



"Educating hearts and minds"

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

ACCREDITED BY NAAC WITH 'A+' GRADE (CYCLE:2)

Tripura University Reg. Code: 17

Jubatara, P.O. Lembucherra, Tripura West Pin-799210

Phone: 0381-2915930, +91 9402315672

email- principalhccagt@gmail.com

Web: www.holycrosscollege.in

Department of Sociology

Holy Cross College, Agartala

Date: 10.10.2023

NOTICE

RESEARCH BASED ASSIGNMENT AND PRESENTATION

November 16-24, 2023

This is to notify the third Semester students of Sociology Honours about the Research Based Assignment and Presentation.

Presentation Topic: CHANGING NATURE OF FAMILY, MARRIAGE & KINSHIP

Presentation Date: November 16-24, 2023

Deadline for Submission: 28th November, 2023

This research based assignment will allow you in exploring family, marriage, and kinship system of your community and as you interview community members you will be able to bridge academic sociology with your personal histories. Moreover, by sharing your findings in class, you will gained insights into both shared societal shifts and unique community narratives. The assignment and presentation not only offers a practical experience in sociological research but also fostered a deeper appreciation for our community's history and its place within broader societal changes.

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10/10/23
HEAD
Department of Sociology,
HOLY CROSS COLLEGE AGARTALA
Head, Department of Sociology
Holy Cross College, Agartala

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AUTUMN BREAK RESEARCH BASED ASSIGNMENT - 2023
TOPIC: CHANGING NATURE OF FAMILY, MARRIAGE & KINSHIP

CONCEPT:

The **family** is a social institution found in all societies that unites people into cooperative groups to oversee the bearing and raising of children. Family ties are also called **Kinship**, a social bond based on blood, marriage, or adoption. **Descent** refers to the system by which members of a society trace kinship over generations. Most preindustrial societies trace kinship through just the father's or mother's side of the family. The more common patrilineal descent is a system tracing kinship through men, where fathers typically pass property on to their sons. Less common is matrilineal descent, a system tracing kinship through women, where mothers pass property to their daughters. Throughout the world, families form around **marriage**, a legally sanctioned relationship, usually involving economic cooperation as well as sexual activity and child bearing, that people expect to be enduring. Our cultural belief that marriage is the right setting for procreation explains the historical use of the term *illegitimate* for children born out of wedlock. Moreover, matrimony, in Latin means "condition of motherhood". Today, some people object to defining only married couples and children as "families" because it implies a single standard of moral conduct.

RATIONALE:

In this project, through worksheet-1 you will sketch the changes that took place in terms of the structure and functions of family, marriage and kinship system of your clan/tribe/community. By interviewing members of your community/clan/tribe, you will have the chance to do a piece of sociological research. We will devote time in class to the discussion of your findings with each other. These discussions will give us the opportunity to consider how the larger social trends we discuss in this course are mirrored in the history of our communities.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Face-to-face interviews are better; but some of you may have to conduct interviews over the telephone. Please draw upon any other sources of information (photos, diaries, videos) that are useful. The questions on the attached worksheet can be used as a suggested framework for your interviews.
- On the basis of the interviews, write a 7–8 page essay. At the end of the essay include a list of the family members interviewed and any materials examined. Also note the clan, tribe, village, and district name of the people you are interviewing.
- Do take permission before you take pictures of the people you interview. Attach the photographs with the essay.
- Be prepared to share the results of your investigation with other class members
- Maintain hard copies of the people you interview.

WORKSHEET -1

During your autumn break spend an hour or two with married people of two different generations and ask the following questions:

1. At what age they married?
2. What is the structure of marriage? *Extended* (marriage embeds spouses in a large kinship network of explicit obligations) or *Nuclear* (marriage brings fewer obligations towards the spouse's kin)
3. Who holds authority? Highly patriarchal (authority is held by males)/ Matriarchy (authority is held by women) / although patriarchal features remain, authority is more evenly divided.
4. How many spouses at one time is allowed?
5. Who selects the spouse?
6. Where does the couple live after marriage?
7. What have their married lives been like?
8. What changes in family life today stand out for them?
9. How is descent figured?
10. How is inheritance figured?

NOTE:

- You need to interview at least 7-10 married people from your parents' generation and also 7-10 married people from your grandparents' generation.
- Preferably the data needed to collect from your same clan or tribe or community members.
- Lastly, mention your view on family and marriage as well.

WORKSHEET – 2

Traditionally, the task of providing daily care for young children fell to mothers. But with a majority of mothers and fathers now in the labor force, finding quality, affordable child care is a high priority for parents.

How do such couple take care of their young child (aged 2-5 years)

WHO'S MINDING THE KIDS?	Tick the relevant option
1. By father	
2. By grandparent	
3. By other relative	
4. By non relative/nanny	
5. Mother cares for child at work	
6. Nursery/preschool	
7. Day-care center	
8. Other	

NOTE:

- Interview any 5 young married couples whose children are presently 2-5 years of age and 5 married couples whose children are now 5-15 years of age.
- Preferably the data needed to collect from your same clan or tribe or community members.
- After collecting the data please convert it into percentage.

WORKSHEET -3

In two-pay check marriages, who has more responsibility for housework?

TYPE OF HOUSEWORK	MEN	WOMEN
Shopping		
Cooking		
Cleaning		
Paying bills		
Repairs		

NOTE:

- Interview any 10 married couple of last decade (2010-2020)
- Preferably the data needed to collect from your same clan or tribe or community members.