

# Understanding the Significance of Kinship

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**Abstract:** *The individuals, belonging to all occupations, communities and socio-economic backgrounds are required to understand the meaning and significance of relationships in their lives. From the stage of early childhood, throughout their lives, they are required to be well-informed in terms of ways of management of relationships. Some of these are, implementing effective communication processes, inculcating the traits of morality and ethics, being well-informed in terms of job duties and methodologies, and depicting the traits of helpfulness and co-operation. All these factors are required to be acknowledged and reinforced, when the individuals are forming terms and relationships with all types of kin. The individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of the factor that their tasks and activities are required to promote well-being and goodwill of others. The individuals acquire support and assistance from others in carrying out their tasks and activities efficiently. Furthermore, they will be able to cope with various types of dilemmas and challenging situations in an efficient manner. As a consequence, individuals will contribute efficiently in doing well in one's job duties and achievement of desired goals and objectives in personal and professional lives. Therefore, it is well-understood, kinship is facilitating in bringing about improvements in overall standards of living of individuals. The main concepts that are taken into account in this research paper are, types of kin, degrees of kinship and factors highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.*

**Keywords:** *Individuals, Job Duties, Kinship, Linkages, Norms, Personal, Professional, Values*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the lives of the individuals they need to understand that they are required to create ties and establish linkages with individuals in their personal and professional lives. The family members, relatives, friends, educators, employers, colleagues, classmates, neighbours, caregivers, domestic helpers, service providers and community members are the individuals, who are required to be communicated with in an effective manner. As a consequence of putting into operation effective communication processes and treating each other with respect and courtesy, amiability in relationships will be reinforced (Roberts, 2020, [3][9][10]). The bonds of blood or marriage, which binds the individuals together is known as kinship. In accordance to the dictionary of anthropology, kinship includes society recognized relationships, which are based on supposed as well as actual genealogical ties.

These relationships are formed as a result of communicating and dealing with others. The system of kinship represents one of the basic social institutions. Kinship is universal and in most societies, it renders an important contribution in socialization of individuals and maintenance of group solidarity. Kinship is important in primitive societies and extends its influence on social, economic, cultural, political and religious activities. The kinship is referred to the set of individuals recognized as relatives, either by virtue of blood relationship, technically called consanguinity or by virtue of marriage, which is technically known as affinity. In most cases, individuals tend to regard the kinship system in which they are born. In the kinship system, members are required to treat each other with respect and courtesy. Furthermore, they are required to reinforce the traits of helpfulness, co-operation, kind-heartedness, generosity and courteousness (Haimendorf, 1965, [1]). There have been progressions taking place within the overall living conditions of individuals, when they are dealing and working with others in an efficacious manner. The individuals are required to augment their information in terms of different factors, which are facilitating in strengthening kinship. The two types of relationships are taken into account in kinship, i.e. consanguineal relatives and affinal relatives. The individuals are required to form cordial and amiable terms and relationships with all the relatives. In other words, they are required to reinforce positivity in kinship. Therefore, one needs to acquire an efficient understanding of kinship and needs to strengthen it with a constructive approach.

### A. Types of Kin

The kinship is referred to the set of individuals recognized as relatives, either by virtue of blood relationship, technically called consanguinity or by virtue of marriage, which is technically known as affinity. In most cases, individuals tend to regard the kinship system in which they are born. In the kinship system, members are required to treat each other in a satisfactory manner (7 Qualities of Truly Authentic People, 2016, [2][7][8]). Furthermore, they are required to reinforce the traits of kindness, collaboration, benevolence, liberality and civility. There have been transformations taking place within the overall living conditions of individuals, when they are dealing and working with others in an effectual manner. The types of kin are classified into two, i.e. consanguineous relationships and affinal relationships. These are stated as follows:

### B. Consanguineous Relationships

Consanguineous relationships are the ones that are formed through blood. These comprise of parents and siblings. These are considered to be actual relations. In the absence of these relations, the individuals follow the custom of adoption.

