

kinship

Introduction:

Kinship is the most universal and basic of all human relationships and is based on ties of blood, marriage, or adoption.

Some sociologists and anthropologists have argued that kinship goes beyond familial ties, and even involves social bonds.

“Kinship is a structured system of relationships in which kins are bound to one another by complex inter-locking ties.”

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Introduction:

- Man does not live alone in society. From birth till death he is surrounded by a number of people.
- Some of these people are his relatives, some are friends some are neighbours while all others are strangers and unknown to him.
- He is bound to all those people who are related to him either on the basis of blood or marriage.
- The relations based on blood or marriage may be close or distant. The bond of blood or marriage which binds people together in group is called kinship.

kinship

- **Introduction:**

- Kinship is one of the main organizing principles of society. It is one of the basic social institutions found in every society. This institution establishes relationships between individuals and groups. People in all societies are bound together by various kinds of bonds.
- The most basic bonds are those based on marriage and reproduction. Kinship refers to these bonds, and all other relationships resulting from them. Thus, the institution of kinship refers to a set of relationships and relatives formed thereof, based on blood relationships (consanguineal), or marriage (affinal).

Meaning & Definitions of kinship

- According to the Dictionary of Anthropology, kinship system includes socially recognized relationships based on supposed as well as actual genealogical ties. These relationships are the result of social interaction and recognized by society.
- According to Encyclopaedia Britannica Kinship is a "system of social organization based on real or family ties,"

Meaning & Definitions of kinship

- L.Stone Says, Kinship is the recognition of relationships between persons based on descent or marriage. If the relationship between one person and another is considered by them to involve descent, the two are consanguine (“blood”) relatives. If the relationship has been established through marriage, it is affinal.’
- R. Tonkinson Defined- ‘Kinship is a system of social relationships that is expressed in biological idiom using terms like “mother”, “son”, and so on. It is best visualized as a mass of networks of related-ness, not two of which are identical, that radiate from each individual. Kinship is the basic organizing principle in small-scale societies like those of the Aborigines and provides a model for interpersonal behaviour.

Types of kinship

- Sociologists and anthropologists debate as what to types of kinship exist. Most social scientists agree that kinship is based on two broad areas: **birth and marriage**; others say a third category of kinship involves social ties. These three types of kinship are:
1.Consanguineal: This kinship is based on blood—or birth: the relationship between parents and children as well as siblings, says the Sociology Group. This is the most basic and universal type of kinship. Also known as a primary kinship, it involves people who are directly related

Types of kinship

2.Affinal: This kinship is based on marriage. The relationship between husband and wife is also considered a basic form of kinship.

3.Social: Schneider argued that not all kinship derives from blood (consanguineal) or marriage (affinal). There are also social kinships, where individuals not connected by birth or marriage may still have a bond of kinship, he said.

Consanguineal kinship

- The bond of blood is called consanguineous kinship. The consanguineous kin are related through blood whereas the affinal kin are related through marriage. The bond between parents and their children and that between siblings is consanguineous kinship. Siblings are the children of the same parents.
- Thus, son, brother, sister, uncle (chacha), elder uncle (taoo), nephew and cousin are consanguineous kin. i.e., related through blood. In this connection it may be pointed out that blood relationship may be actual as well as supposed.

Affinal kinship

- The bond of marriage is called affinal kinship. When a person marries, he establishes relationship not only with the girl whom he marries but also with a number of other people in the girl's family. Moreover, it is not only the person marrying who gets bound to the family members of the girl but his family members also get bound to the family members of the girl.
- Thus, a host of relations are created as soon as a marriage takes place. For example, after marriage a person becomes not only a husband, but he also becomes brother-in-law and son-in-law. Here it may be noted that in English language a number of relations created by marriage are referred by the same term. Thus, the same term 'brother-in-law' is used for bahnoi, sala, jija and sadahu. On marriage a person also becomes foofa, nandoi and mausa.

