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Q6(b)

Distinguish between family and household with reference to the concept of development of the household.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 1 · 15 marks · Systems of Kinship

Systems of Kinship: Family, household, marriage; Types and forms of family; Lineage and descent; Patriarchy and sexual division of labour; Contemporary trends.

Core demand of the question

- Distinguish between family and household with reference to the concept of development of the household
- Keep the distinction within a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Family is kinship; household is coresidence and consumption.

Census and **NFHS** count households, not the full family net.

- **Household development:** wage, migration, partition, female headship.
- **Shah:** household cycle rather than a one-way nuclear end.

Welfare that targets the household can miss family patriarchy.

Introduction

Family is a kinship and marriage relation of belonging. Household is a residential and consumption unit that may or may not match that relation. Development of the household names how that residential-economic unit changes with work, migration, and the state.

Body

Family versus household

- **Family:** who is kin, who may marry, who inherits. Irawati **Karve**'s kinship map is about family.
- **Household:** who shares a hearth, budget, and roof. The **Census** house and **NFHS** household are this unit.
- A migrant's family can span two houses. A hostel mess is a household without a family.

Development of the household

- From a peasant joint production unit toward wage-dependent urban flats, remittance houses, and female-headed units.
- **A. M. Shah and others showed the Indian household cycle:** partition, not a simple death of the joint family.
- Development programmes target the household as a welfare unit, which can hide intra-household patriarchy, after Ann Oakley and Kandiyoti.

Why the distinction matters

- Poverty lines and rations attach to households; honour and endogamy attach to families.

- SHGs may develop women's cash inside a household whose property remains a patriarchal family.

Flow diagram

Family kin marriage -> May span houses
Household hearth budget -> Census NFHS unit
Development wage migration welfare -> Household hearth budget
Patriarchy -> Both units

Conclusion

Family is kin belonging; household is coresidence and common consumption. Development of the household is the changing economic-residential form under wage, migration, and welfare. Do not read a smaller house as the end of the family.

Facts & figures

Census household

A dwelling-based unit used in official Indian statistics.

A. M. Shah

The household dimension of the family: cycle and partition in India.

Karve

Kinship organisation: the family map beyond the roof.

NFHS

Household files on headship, wealth, and members present.