Manuscript received on 10 May 2023 | Revised Manuscript received on 12 August 2023 | Manuscript Accepted on 15 September 2023 | Manuscript published on 30 September 2023.

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When a couple does not have a biological child, they adopt a child. The adopted child is treated in the same manner as the biological child. He or she is made the nominee in all the assets of his or her parents. The individuals are required to form cordial and amiable terms and relationships with all the relatives. In other words, they are required to reinforce positivity in kinship. In promoting reinforcement of affinal relationships, the individuals are required to be well-prepared. In this manner, they are putting in their best efforts in strengthening positivity in terms and relationships. The family members put emphasis on imparting information in terms of morals and ethics. Hence, when individuals listen these, they will be able to bring about transformations in their overall quality of lives. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, the individuals, who are related to each other by blood are required to develop mutual understanding.

### C. Affinal Relationships

When mating takes place in a more or less permanent relationship and is publicly recognized, it is termed as marriage. It is apparently understood, individuals form number of relationships through marriage. When an individual gets married, he and she are making an entry in the family of orientation. This comprises of in-laws, i.e. father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and spouse's aunts, uncles and cousins. Within marital homes, the individuals are required to be well-versed in terms of ways that are facilitating in reinforcing pleasantness in terms and relationships. The individuals are required to form cordial and amiable terms and relationships with all the relatives. In other words, they are required to reinforce positivity in kinship. In promoting reinforcement of affinal relationships, the individuals are required to be well-prepared. In this manner, they are putting in their best efforts in strengthening positivity in terms and relationships. The family members put emphasis on imparting information in terms of values and ethics among their children, both sons and daughters, so they are able to gain success in married lives. Therefore, individuals are required to implement the measures, which are facilitating in making married lives successful.

## II. DEGREES OF KINSHIP

It is vital for individuals, irrespective of communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds to acquire an efficient understanding of kinship throughout their lives. Furthermore, they are required to be well-versed in terms of ways which are necessary in maintenance of relationships. The utilization of kinship accomplishes two major tasks. They create special groupings of kin. When an individual is born in a family, he or she forms relationships. The relationships are, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and the relation of siblings may or may not be. When an individual gets married, the number of relationships are formed, i.e. in-laws, i.e. father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and spouse's aunts, uncles and cousins. On the basis of nearness, relationships are classified into various categories. These include, kin, collateral kin, lineal kin, primary kin,

secondary kin, tertiary kin and kindred. These are stated as follows:

### A. Kin

The relationships that are formed through blood or marriage are known as kin. When an individual is born in a family, he or she forms number of relationships. The relationships that are formed are, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and the relation of siblings may be or may not be. On the other hand, when he or she gets married, the number of relationships are formed, i.e. in-laws, i.e. father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and spouse's aunts, uncles and cousins. In most cases, the relationships that are formed are recognized by the cultural parameter. This is the reason for recognizing person's kin and the ones, who are not in a relationship. The individuals are required to augment their information in terms of different factors, which are facilitating in strengthening cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships with others. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, individuals need to be well-equipped in terms of peaceful conflict resolution methods. These are essential in getting all types of conflicting situations and disagreements settled in a peaceful manner.

### B. Collateral Kin

Collateral kin is referred to the kin that gets separated from the main branch. It comprises of aunts, uncles, and cousins. The siblings of parents are uncles and aunts. Their children are the cousins. The cousins are termed as first cousins. Hence, real aunts, uncles and cousins are termed as collateral kin. The individuals generate information in terms of collateral kin from the time, when birth takes place. The parents are vested with the authority and responsibility of imparting information in terms of different types of relationships. Furthermore, the individuals are required to understand these in an adequate manner. The implementation of effective communication processes is regarded as the key. This is facilitating in augmenting one's knowledge and understanding in terms of different types of subjects and concepts. Furthermore, individuals will be able to exchange ideas and viewpoints in terms of different factors. In addition, this will be facilitating in obtaining answers to all types of questions that are overwhelming to the individuals. Therefore, it is well-understood by individuals, belonging to all communities that collateral kin is a vital degree of kinship.

