INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY INTERACTIONS & TRANSACTIONS WITH & WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTS

- Family is known as an ecological system which governs individuals who are living organisms that interact with & within the environment.
  - Individuals interact within the family = sharing values, resources, goals, responsibilities and commitments
  - Family & individuals must interact to obtain resources, materials, energy & information to survive

1. Family ecosystem as a social system
   - Every part of the family interacts with each other & with the environment forming an ecosystem
   - Interrelated / interdependent
   - Family fulfills physical & biological maintenance activities & reproductive activities as well
   - Family tasks includes socializations of the offsprings
   - Family well-beings may be influenced by the "world" well-being V.V

2. Factors that need to be considered in studying families:
   - Components (size, age, gender, life cycle)
   - Structure (intact, single-headed (divorce/ death/ never married)
   - Environment (other living / non-living organism)
   - Processes that take place between family & the environment
   - === studied as a system

- Family is a semi-open system, has its own goals, dynamic & adaptive
- Families respond, change, develop, grow, act, react & adjust in the environment
- Adaptation is a continuous process in any family system
- All parts of the environment are inter-related & influential of each other
- Family as a system, use materials & transform energy to sustain & generate life; as well as to function

2 sets of rules that influence family – environment interactions:
1. Natural physical & biological laws such as thermodynamic rules of matter-energy transformation
2. Values & rules that are constructed by the human beings
- The environment does not determine human behaviour, but it does provide boundaries/sanctions and opportunities for family growth.
- Families do have certain degree of controls & freedom over some interactional aspects in life.
- Decision making process is a basic controlling mechanism.
- It guides human behaviour and lends towards achieving individual & family goals, which in turn will influence the other environments.

Some basic concepts:
**Family**
- Is a basic unit of the society comprises interacting organisms.
- By definitions, a family covers memberships of individuals who are blood related or related through marriage; or adopted as members.
- Members are interdependent, and independent to certain extent, share common goals, resources & are committed towards each other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conditions that need to be fulfilled in order to survive &amp; behave adaptively</td>
<td>Used by families to pursue goals, expectations &amp; demands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ 3 categories of individuals &amp; family needs: (must be considered based upon the socio-cultural contexts)</td>
<td>✓ 2 types: human &amp; materials (tangible &amp; non-tangible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ The need to own/obtain resources (materials or information)</td>
<td>✓ Human resources include personal characteristic (knowledge, skills, emotions, health, energy, time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ The need to interact (sense of belonging, love &amp; care, communicate)</td>
<td>✓ Materials: natural or man-made (money, asset)</td>
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<td>✓ The need to exist (growth &amp; development; to excel)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Individual &amp; family values must be understood</td>
<td>✓ Individuals &amp; the family share common goal(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ May influence decision making process; actions &amp; interactions within the socio-cultural environment</td>
<td>✓ goal orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Goals (and values) motivate family to function</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Goals are influenced by time: short term, long term</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Families pursue goals; may be shifted depending upon situations</td>
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Management
- A comprehensive process that involves achievement, discovery, coordination & usage of resources to obtain goals & for values realization
- It covers interrelated processes of determining goals, planning & implementation
- It involves decision making process

Basic requirements in making a decision:
1. Aware that a decision is needed
2. Identifying & comparing alternatives
3. Making a choice from the alternatives

DECISION MAKING
- Serves as family controlling system
- It reflects family interaction patterns; is based on values, goals & standards
- It helps family to adapt in the environment
- A decision situation exist when conflict & alternatives occur

Family decision making is a complexed process:
- Families make numerous decisions in life: social, technical, economics, legal, political.
- Most of the times decisions are made when families are faced with uncertainties / risks
- Some of the decisions involved group / whole family members

Common characteristics of D.M
- Is considered 2b universal
- Involves information processing
- Involves a choice among alternatives
- Involves conflict management
- Reflects family member’s perceptions, needs, values
- Reflects family dynamics (interactions, communication, power, authority)
- Reflects a style
- Past & future related
- Reflects a commitment to a course of actions
- Is basic to all family functions

Outcomes of decision making:
- 3 kinds of decision making patterns: Consensus, Accomodation, Defacto
  1. Consensus – discuss the issue 2b decided until agreement is reached; requires compromise, flexibility, negotiation. Time consuming
2. Accommodation – one person consents to a decision not because of total agreement, but because of the belief that further discussion will not resolve the issue; it encourages dominant behaviour; may disturb family connectedness

3. Defacto – made without direct family agreement; only made to keep family functioning; may cause complaints by members; dominant members are victorious others are suppressed.

- **Nuclear**: parents & their children
- **Conjugal**: the forming of a nuclear family through marriage
- **Extended family**: parents, children, other family members (grandparents, uncles & aunts; may involve 3 generations or more)

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**Human Development**

- Family is the most critical system for human development (other systems are also important)
- Human development occurs throughout the life cycle
- Can be influenced by & may influence the environment / other systems

- Consanguines extended family that are based upon blood relations
- Intact family = members are both parents & children.
  - Single parent family led by a parent (father / mother) with children due to divorce, death, separation, never married
  - Remarried families formed when one or both partners have been previously married

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**Family Form & Structure**

- **Family form**
  - Refers to parts of the system that involves memberships of individuals
  - Various forms
  - Each form may function differently & has unique characteristics

- Step family: one or both married partners have children from previous marriage; Blended family (both have children??)

