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CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURE

Generally Indian families comprise of mother, father, grandfather, grandmother and children. Some families called joint families comprise of father's younger brother, his wife (aunt), his elder brother and wife (aunt) along with mother, father, grandparents and children. But nowadays, the structure of such families is changing. How were the families of your grandparents in their childhood can you guess? How are the present day families? Do all the family members always stay together? Do new members join the family? Think... when and why changes take place in a family?

1.1. A new arrival

Vandana is very excited. Her mother gave birth to a baby girl. She has a new baby sister.





Observe the picture and say:

- ◆ Who were the members of Vandana's family before the arrival of her baby sister?
- ◆ Well! A new born baby has come to Vandana's home; what changes might have occurred in their home after the birth of the baby? Many changes occur when new members join the family. Discuss with your friends and write in your note book the changes that have take place.

Discuss in groups



- ◆ How will Vandana spend her day now?
- ◆ What kind of work her mother might have done before?
- ◆ What new work will her mother do now?
- ◆ What changes will come in the work of family members on the arrival of a new born?

Changes certainly occur in the life of family members on the birth of babies. New duties such as giving bath to the baby, cooking special food, taking care of baby, carrying the baby often, handling a crying baby and calming down etc., have to be done. All the family members have to help the mother in doing these things. These activities would not be there before the birth of a baby.

1.2. Marriage - changes in the family

Rani's brother Srinivas is getting married. The house is decorated beautifully. Relatives came. The people of the house are very busy. Have you ever attended any marriage? Say, what you have seen there?

The bride came to Rani's house after the marriage. With this, new members joined Rani's family also. Where did Rani's sister-in-law live before the marriage? Where will she reside after the marriage? Discuss the following questions with your friends in groups. Write the answers in your note book.

Discuss in groups :



- ◆ What changes might have come in the bride's family due to the marriage?
- ◆ Who all were there in Rani's family before her brother's marriage?
- ◆ What changes might have come in Rani's family after the marriage?
- ◆ What changes may come in future in Rani's family?
- ◆ Living together in a family makes family members happy - why?
- ◆ Ravi Kiran says that living with grand father, grand mother makes him feel good why? Write down?

Additions take place in families with marriage and birth of a new born. Similarly, if any family member leaves the family for any reason, this also brings in changes. This means, the changes come in the family when either a member joins or leaves.



Think...

Besides these what other reasons bring changes in the families?

1.3. New place or transfer

Aditya's family lives in Rangapuram. Aditya's father received a letter from his office. The letter said that he was being promoted and would have to move to Sultanabad.

Aditya's family is a joint family. In his family, in addition to his mother, father and sister his grandfather, grandmother, uncle (father's younger brother), aunt (younger brother's wife) and their children live together.



Think...

When Aditya's father showed the letter to his family, how do you think the different members would have felt?

Aditya's family vacated the house and left for the new town. Similarly, the father of Aditya's friend Ramesh also got promoted. He was transferred to another town. But, Ramesh's father didn't take his family to the new town. He started travelling to and fro. Discuss with your friends and write down, what changes might come in the families of employees.

Aditya's family	Ramesh's family
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where did they reside before promotion? • Where is the family after promotion? • What changes might have come in Aditya's family after shifting. • Will there be any changes in the work (duties) done by Aditya in the past and in the present? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where did they reside before promotion? • Where is the family after promotion? • What changes might have come in Ramesh's family after his father started travelling to and fro daily to the new town. • Will there be changes in the work (duties) of Ramesh also?

- Has any new student joined your class or school? Talk to them. Know and tell about the changes that took place in their families and the kind of work they did?
- Where did he / she come from?
- How was his / her old school?
- What new things he / she observed here?
- Did he / she like the present atmosphere? why?



Families will not be in the same state always. Changes have to come in the families due to various reasons. You have known that the changes occur in the families due to reasons such as marriages, births, transfer to other towns and so on. The changes occur not only because of these reasons but also business, studies, migration for employment, occurrence of earthquakes, floods, death of important family members etc; Besides these, when we compare the present times with the past we find that many changes have taken place in the families. How do we know about these things?

Do this ...

Form groups of three. Each group should visit any three families living nearby and talk to the old aged persons or..... grand parents. Talk to them, collect and note down the following details in the table.

Information to be collected	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since how many years your family has been staying here? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where did your family live before coming here? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did you come here? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes have come in your family before and after coming here? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many members were there in your family 10 years ago? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many members are there in your family today? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the reasons for the change in the number of family members? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you feel about the changes in the family? 	