### C. Lineal Kin

Lineal kin is the kin, which is directly related in succession. These are termed as direct ancestors and direct descendants. The individuals form relationships with lineal kin, when birth takes place. These comprise of parents, grand-parents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The members of lineal kin are vested with the responsibility of imparting information in terms of norms and values. These are the key in achievement of desired goals and objectives.



The norms and values need to be put into operation in personal and professional lives of the individuals. Furthermore, these are facilitating in emerging into moral and ethical human beings and productive citizens of the country. It is apparently understood that individuals have one of the major goals of bringing about improvements in their overall quality of lives. As a consequence of obtaining guidance and direction from lineal kin, they will be able to contribute efficiently in promoting enhancement of overall standards of living. Therefore, it is understood on a comprehensive basis that lineal kin is facilitating in bringing about transformations in overall living conditions of individuals.

#### D. Primary Kin

Primary kin is the kin that is formed by the individuals on the basis of primary kinship. The relatives that are formed are, father-daughter, father-son, mother-daughter, mother-son, brother-sister, older and younger sisters, older and younger brothers and husband and wife. All these relatives are termed as blood relatives, except husband and wife, which are termed as primary relatives. The primary kin may or may not live together. They do reinforce cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships, but the research studies have indicated that in some cases, they do experience stress in terms and relationships. The parents evict their children from homes and even discard them from their property and assets, on the other hand, the children do send them to old age homes when they do not get along with them. On the other hand, there is reinforcement of pleasantness in terms and relationships among siblings, but in some cases, even they get engaged in conflicting situations and disagreements. Therefore, it is well-understood, among primary kin, the individuals maintain cordiality in relationships, as well as the relationships can emerge to be stressful.

#### E. Secondary Kin

The primary relatives of primary kin are categorised into secondary kin. The relatives that come under secondary kin are, grand-father, grand-mother, grand-son, grand-daughter, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, maternal and paternal aunts and uncles and cousins. The secondary kin may or may not be present in the lives of the individuals. In some cases, secondary kin relatives are more, whereas, in other cases, these are less. The individuals may or may not get along with secondary kin relatives. There is cordiality or stress in terms and relationships with secondary kin. When individuals are residing in joint families, in such cases, they are forming the relationships with secondary kin. The individuals in some cases give up their contacts with secondary kin, whereas, in other cases, they maintain their linkages, even when secondary kin members are living at a distance. In some cases, the relationships are strengthened to such a major extent that secondary kin are regarded as equivalent to primary kin. Therefore, it can be stated, the individuals are acknowledging the importance of secondary kin, particularly when they have pleasant terms and relationships with them.

#### F. Tertiary Kin

The primary kins of secondary kins are termed as tertiary kins. These include, brother-in-law's wife or son or daughter; sister-in-law's husband or son or daughter; cousins of one's parents; siblings of grandparents; children of cousins of one's parents and grandchildren of siblings of grandparents. The individuals in some cases are aware of tertiary kin, whereas in other cases, they are not aware of tertiary kin. The parents are vested with the authority and responsibility of imparting information in terms of different types of relationships of tertiary kin. In some of the families, tertiary kin relatives are more, whereas, in other cases, these are less. The individuals may or may not get along with tertiary kin relatives. There is cordiality or stress in terms and relationships with tertiary kin. In some cases, when individuals are focused towards achievement of desired goals and objectives, in such cases, they are establishing the relationships with tertiary kin. The main reason being, they aim to generate information in terms of different types of subjects and concepts in order to promote enrichment of their living conditions.