Affinal kinship

- Likewise a girl on marriage becomes not only a wife but also becomes daughter-in-law, she also becomes chachi, bhabhi, devrani, jethani, mami etc. Thus, marriage creates a host of relationships which are called affinal kin.

Degree of Kinship:

- Any relationship between two individuals is based on the degree of closeness or distance of that relationship. This closeness or distance of any relationship depends upon how individuals are related to each other.
- **Kinship basically has three degrees, which can be explained in the following ways.**

Degree of Kinship:

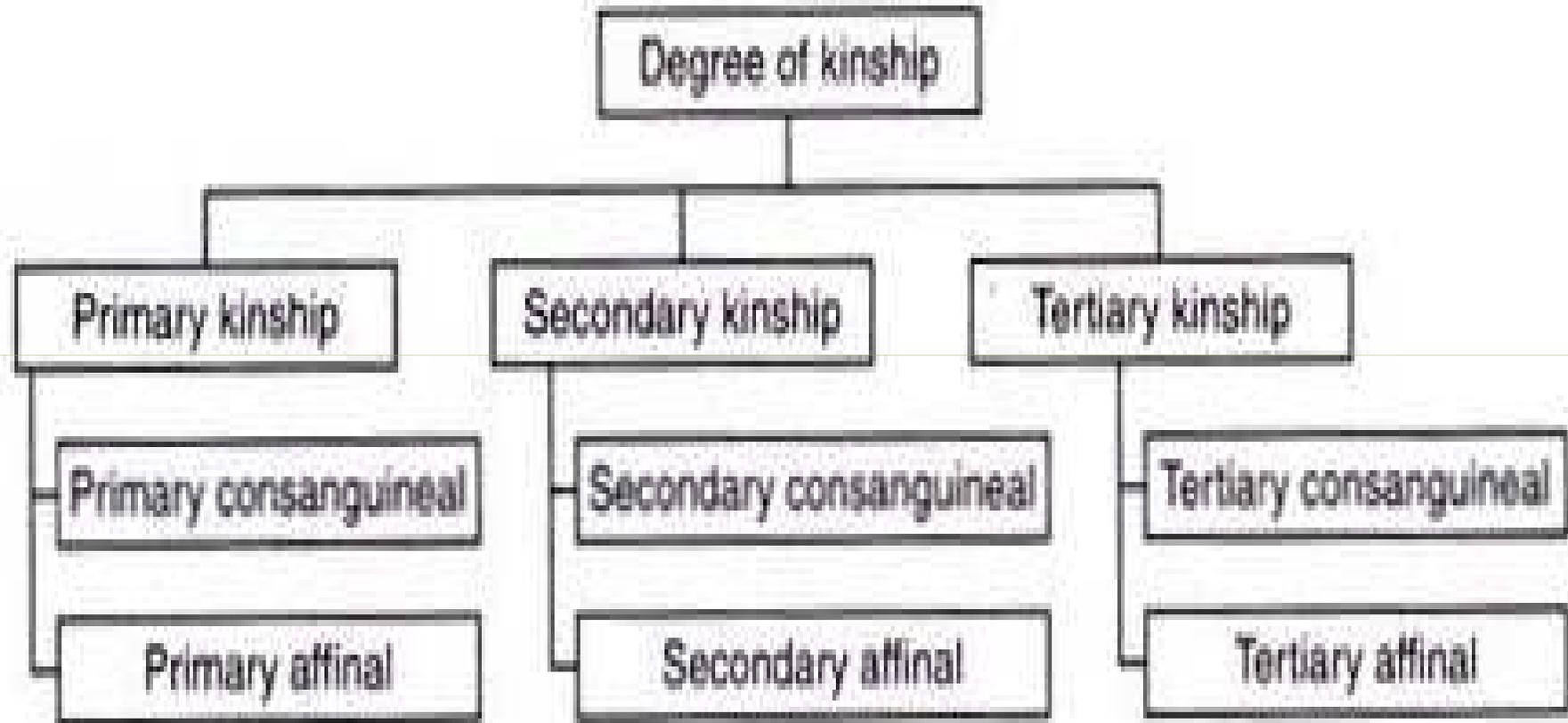


Figure 3

Primary Kinship:

