

## CHAPTER

# 4

# Applied Sociology



வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்பவன் வான்உறையும்  
தெய்வத்துள் வைக்கப் படும்.

He who on earth has lived in the conjugal state as he should live, will be placed among the  
Gods who dwell in heaven



## Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, the students will be able to:

- define sociology
- enumerate the importance and principles of sociology
- explain about family and marriage
- discuss the application of sociology in health management



## Introduction

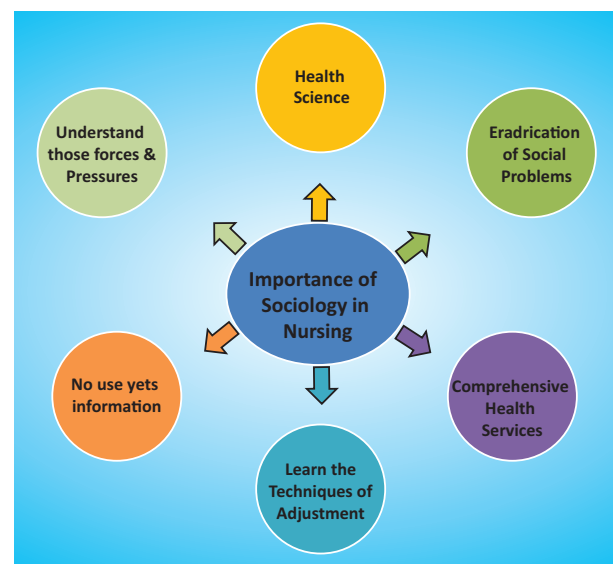
A dictionary defines sociology as the systematic study of society and social interaction. The word "sociology" is derived from the Latin word socius (companion) and the Greek word logos (speech or reason), which means "study of society". Father of sociology is Auguste Comte a French philosopher.

### 4.1 Definition

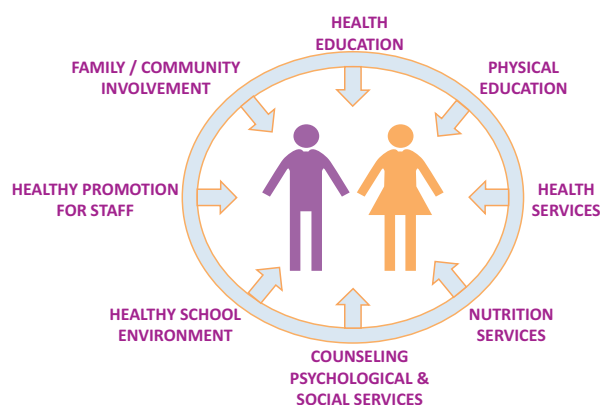
Father of sociology, defines sociology as the science of social phenomena "subject to natural and invariable laws, the discovery of which is the object of investigation".

- Auguste Comte.

Henry Fairchild: "Sociology is the study of man and his human environment in their relations to each other".



## Scope of Sociology



## 4.2 Principles of Sociology

### Hirschman's Principles of Sociology

- Things are real because they are socially constructed.
- Society is not just the aggregation of discrete, pre-existing individuals. That is, the individual is not ontologically prior to the social.
- The ideas we hold about the world change the world.
- The language we use to describe the world changes the world.
- Society cannot be understood by looking at individuals separately from their interconnections and their environments (both social and physical).
- The economy is not separate from the political or social world.

### Nature of Sociology

- It is the science of society and studies organized in an organized society.
- It is a general science with all kind of social relationship.
- It is an analytical science.
- In sociologist point of view, man is a social animal.
- It has wider scope.
- It studies both conscious and unconscious activities of human being.

## 4.3 Importance of sociology in Nursing

Sociology plays an important role in the area of health sciences medicine and nursing with the common goal of preventing illness and restoration of health.

The study of sociology is important for nurses due to the following reasons

- Helps to understand those forces and pressures which affect patient adversely.
- It helps the nurses to understand the behaviour, conflicts, Inter Personal Relationship (IPR), hierarchy, groups and adaptation of different people working in hospitals.
- Through sociology, the nurse gets information about the socio cultural life of the patient.
- To study the structure of family, community and society.
- To understand the characteristics of social relationship, its complexities, and its impact on health care.
- Helps in the understanding and eradication of social problems.

## 4.4 Family

The family forms the basic unit of social organization and it is difficult to imagine how human society could function without it. The family has been seen as an universal social institution and it is an inevitable part of the society.