### III. KINDRED

Relatives in a bilateral succession are relatively called kindred. These descendants are from both sides, maternal and paternal. The siblings of one's parents and their children are considered kindred. The individuals, belonging to all communities are augmenting their information in terms of morals and ethics. These are regarded as fundamental in forming cordial and amiable terms and relationships with kindred. The occurrences of different types of dilemmas and challenging situations are regarded as an integral part of the personal and professional lives of the individuals. These are regarded as major impediments within the course of achievement of desired goals and promote enrichment of their living conditions. Hence, the maintenance of cordial and amiable terms and relationships with kindred is facilitating in preparing the individuals to achieve desired goals and bring about improvements in one's overall standards of living. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, individuals need to inculcate the traits of morality and ethics. Therefore, kindred is regarded as a degree of kinship, which is given the status of family members by the individuals, belonging to all communities.

#### A. Factors Highlighting Roles and Importance of Kinship in Family Structures

Loneliness is regarded as the chronic and distressful condition. It has unfavourable effects on the health and well-being of individuals, both from physical as well as psychological perspectives. Hence, when the individuals establish relationships through blood and marriage and they reinforce pleasantness in terms and relationships, they are able to promote enhancement of competencies, abilities, aptitude, personality traits and overall standards of living.



In some cases, it is apparently understood that there are occurrences of conflicting situations and disagreements in terms of various factors, hence, individuals are required to be well-versed in terms of peaceful conflict resolution methods (Unit 7: Kinship, n.d., [5]). The acknowledgement and implementation of these methods will contribute efficiently in strengthening pleasantness in terms and relationships among family members in natal and marital homes. One of the important aspects that need to be taken into account is, positivity needs to be reinforced in all these factors. The individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds are required to augment their information regarding factors highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures. These are stated as follows:

### B. Institution of Marriage

When mating takes place in a more or less permanent relationship and is publicly recognized, it is termed as marriage. It is termed as the relationship between two families. The individuals prefer inter-caste as well as intra-caste marriage. Within the institution of marriage, members are required to treat each other with respect and courtesy. Furthermore, they are required to reinforce the traits of helpfulness, co-operation, kind-heartedness, generosity and courteousness. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, women should be provided with equal treatment as compared to their male counterparts. Furthermore, it needs to be ensured, there is no discrimination on the basis of any factors. There have been progressions taking place within the overall living conditions of individuals, when they are dealing and working with others in an efficacious manner. The individuals are required to augment their information in terms of different factors, which are facilitating in strengthening cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships with others. Therefore, institution of marriage is regarded as one of the indispensable factors highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### C. Implementation of Household Responsibilities

Implementation of household responsibilities is regarded as one of the vital tasks that individuals need to put into operation in natal and marital homes. The different types of household responsibilities are, cleaning, washing, sweeping, preparation of meals, fetching water, gardening, repair work, electric work, carpentry, plumbing, painting and overall management of the households. Within urban communities, domestic helpers and caregivers are hired by individuals, whereas, in rural communities, the individuals are required to carry out different tasks and activities on their own. The individuals are required to be well-versed in terms of various types of methods and procedures, which are facilitating the implementation of household responsibilities in a well-ordered manner. As a consequence, individuals will render an important contribution in bringing about improvements in overall quality of lives of individuals. Furthermore, they will reinforce cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships with each other. In addition, the individuals will acquire appreciation and reverence, provided they are putting into operation all types of household responsibilities in a well-ordered and satisfactory manner. Therefore, implementation of household

responsibilities is one of the significant factors highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### D. Providing Financial Assistance

The financial resources are the monetary resources. These are the key in making purchases of various items, acquiring services of domestic helpers and service providers, and fulfilling all types of needs and requirements. The family members in natal and marital homes do make provision of financial resources, which are facilitating in promoting enhancement of overall living conditions of individuals. The parents are spending financial resources on their children in order to fulfil all types of needs and requirements. On the other hand, within marital homes as well, individuals are spending financial resources in bringing about improvements in the overall quality of lives of their family members. The individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of ways of managing financial resources in a satisfactory manner. Furthermore, they need to ensure, wastage is prevented. The family members make provision of assistance in generating information in terms of schemes and policies, which would be suitable in managing financial resources in a well-ordered manner. Hence, augmenting listening skills and interactive abilities will be facilitating to the individuals in seeking financial assistance from family members. Therefore, providing financial assistance is an expedient factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### E. Fulfilment of Social Responsibilities