- Primary kinship refers to direct relations. People who are directly related to each other are known as primary kin. There are basically eight primary kins—wife father son, father daughter mother son, wife; father son, father daughter, mother son, mother daughter; brother sister; and younger brother/sister older brother/sister
- On the basis of nearness or distance relatives can be classified in several categories. Some relatives are very close, direct and near, for example, father-son, sister-brother, husband-wife. They are called primary kin. **According to Dr. Dubey, there are eight such primary kins.** They are **1.husband-wife****2.father-son** **3.mother-daughter** **4.father-daughter** **5.mother-son** **6.younger-elder brothers** **7.younger-elder sisters** and **8.sister-brother.**

Primary kinship is of two kinds:

1. Primary Consanguineal Kinship:

Primary consanguineal kin are those kin, who are directly related to each other by birth. The relationships between parents and children and between siblings form primary kinship. These are the only primary consanguineal kin found in societies all over the world.

2. Primary Affinal Kinship:

Primary affinal kinship refers, to the direct relationship formed as a result of marriage. The only direct affinal kinship is the relationship between husband and wife.

Secondary Kinship:

- Secondary kinship refers to the primary kin's of primary kin. In other words, those who are directly related to primary kin (primary kin's primary kin) become one's secondary kin.

There are 33 secondary kin.

Secondary kinship is also of two kinds:

1. Secondary Consanguineal kinship:
2. Secondary Affinal Kinship:

Secondary Consanguineal kinship:

This type of kinship refers to the primary con-sanguineal kin's primary consanguineal kin. The most basic type of secondary consan-guineal kinship is the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. In the Figure 3, there is a direct consanguineal relationship between Ego and his parents. For Ego, his parents are his primary consanguineal kin. However, for Ego's par-ents, their parents are their primary consanguineal kin. Therefore, for Ego, his grandpar-ents are his primary consanguineal kin's (his parents) primary kin. For him, they become secondary consanguineal kin.

Secondary Affinal Kinship:

Secondary affinal kinship refers to one's primary affinal kin's primary kin. This kinship includes the relationships between an individual and all his/her sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and parents-in-law. For an individual, his/her spouse is his/her primary affinal kin, and for the spouse, his/her parents and siblings are his/her primary kin. Therefore, for the individual, the parents of brother/sister-in-law will become his/her secondary affinal kin. Similarly, any sibling's spouse or sibling's parents-in-law will become secondary affinal kin for an individual.

Tertiary Kinship:

- Tertiary kinship refers to the primary kin of primary kin's primary kin or secondary kin of primary kin primary kin of secondary kin.
Roughly 151 tertiary kin have been identified.
- **Like other two degrees of kinship, tertiary kinship also has two categories:**
- **1.Tertiary Consanguineal Kinship:**
- **2.Tertiary Affinal Kinship**

Tertiary Consanguineal Kinship:

- Tertiary consanguineal kinship refers to an individual's primary consanguineal kin (parents), their primary kin (parents' parents), and their primary kin (parent's parent's parents). Thus, the relationship is between great grand-children and great grandparents, and great grand aunts and uncles, and consequently the relationship between great grand uncles and aunts and great grand nieces and nephews.

Tertiary Affinal Kinship:

- Tertiary affinal kinship refers to primary affinal kin's primary kin's primary kin, or secondary affinal kin's primary kin, or primary affinal kin's secondary kin. These relationships are many, and some examples will suffice at this stage of tertiary affinal kin can be spouse's grandparents, or grand uncles and aunts, or they can be brother or sister-in-law's spouses or their children. Let us try and understand these relationships with the help of an illustration.