INTERACTIONS & TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN THE HUMAN BEINGS & THE COMMUNITY
Individuals & the family are basic units of the society (community); influencing each other

Society/community - the concept

Society = a social community

Community = all the people living in a specific locality (a Latin word == fellowship)

More than 1 person interacting within one geographic location & have social bonding / relationship
Involves local functions: social control/social sanctions; social involvement; socialization; productions; distributions & economics consumptions

The characteristics of a society are highly influenced by:
- historical & geographical factors;
- local authorities;
- its members & other macro influences (i.e., economic trends; weather; politics)
5 functions of a community

1. **Production, distribution, consumption.**
   - Community provides means to make a living for its members (agric, industry, services)

2. **Socialization**
   - Through which norms & values are instilled (tradition, modelling, formal education)

3. **Social control**
   - Means to enforce adherence to community values (group pressure or formal law)
4. Social participation (involvement)
   - Community fulfills the need for companionship (neighbourhood, public place, religious institutions, business etc)

5. Mutual Support
   - Enables cooperation among & between members
Social change

1. Is a product of transitions of the era == from the pre industrial to post industrial eras

2. Toffler (1980) categorized the social change into 3 classifications:
   1. 1st wave
   2. 2nd wave
   3. 3rd wave

Each wave has its own characteristics
During the pre industrial era:

- Family depended on the natural environment for food
  - Family ecosystem was highly adaptive doing agricultural activities & hunting
  - Extended family; big size == free labour for the farms
  - Family living pattern was based upon the patrilocal or matrilocal trend (living with one spouse’s family of origin)
  - Arranged marriage; divorce was rare
During the industrial era:

- The nuclear family system
- Live in one’s own home; own rules & responsibilities
- Men were head of households, breadwinners; women were the home manageress
- Reduced family size – usage of contraceptive method by the women; women got involved in out of home economic activities
- Moderate divorce rate
Post Industrial Era

- Family at the junction of industry & info-techno era
- Existing of various family forms
- Smaller nuclear families
- Average number of children = 3 (vs 6 before)
- Later age of marriage; divorce rate is high
- Many remain singles
- Vague gender roles (shared roles between H & W)
• The role of childcare centers; maids = VERY important; esp. with > 50% involvement of women in the economic sector
• Family faces the issues related to caring for the elderly
• Life is centered around communication – information & technology (ICT)
Community & Human Development

- Reciprocal relationships between individual; family & the community

1. Community Economy
   - Highly influential
   - Types of job; consumerism; housing; employment (i.e Damansara heights; Country Heights vs. Sg Besar; vs. Kuala Pilah; vs Baling; Gua Musang??)
   - Poverty, Recession; infra-structure; pollutions; migration
   - “specific culture”; class & status
2. Geographic Locations

- Urban/rural/sub-urban; marginalized society
- Q of life is determined by the environmental Q
- Seen through the natural, human constructed & socio-cultural environments
- i.e Urban = natural environment has been transformed; rural? Sub-urban?
Rural:

1. Agric activities = small scale? Small scale industries” Food processing; improved facilities
2. Support system; family relationships; kinships system is still upheld.
3. Idle land; old folks are left behind
3. **Social Density**

- Community contains diversified roles for children to learn from & for parents to draw upon
- Homogeneity vs heterogeneity (pluralism)
- Multi generations family provide > social density roles (homemaker; provider; organization officer) as compared to families with one adult generation
Parents in multi generations family have better chances to receive social support from the system

Children who live within (smaller) environment with adults of various age groups are blessed with enriched “social environment”

Social intensity of a given community determines the availability of support that can be received by the family
Environmental Stability

- Stability of a context determines the richness of a child’s and parent’s social experience
- Instability:
  - Difficult to recreate a social landscape that has been ruined by war/disaster
  - Tough to rebuild social network
Family-Community Interface

- **Family-Local government**
  - Provision of enough & conducive space & infrastructure/amenities for human dev.
  - Protection/ reservation
  - Restoring, Licensing
  - Rules / regulations === Legal / policy
Family-workplace

- Community may help to sensitize the needs of dual career families
  - child-care facilities at the work place
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Economics effect
  - Unemployment
Family - School

- a strong home-school mesosystem will benefit the child (> academic achievement)
- PTA
- Class size; teaching method $\rightarrow$ curriculum?
- Maths & Science in English (no more ...)
- Can encourage & discourage child's success
- School-related issues=== gangsterism? Truancy?
- What is EXCELLENCE???
Child care

- An indicator of the quality & quantity of the community support
- Informal vs. formal settings
- Malaysians? Live-in maids; neighbours; family members; nurseries; preschool; after-school transits; at-work settings vs. HOME ALONE
The neighbourhood & support system

- 40 houses surrounding us
- Rights of neighbours
- Functions: the helper in times of need
- Happy vs sad occasions
- Maintain social control & standards
- Good neighborhood = one that provides positive learning context of life (strong & healthy)
Community Ecology & Family Social Pathology

- Social Pathology = problems & dysfunctions related to Q of social environment
- At risk versus protective environment
- Mortality rate of infants
- Juvenile delinquency
- Child abuse / domestic violent
- Poverty? Crime related incidents