The individuals, throughout their lives are required to be well-versed in terms of social responsibilities. These are the job duties, which individuals are required to put into operation in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families. The individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of different factors, i.e. being well-versed in terms of job duties and responsibilities; being well-equipped in terms of methods and procedures; utilizing pioneering methods and materials; inculcating the traits of morality and ethics; implementing the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness; augmenting knowledge, competencies and abilities; taking out sufficient amount of time for all tasks and activities; depicting the traits of helpfulness and co-operation in dealing with others; putting in efforts to one's best abilities; possessing the abilities to work under stress and forming cordial and amiable terms and relationships with others. As a consequence of acknowledging all these factors, individuals will contribute efficiently in promoting enrichment of social responsibilities. In addition, individuals will realise that kinship is important in their lives and they are required to reinforce it positively. Therefore, fulfilment of social responsibilities is an eminent factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### F. Participation in Various Functions and Events

Within natal and marital homes, there are organizations of different types of functions and events. These are, social, cultural, religious, economic and political.



In the organization and participation in these functions and events, the individuals are required to be well-informed in terms of their job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they need to be well-informative in terms of methods and strategies in carrying these out in a well-ordered manner. As a consequence of promoting enrichment of these functions and events, the individuals are required to form cordial and amiable terms and relationships with each other. As a consequence of acknowledging all these factors, individuals will contribute efficiently in promoting enrichment of all types of functions and events. In addition, individuals will realise that kinship is important in their lives. Through organization of functions and events, individuals will render an important contribution in reinforcing positivity in kinship. The main reason being, individuals will strengthen their bonding, as they are required to work in co-ordination with each other in making functions and events successful. Therefore, participation in various functions and events is a meaningful factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

#### **G. Incurring the Feelings of Pleasure and Contentment**

The individuals are required to get engaged in job duties and responsibilities, which would be facilitating in incurring the feelings of pleasure and contentment among individuals. The individuals within personal and professional lives are required to be well-versed in terms of different types of tasks and activities, which would be facilitating in promoting pleasure and contentment among individuals. The individuals, belonging to all communities, occupations, categories and socio-economic backgrounds are required to be well-informed in terms of job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they need to be well-informative in terms of methods and strategies in carrying these out in a well-ordered and satisfactory manner. As a consequence, the individuals will not only incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment among themselves, but also family members. Doing well in job duties and generating desired outcomes will be facilitating in reinforcing feelings of pleasure and contentment among individuals as well as family members. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, individuals will have to reinforce the traits of helpfulness and co-operation. Therefore, incurring the feelings of pleasure and contentment is a worthwhile factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### **IV. DEPICTING THE TRAITS OF HELPFULNESS AND CO-OPERATION**

It is understood on a comprehensive basis that different types of problems and challenging situations are regarded as an integral part of the personal and professional lives of the individuals. These are experienced in a major or minor form. The different areas in terms of which these take place are, job duties, responsibilities, methodologies, procedures, strategies, work pressure, lack of implementation of time-management skills, unawareness in terms of various factors, scarcity of financial, technical, material and information resources, lack of infrastructure, amenities and facilities and so forth. The individuals may cope with all these problems

on an individual basis as well as through obtaining ideas and suggestions from others. The family members are regarded as the first and foremost individuals, who are approached for help and assistance. Hence, it is of utmost significance to depict the traits of helpfulness and co-operation. As a consequence, individuals will contribute efficiently in reinforcing cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships. In addition, individuals will incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment through reinforcing these traits. Therefore, depicting the traits of helpfulness and co-operation is a vital factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