1.4. Families - yesterday, today, tomorrow.....

You have understood that all families change in some way or the other but for different reasons. Has your family changed too?

Most of the families in the past were joint families. In joint families, different members like grandparents, aunts, uncles, their children..... every one lived together as a single family. All members helped each other performed did various kinds of jobs together. They used to share the sorrows as well as the happy moments. Nowadays the number of members in a family are decreasing day by day.

Now, it is the parents and their children which are seen in most of the families. These are called nuclear families. They are not taking proper care of grandparents and other old members. Some people are leaving their old parents in old age homes, and keeping their children in the hostels for education. Discuss these changes with the friends in your group and write down the conclusions.

Discuss in groups



- ◆ How were the families in the past?
- ◆ What were the benefits of joint families?
- ◆ What are the reasons for the decrease in the number of members and formation of nuclear families?
- ◆ Old age homes are increasing day by day - why?
- ◆ Do you feel it is a good change? Discuss.
- ◆ What other changes may come in the families in the future?
- ◆ Living together is happy. Living apart is sad. Why?

You know that all the family members lived together in joint families. Now, let us know what other advantages joint families had. The old people used to be with the children and helped them in many ways. Children were told stories, unknown things were clarified by the old people. Meals were taken together. Every one helped each other and lived together. Many changes came in the families as the days passed. The joint families have separated into nuclear families due to people leaving the villages for employment, division of properties, insufficient housing etc;

Now think and tell:

How was your family in the past? How is it now? What type of family is yours- a joint family or a nuclear family? Which one you feel is better? why?

1.5. Family life - usage of home appliances:

With changes in the families, the method of doing work also changed. Earlier people did their work themselves or took the help of others and did them together. But now, who is doing the work? some families started engaging servants to do the house hold work. Similarly, usage of electricity in the house hold work has increased.

Observe the pictures given below. Do you know these?



- Why do people use these appliances?
- Why the usage of electricity increasing day by day?
- How did the people do their different kinds of work, when these appliances were not there?
- Is the use of these appliances advantageous? Why? Why not?

Collect :



Go and talk to your grand parents. Ask them whether they had these appliances in their childhood? Have they used them? How they did their work, when these were not there? What do they feel about the appliances that are used today? Ask and know.....

Home appliances have changed the method of working. Nowadays, most of the work is not done being done manually. They are depending on the appliances. They use appliances for washing clothes, grinding flour, cleaning the house, cooking etc; We should do work with our hands as far as possible. Usage of home appliances should be reduced. We consume more electricity while using washing machines, mixie, grinder etc, If we do the work manually, we can not only reduce the consumption of electricity but also give maintain our body and become healthy. In addition to this, one also realizes the value of work.

Key words :

1. Family members
2. Changes in the family
3. Promotion
4. Joint families
5. Nuclear families
6. Home Appliances

What have we learnt?

1. Conceptual understanding

- a) Are all the families similar? why?
- b) Write the reasons for the changes in the families?
- c) Which appliances are used in homes? why?
- d) "Changes come in the families due to marriages", why? Write three reasons.
- e) Engaging children in work is a crime. Why?

2. Questioning - hypothesis

- ◆ A new family has come to your village. What questions would you ask to know about the changes that occurred in their family after moving?

3. Experiments - field observations

- ◆ The kinds of work done by boys and girls are not different at home. All should do every type of work. observe the families in your surroundings. Are there any differences in the type of work done by boys and girls? Write down.

4. Information skills, projects

- a) Visit the homes of any five of your friends. Collect information on the home appliances used in their houses and write in the table below.

Sl.No	Name of the friend	Home appliances used at the home
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

- b) Paste the photos of your family before and after your birth. Write down what changes came in the family.

5. Communication through mapping skills, drawing pictures and making models

- ◆ Draw or paste the pictures of your family members on a chart. Say and write what work they do.

6. Appreciation, values and awareness towards bio-diversity

- ◆ If a new family becomes our neighbour, how can we help them?
- ◆ Describe your feelings when you meet the members of a joint family, who help each other.
- ◆ We can reduce the difficulties of others by doing work ourselves. Explain this.

Can I do this?

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. I can explain the reasons for changes in a family | Yes/No |
| 2. I can ask questions to know about the changes in a family | Yes/No |
| 3. I can collect, tabulate and explain the information on the usage of home appliances in the families. | Yes/No |
| 4. I can draw the pictures of family members, and explain the kinds of work they do. | Yes/No |
| 5. I can help the new families who come into our neighbourhood. | Yes/No |