### Definition

The family is a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption constituting a single household interacting with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister creating a common culture  
-Burgess and Lock

Family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without child or of a man or woman alone with children.

-Nimkoff

## ■ Characteristics Of Family

**Universality:** Malinowski writes the typical family a group consisting of mother, father and their progeny is found in all communities, savage, barbarians and civilized.

**Emotional basis:** It is built upon sentiments of love, affection, sympathy, cooperation and friendship.

**Limited size:** The family is smaller in size. It is a smallest social unit.

**Formative influence:** It shapes the personality and molds the character of its members.

**Responsibility of the members:** The members of the family has certain responsibilities, duties and obligations.

**Social regulation:** The society takes precaution to safeguard this organization from any possible breakdown.

## ■ Types of The Family

### Based on Birth

**Family of Orientation:** The family in which an individual is born is his family of orientation his family of orientation.

**Family of Procreation:** The family where an individual sets up after his/her marriage is his/her family of procreation.

### Based on Marriage

**Monogamous Family:** This family consists of one husband and wife, including children and is based on monogamous marriages.

**Polygynous Family:** A family consisting of one husband, and more than one wife, and all the children born to all the wives or adopted by each of them.

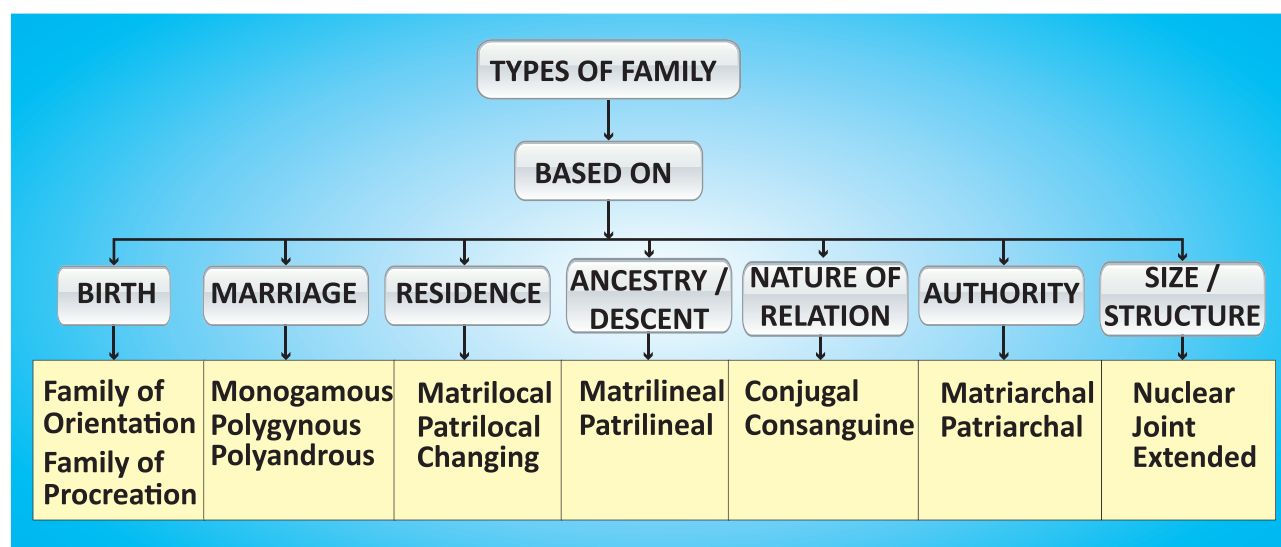
**Polyandrous Family:** A family made up of one wife and more than one husband, and the children, either born or adopted with each one of them.

### Based on Residence

**Family of Matrilocal Residence:** When a couple stays in the wife's house, the family is known as family of matrilocal residence.

**Family of Patrilocal Residence:** When a family stays in the house of husband, the family is known as family of patrilocal residence.

**Family of Changing Residence:** When a family stays in the husband's house for some time, and moves to wife's house, stays there for a period of time, and then moves back to husband's parents, or starts living in another place, the family is called a family of changing residence.



### Based on Ancestry or Descent

**Matrilineal Family:** When ancestry or descent is traced through the female line, or through the mother's side, the family is called matrilineal family.

**Patrilineal Family:** A family in which the authority is carried down the male line, and descent is traced through the male line or the father's side, is called a patrilineal family.

