

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

## Chapter Context

This chapter reveals both the similarities and differences in marriage, family, and kinship patterns throughout the world. As a social institution, families reflect the environment, historical period, and culture in which they are found.

## Outcome-based Outline

Outcome	Learning Objectives	Interactivity
Critical Thinking	2.4 Evaluate how modernization and industrialization affected families	x.x [interactive] (if app)
Knowledge of Subject Matter (or Discipline)	2.1 Analyze the similarities and differences in the functions and structure of family relationships	
	2.5 Explain how families are influenced by the political and economic world system	
	2.6 Compare the differences among families in India, Japan, and Sweden	
Cultural Competence	2.2 Describe the most common features and functions of the family	
	2.3 Explain the differences in marriages and family patterns as found in different cultures	

## PowerPoint Presentation

Download the PowerPoint Presentation for this chapter here.

## Discussion Question Bank

This discussion question bank provides a listing of discussion questions (1-2 per module) which are included for in-class use.

Module	Discussion Question(s)
2.1 Chapter Preview: Families Throughout the World: Marriage, Family, and Kinship	1. How do you believe your family culture has influenced where/how you currently live? What advantages might be

	<p>found in an extended family situation?</p> <p>2. In your culture do you think married couples tend to have a closer relationship with the bride's family or the groom's? Why and how is this important?</p>
2.2 Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals	<p>1. Considering your own family, which function of families seems to be the most dominant?</p> <p>2. Reflecting on the functions of the family which seems to be least important in American society?</p>
2.3 Differences in Marriage and Family Patterns	<p>1. How has endogamy and exogamy impacted marriage choices and/or marital life in your extended family?</p> <p>2. Reflecting on the customs and practices of marriage around the world, which, if any, do you plan on practicing? What are the advantages of some that you haven't chosen to practice?</p>
2.4 Modernization Theory: Social Change and Families	<p>1. Considering the connection between modernization and the progressive loss of gemeinschaft, would you consider industrialization and modernization a positive factor or negative factor for the strength of families? Why</p> <p>2. Reflecting on the changes to the conjugal nuclear family resulting from industrialization and modernization, think of an example from your family, friends, or community where jobs have taken family members away from extended kin. What</p>

	impact did the situation have on the family?
2.5 World Systems Theory: Social Change and Families	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reflecting on families you know, choose a situation that demonstrates world systems theory. How does the situation demonstrate the theory?</li> <li>2. Which theory better explains changes in families, world systems or modernization? Why do you believe that it explains change better?</li> </ol>
2.6 Families Around the World: India, Japan, and Sweden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assuming you could choose to participate in the marriage and family patterns of India, Japan, or Sweden which one would you choose? Why?</li> <li>2. Which theory best explains family changes in India, Japan, and Sweden? Why?</li> </ol>

## Research Assignments

The following research assignments pertain to the main topics and/or themes of the chapter. Please respond by writing a paper consisting of 1000–1500 words.

### [Research Assignment Title]

Choose one developed and one developing country. Using 2–3 scholarly resources, research how historical events and culture have changed marriage and family patterns including family functions. Summarize the event and the resulting change, and compare and contrast how modernization theory and world systems theory would explain these changes. Demonstrate your ability to apply these theories.

## Experiential Learning

Conduct an informal interview with two people you know who grew up in different living situations. For example, find a friend or acquaintance whose biological or adopted parents have been married for 20+ years, one who lived (most of the time) with one parent, an unmarried couple, or grandparents. Ask them for their perspective on the functions of family. Listen for their responses to your open-ended questions. Do not prompt them with the “variations and universals” as described in your text. Jot down notes, and later compare their lists to the one devised by the theory of structural functionalism. What further research could you do to examine the modern functions of family in your community?

