

(a) Stable satisfaction of sexual needs — This is the most important essential function of family. Family has been performing this functions since the inception of human civilization. It is a well known fact that sex urge is the most important and ~~strongest~~ powerful instinct and natural urge of human being.

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It is the primary duty of family to satisfy the sexual urge of its members in a stable and desirable way.

Through the mechanism of marriage family regulate the sexual behaviour of its members. Because satisfaction of sex instinct brings the desire for life long partnership of husband and wife. Ancient hindu philosopher Manu and Vatsyana opines that satisfaction of sex needs is the primary objective of family.

(b.) Procreation and Rearing of children: — It is another important sectional function of family. Necessary arrangement of stable satisfaction of sexual urge resulted in procreation. Family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. It institutionalizes the process of procreation. Family is the only place where the function of child rearing is better performed. It provides food, shelter, affection, protection, and security to all its members. It provides healthy atmosphere in which the personality of the child develops properly.

(c) Provision of home: — Family perform another important function of providing a home for common living to all its members. It is ~~common living to~~ only in a home that children are born and brought up. Even if children are born in hospitals in modern time still they are taken care of and properly nourished in a home only. Because family and a home have no substitute. A home provides emotional and psychological support of love and human response got fulfilled here.

(d) Socialization → It is another important essential function of family. It is said man is not born human but made human. New born human baby became human being after they are socialized.

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* Non-essential or Secondary functions of family :- Famous sociologist has divided functions into essential and non-essential functions. Under non-essential functions are as follows: —

(a) Economic functions: — Since ancient times family has been performing several economic functions. It is an important economic unit. In ancient time family was both a production and consumption unit. It used to fulfill almost the economic needs of its members such as food, clothing, housing etc. In the then days of family was self-sufficient.

(b) Educational functions: — Family performs many educational functions for its members. As a primary educational institution family used to teach letters, knowledge, skill and trade secret to all its members. Mother act is the first and best teacher of a child. Educational functions of family are taken over by school, college and universities still family continues to play an important role in providing the first lessons and primary education to its members.

(c) Religious functions: — Family is the center of all religious activities. All the family members offer their prayers together and observe different religious rites, rituals and practices jointly. All the members believe in a particular religion and observe religious ceremonies at home. Children learn different religious values from their parents.

(d) Cultural functions: — Family also performs several cultural functions as well. It preserves different cultural traits. Man learns and acquires culture from family and transmits it to succeeding generations.

(e) Social functions: — Family performs a number of social functions. It teaches about social, customs, mores, traditions, norms, etiquette to the coming generations.