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)

Community & Human Development
- Reciprocal relationships between individual; family & the community
  - 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 → curriculum?
- Maths & Science in English (no more ...)
- Can encourage & discourage child’s success
- Issue of disintegration? Streaming? Democratization of education? Vocational training
- 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