*Note: Always check with your professor about your college or university's institutional policy on data collection for classroom purposes, and adhere to guidelines for the protection of human subjects in social research.*



# FAMILIES AND THEIR SOCIAL WORLDS

KAREN SECCOMBE  
THIRD EDITION



## Families and Their Social Worlds, 3e

Karen Seccombe

### Chapter 2

Families Throughout the World:  
Marriage, Family, and Kinship

## CHAPTER 2



### **Families Throughout the World: Marriage, Family, and Kinship**

# Learning Objectives

(1 of 2)

- 2.1** Analyze the similarities and differences in the functions and structure of family relationships
- 2.2** Describe the most common features and functions of the family
- 2.3** Explain the differences in marriages and family patterns as found in different cultures
- 2.4** Evaluate how modernization and industrialization affected families

# Learning Objectives

(2 of 2)

**2.5** Explain how families are influenced by the political and economic world system

**2.6** Compare the differences among families in India, Japan, and Sweden

# Chapter Preview

Objective 2.1 – Analyze the similarities and differences in the functions and structure of family relationships

# 2.1 Chapter Preview

– The Vietnamese Family

# Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals

Objective 2.2 – Describe the most common features and functions of the family

## 2.2 Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals

(1 of 3)

- Regulation of Sexual Behavior
  - Every culture regulates sexual behavior
  - The incest taboo
- Reproduction and Socializing Children
  - Societies must produce new members



## 2.2 Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals

(2 of 3)

- Property and Inheritance
  - Inheritance became important as people began to accumulate surplus property
- Economic Cooperation
  - Physical need for food, shelter, clothing
  - Families both productive and consumptive

## 2.2 Functions of the Family: Variations and Universals

(3 of 3)

- Social Placement, Status, and Roles
  - Statuses
  - Roles
- Care, Warmth, Protection, and Intimacy
  - Cultures value these differently

# Differences in Marriage and Family Patterns

Objective 2.3 – Explain the differences in marriages and family patterns as found in different cultures

## 2.3 Differences in Marriage and Family Patterns

(1 of 3)

- Marriage
  - Monogamy
  - Polygamy
  - Polygyny
  - Polyandry

## 2.3 Differences in Marriage and Family Patterns

(2 of 3)

- Patterns of Power and Authority
  - Patriarchy
  - Matriarchy
  - Egalitarian

## 2.3 Differences in Marriage and Family Patterns (3 of 3)

- Patterns of Kinship, Descent, Inheritance
  - Bilateral
  - Patrilineal
  - Matrilineal
- Patterns of Residence
  - Neolocal
  - Patrilocal
  - Matrilocal

## 2.4 Modernization Theory: Social Change and Families

Objective 2.4 – Evaluate how modernization and industrialization affected families

## 2.4 Modernization Theory: Social Change and Families

(1 of 2)

- The Loss of Community: Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft
  - Gemeinschaft
  - Gesellschaft



## 2.4 Modernization Theory: Social Change and Families

(2 of 2)

- World Revolution and Family Patterns
  - Mate selection became freer
  - Shift away from extended families
  - Kinship evolved toward bilateral
  - Families became more egalitarian

# World Systems Theory: Social Change and Families

Objective 2.5 – Explain how families are influenced by the political and economic world system

## 2.5 World Systems Theory: Social Change and Families

- World Systems Theory
  - Non-isolationist
  - Economic interdependence
  - Manipulation

Photo 2.5



# Families Around the World: India, Japan, and Sweden

Objective 2.6 – Compare the differences among families in India, Japan, and Sweden

## 2.6 Families Around the World: India, Japan, and Sweden

(1 of 3)

- Developing Nations, Example: India
  - Very poor nation
  - Very populous nation
  - Very high fertility rates
  - Fewer and fewer girls born

## 2.6 Families Around the World: India, Japan, and Sweden

(2 of 3)

- Cultures in Transition, Example: Japan
  - Highly developed nation
  - Marital and family roles divided
  - Fewer people marrying
  - Childbearing later in life

## 2.6 Families Around the World: India, Japan, and Sweden

(3 of 3)

- Toward Equality, Example: Sweden
  - One of the world's wealthiest nations
  - Roles of men and women blended
  - Families receive child/family allowance
  - Gender equality