Family of orientation: the family that we were born into

Family of procreation: the family that we form upon marriage
STRUCTURE

- The system perspective defines family structure as the interrelationships between the elements in the family
- It refers to the interactional patterns
- It involves positions as Husband, wife, children, sibling, parents
- Each of these positions govern specific roles that are expected to be fulfilled

Family ecological functions

- 5 basic family functions that are common across cultural contexts:
  - Reproductive
  - Legalized sexual activities between married partners
  - Socialization of children
  - Establishing reciprocal economics activities with the community/society
  - Provision of (unconditional) emotional support to members

Family functions for the development of individual family members:

1. Protection
2. Economic
3. Nurturance
4. Mediation
5. Education
6. Adaptation
7. Continuity

Perlindungan

- Keluarga berperanan membekalkan aspek keselamatan kepada ahli menerusi penyediaan tempat tinggal dan perlindungan dari persekitaran yang membahayakan.
- Termasuklah menyediakan langkah-langkah keselamatan dalam memastikan ahli keluarga selamat di rumah, di kawasan kejiranan, dalam perjalanan pergi dan balik dari sekolah dan tempat kerja.

Ekonomi

- Keluarga juga berfungsi untuk membekalkan perkara asas ekonomi seperti keperluan makanan, pakaian dan tempat tinggal.
- Keperluan asas manusia seperti makanan, pakaian dan tempat tinggal perlu dipenuhi sebelum manusia maju ke tahap keperluan seterusnya.

Asuhan

- Memberi & menerima ganjaran emosi dan kasih sayang yang diperlukan bagi membolehkan ahli keluarga membesar dgn sejahtera.

Meliputi pembekalan sokongan emosi dan jagaan fizikal untuk ahli keluarga.

- Sokongan emosi dan jagaan fizikal melibatkan keseluruhah ahli keluarga termasuk suami-isteri dan anak-anak di sepanjang tempoh kitaran hayat mereka.

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Pendidikan

- Fungsi asuhan antara anak-anak dan ibubapa berlangsung secara resiprokal.
- Anak bukan sahaja menerima sokongan emosi & jagaan fizikal malahan membeakalkan ibu bapa dengan berkongsi ide, maklumbalas dan persepsi mengenai keperluan mereka dalam menjalani kehidupan sebagai anak dalam era tertentu.

Adaptasi

- Keluarga berfungsi untuk mewujudkan keharmonian di antara persekitaran rumah dengan persekitaran luar yang pelbagai (fizikal, biologikal, teknikal, ekonomi, politik, sosial dan emosional) dan sering berubah.
- Sikap keluarga menentukan keupayaan ahli untuk beradaptasi.

Pengantara

- Keluarga berfungsi sebagai sistem penapis dengan mengenalpasti & memilih maklumat, tingkahlaku dan sumber yang sesuai dengan nilai, agama, kepercayaan, matlamat dan gaya hidup.
- Fungsi ini menggambarkan ciri keluarga yang berupaya untuk mewujudkan sempadan terbuka, tertutup atau separa terbuka.
- Kesejahteraan rohani dan jasmani merupakan unsur utama yang perlu dititikberatkan oleh keluarga dalam proses ini.

Penerusan

- Fungsi penerusan menujuk kepada perasaan stabil dalam keluarga di sepangjang masa.
- Ini termasuk perasaan kekeluargaan dan ikatan istimewa yang wujud dalam keluarga seperti melahir dan membesarkan anak.
- Perasaan ini boleh diluahkan melalui pelbagai cara.

Fungsi penerikan termasuk membantu ahli keluarga memperoleh disiplin personal asas, kemahiran interaksi, keupayaan memainkan peranan, sikap dan aspirasi yang sesuai, dan orientasi nilai yang menepati keperluan persekitaran masakini dan akan datang.

Umumnya, ia boleh berlaku secara formal dan bukan formal.

Pendidikan formal diperolehi di luar rumah, biasanya meneruskan sistem sekolah ataupun pusat pengajian tinggi.

Pendidikan bukan formal diperolehi dari pengalaman hidup sehari-hari dan melalui pemerhatian.

Sebagai contoh, penerusan boleh diluahkan menerusi perkataan, perbuatan, pemberian objek atau artifak keluarga kepada ahli, perayaan, dan perhimpunan keluarga seperti kenduri-kendara.

Fungsi penerusan membeakalkan ahli keluarga dengan perasaan kekitaan dan persaudaraan yang lemah, rasa selamat dan kesedaran mengenai asal-usul masing-masing.
KESIMPULAN

- Individu dan keluarga tidak wujud secara berasingan. Mereka perlu berinteraksi untuk memperoleh sumber, bahan, tenaga dan maklumat sebagai memenuhi keperluan dan untuk mencapai matlamat hidup.

- Keluarga wujud dalam pelbagai bentuk dan struktur serta menjalankan fungsi pengekalan dan penerusan hidup individu dan keluarga secara keseluruhannya.

- Proses interaksi dan transaksi individu dan keluarga dengan pelbagai sistem dalam persekitaran mereka boleh mempengaruhi kefungsianan individu dan keluarga.