#### **A. Inculcating the Traits of Morality and Ethics**

The individuals are required to be well-versed in terms of traits of morality and ethics. These are facilitating in differentiating between various types of appropriate and inappropriate factors. Furthermore, individuals will make sure, they will put into operation their job duties and responsibilities within personal as well as professional lives in a well-ordered and disciplined manner. In addition, they will put in efforts to their best abilities in generating desired outcomes. The family members are vested with the authority and responsibility of imparting information in terms of morality and ethics. As a consequence, individuals will contribute efficiently in reinforcing cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships. In addition, individuals will incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment through reinforcing these traits (Schafer, 2007, [4][5][6]). Doing well in job duties and generating desired outcomes will be facilitating in reinforcing feelings of pleasure and contentment among individuals as well as family members. As a consequence, the individuals will not only incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment among themselves, but also family members. Therefore, inculcating the traits of morality and ethics is a crucial factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

#### **B. Promoting Good Health and Well-being**

Promoting good health and well-being is regarded as one of the primary goals of individuals, irrespective of their age groups and genders. The family members are vested with the authority and responsibility of imparting information in terms of factors, which are facilitating in promoting good health and well-being, physically as well as psychologically. These are, focusing on diet and nutrition; getting engaged in exercises and physical activities; practicing the techniques of yoga and meditation; obtaining medical check-ups on regular basis; treating health problems and illnesses; managing body weight; forming an effective social circle; alleviating loneliness; being well-versed in terms of job duties and responsibilities; being well-equipped in terms of methodologies and procedures and inculcating traits of morality, ethics, diligence and conscientiousness. Doing well in job duties and generating desired outcomes will be facilitating in reinforcing feelings of pleasure and contentment among individuals as well as family members.

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As a consequence, the individuals will not only incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment among themselves, but also family members within natal and marital homes. Therefore, promoting good health and well-being is a favourable factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### C. Creating Amiable and Pleasant Environment within Homes

Creating amiable and pleasant environment within homes is regarded as one of major goals of individuals, irrespective of their communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds. Doing well in job duties and generating desired outcomes will be facilitating in reinforcing feelings of pleasure and contentment among individuals as well as family members. As a consequence, the individuals will not only incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment among themselves, but also family members within natal and marital homes. The family members are vested with the authority and responsibility of imparting information in terms of traits of morality and ethics. As a consequence, individuals will contribute efficiently in reinforcing cordiality and amiability in terms and relationships with family members in natal and marital homes. In addition, individuals will incur the feelings of pleasure and contentment through putting into operation all the essential factors. In this manner, they will render an important contribution in creating amiable and pleasant environment within homes. Furthermore, they will contribute efficiently in promoting well-being and goodwill. Therefore, creating amiable and pleasant environment within homes is a useful factor highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures.

### V. CONCLUSION

The kinship is referred to the set of individuals recognized as relatives by virtue of blood and marriage. The types of kin are classified into consanguineous relationships and affinal relationships. Degrees of kinship are, kin, collateral kin, lineal kin, primary kin, secondary kin, tertiary kin and kindred. Factors highlighting roles and importance of kinship in family structures are, institution of marriage, implementation of household responsibilities, providing financial assistance, fulfilment of social responsibilities, participation in various functions and events, incurring the feelings of pleasure and contentment, depicting the traits of helpfulness and co-operation, inculcating the traits of morality and ethics, promoting good health and well-being and creating amiable and pleasant environment within homes. Finally, it can be stated, acknowledging importance of kinship is advantageous to individuals to a major extent.

### DECLARATION STATEMENT

Funding	No, I did not receive.
Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest to the best of my knowledge.
Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate	No, the article does not require ethical approval and consent to participate with evidence.
Availability of Data and Material	Not relevant.
Authors Contributions	I am only the sole author in this article.

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