### Based on Authority

**Matriarchal Family:** In these families, a woman is the head of the family, and authority is vested in her.

The matriarchal family is known as mother centered or mother dominated family. The mother or the woman is the head of the family.

**Patriarchal Family:** In patriarchal families, the head of the family is a male, and authority is vested with him.

The patriarchal family is also known as father centered or father dominated family.

### Based on the Nature of Relations

**Conjugal Family:** A conjugal family includes only the husband, wife and unmarried children who are not adults. This is also referred as nuclear family.

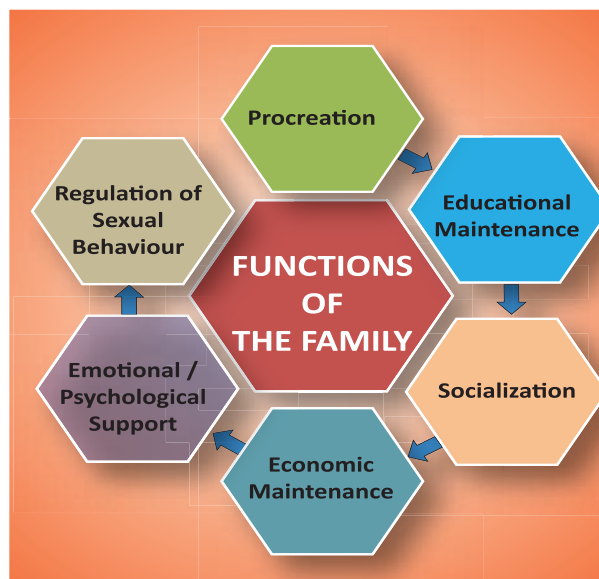
**Consanguine Family:** A consanguine family consists of a parent, his or her children and other relatives

### Based on the size or structure:

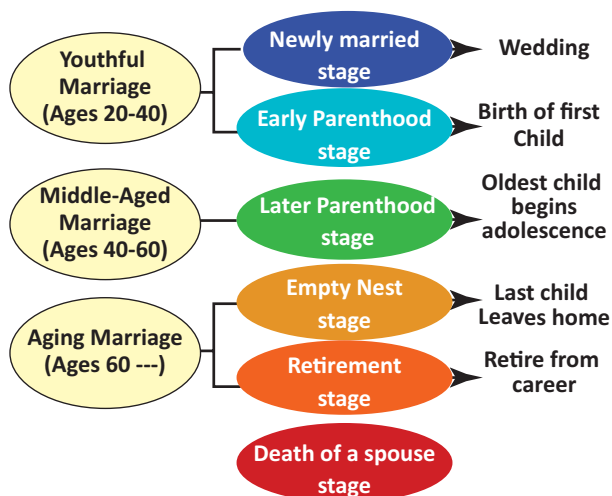
**Nuclear Family:** A nuclear family is a small group consisting of a husband, a wife and children, natural or adopted.

**Joint Family:** A joint family consists of three generation, living together under the same roof, sharing the same kitchen and purse or economic expenses.

## 4.5 Functions Of The Family



## FAMILY LIFE CYCLE



## 4.6 Needs of the Family

According to psychologist Abraham Maslow, the needs of family can be divided into following:

- **Basic needs:** The most rudimentary human needs, associated with the survival of human beings, are called basic needs. Human beings cannot survive in the absence of these things. One needs of food to eat, water to drink and house to live.
- **Physiological needs:** Physiological needs are associated with the function of body

organ. Sex is biological needs of the youth. After this, human being moves to safety needs. After one's stomach is full, she/he needs a safe environment. Cloth and shelter provide security from the general environmental torments and the foes.

- **Additional needs:** The secondary human needs, associated with career development and better living standard, are termed as additional needs. He needs love, care, affection, respect, freedom and eventually self fulfillment.

## 4.7 Marriage

### Introduction

Marriage is one of the most ancient, important, universal and indispensable social relationship which has been in existence since the inception of human civilization.



### Definition of Marriage

1. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, "Marriage is a physical, legal and moral union between man and woman in complete community life for the establishment of a family."
2. According to Malinowski, "Marriage is a contract for the production and maintenance of children."

### Characteristics of Marriage

1. Marriage is a permanent bond between husband and wife. It is designed to fulfill the social, psychological, biological and religious aims.
2. Marriage is a specific relationship between two individuals of opposite sex and based on mutual rights and obligations. Relationship is enduring.

3. Marriage requires social approval. The relationship between men and women must have social approval without which marriage is not valid.
4. Marriage establishes family. Family helps in providing facilities for the procreation and upbringing of children.
5. Marriage creates mutual obligations between husband and wife. The couple fulfills their mutual obligations on the basis of customs or rules.
6. Marriage is always associated with some civil and religious ceremony. This social and religious ceremony provides validity to marriage. Though modern marriage performed in courts still it requires certain religious or customary practices.
7. Marriage regulates sex relationship according to prescribed customs and laws.
8. Marriage has certain symbols like ring, vermillion, special cloths, special sign before the house etc.



Prohibition of Child Marriage Act states that a girl in India should not marry before the age of 18, and a boy before 21.

### Functions of marriage

1. Regulation of sex life and inheritance or procreation
2. Marriage leads establishment of family
3. Provides economic cooperation
4. Marriage contributes to emotional and intellectual interstimulation of the partners
5. Marriage aims at social solidarity

### Social Benefits Of Marriage

#### Marriage and Health

- On average, husbands and wives are healthier, happier and enjoy longer lives than those who are not married.





- Men appear to reap the most physical health benefits from marriage and suffer the greatest health consequences if they divorce.
- Married mothers have lower rates of depression than single or cohabiting mothers, probably because they are more likely to receive practical and emotional support from their husband and his family.

### Marriage and Wealth

- Married couples build more wealth on average than singles or cohabiting couples.
- Married men earn more money than do single men with similar education and job histories.
- Married women are economically better off than divorced, cohabiting or never-married women.

### Marriage and Children

- Less likely to be poor or to experience persistent economic insecurity.
- More likely to stay in school, have fewer behavioural and attendance problems, and earn four-year college degrees.
- Less vulnerable to serious emotional illness, depression and suicide attempts.
- More likely to have positive attitudes towards marriage and greater success in forming lasting marriages.

### Marriage and Crime/Domestic Violence

- Married women are at lower risk for domestic violence than women in cohabiting or dating relationships.
- Boys raised in single-parent homes are more likely to engage in criminal and delinquent behaviours than those raised by two married biological parents.
- Married women are significantly less likely to be the victims of violent crime than single or divorced women. Married men are less likely to perpetrate violent crimes than unmarried men.

### Marriage and Society

- The institution of marriage reliably creates the social, economic and affective conditions for effective parenting.
- Being married changes people's lifestyles and habits in ways that are personally and socially beneficial. Marriage is a "seedbed" of pro-social behaviour.
- Marriage generates social capital. The social bonds created through marriage yield benefits, not only for the family, but for others as well, including the larger society.

## 4.8 Application of Sociology in Nursing

- Sociology is a recent addition to the syllabus of medical education.
- Sociology is needed in general to all the medical professions and especially nursing because social conditions are sometimes responsible for health problems.
- Sociology helps to understand the relationship between disease and social condition.

### Importance of social environment

- A patient with physical handicap should be understood in the context of his social milieu.
- Psychological, social and vocational handicaps of the disabled person and patients are often related with false attitude of the people.
- The nurse should understand the social environment for develop the patients health conditions.

### SUMMARY

Sociology is just as valuable and important to nursing as is psychology. Sociology explores the issues of genders, social classes, stratification, families and economic policies which have impacts on health care and nursing.

## GLOSSARY

A-Z

<b>Sociology</b>	-	சமூகவியல்	the study and classification of human societies
<b>Universality</b>	-	பொதுமை	the quality of being universal; existing everywhere
<b>Procreation</b>	-	இனப்பெருக்கம்	the sexual activity of conceiving and bearing offspring
<b>Materialism</b>	-	பொருள்முதற் கோட்பாடு	a desire for wealth and material possessions with little interest in ethical or spiritual matters



## Evaluation

### I. Multiple choice question

- Family started with patriarch belongs to
  - matriarchal
  - patriarchal
  - polygamy
- What are key structure of societies
  - marriage
  - family
  - a and b

### II. Answer in one or two lines

- Define sociology
- Define family
- Define marriage
- What is consanguine family?
- List out the benefits of marriage

### III. Short notes

- List out the importance of sociology
- Explain the principles of sociology
- Enlist the types of family
- Discuss the function of marriage
- Enumerate the functions of family

### IV. Write in detail about

- Explain about the family
- Discuss about marriage
- Explain the application of sociology in health management
- Describe the characteristics of family



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