

IN THE SEARCH FOR UNITY

Family is the oldest institution of human interaction. It's a community where several people closely interact throughout life. Family is a small social group based on marriage and kinship. The members of the same family are tied emotionally. They are linked by a common life, moral responsibility, and mutual assistance. [1]

A traditional family according to a stereotypes and folks philosophy is a Patriarchal institution in which the structure consist of a male father, a female mother and children.

Diverse data from ethnography, history, law and social statistics, reveals the human family as a social institution and not as a biological fact founded on the relationship of consanguinity. The different types of families occur in a wide variety of settings, and their specific functions and meanings depend largely on their relationship to other social institutions.

The term "blended family" or "stepfamily" describes families with mixed parents: one or both parents remarried, bringing children of the former family into the new family. Also in sociology, particularly in the works of social psychologist Michael Lamb, traditional family refers to "a middleclass family with a bread-winning father and a stay-at-home mother, married to each other and raising their biological children," and nontraditional to exceptions from this rule.

There are a lot of different types of family relation. Traditional family is:

- Conjugal (nuclear or single) family
- Matrifocal family
- Extended family

Most of the US households are now non-traditional under this definition. They are:

- Monogamous family (based on legal or social monogamy. an individual has only one (official) partner during their lifetime or at any one time (i.e. serial monogamy). This means that a person may not have several different legal spouses at the same time)

- Polygamy is a marriage that includes more than two partners. If a marriage includes multiple husbands and wives, it can be called polyamory.

- Polygyny is a form of plural marriage, in which a man is allowed more than one wife. In modern countries that permit polygamy, polygyny is typically the only form permitted. Polygyny is practiced primarily (but not only) in parts of the Middle East and Africa; and is often associated with Islam; however there are certain conditions in Islam that must be met to perform polygyny.

- Polyandry is a form of marriage whereby a woman takes two or more husbands at the same time. Fraternal polyandry, where two or more brothers are married

to the same wife, is a common form of polyandry. Polyandry is most common in societies marked by high male mortality or male absenteeism.

All social institutes have many pros and contras. If we speak about monogamy, two partners must have common views to main questions such as to be or not to be. But our world is so huge, varied and unknown. Some people cannot find a partner just for themselves. So, to my mind, polygamous relation it is a way to satisfy a lot of personality needs and wonderful possibility to give and get as much love as possible.

"Polygamy" is more often used to refer to codified forms of multiple marriage (especially those with a traditional/religious basis), while "modern polyamory" or "egalitarian polyamory" implies a relationship defined by negotiation between its members, rather than by cultural norms.

Values in polyamory

- Fidelity and loyalty;[2]
- Communication and negotiation;
- Trust, honesty, dignity, and respect;[3][6]
- Boundaries and agreements;
- Gender equality;
- Non-possessiveness

As with many non-traditional life choices, there is considerable active discussion about philosophical approaches to polyamory.

In 1929, *Marriage and Morals*, written by the philosopher, Nobel Prize winner Bertrand Russell, offered a strong precedent to the philosophy of polyamory. At the time of publication, Russell's questioning of the contemporary notions of morality regarding sex and marriage prompted vigorous protests and denunciations. [4]

In Echlin's article in *The Guardian*, six reasons for choosing polyamory are identified:

- a drive towards female independence and equality driven by feminism;
- disillusionment with monogamy;
- a yearning for community;
- honesty and realism in respect of relational nature of human beings;
- human nature and individual non-matching of the traditional monogamous stereotype.

There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to what is the best type of family structure. As long as a family is filled with love and support for one another, it tends to be successful and thrive. Families need to do what is best for each other and themselves, and that can be achieved in almost any unit. Suum cuique.

So, as a conclusion we must say that our century is characterized by revolution in traditions, a lot of new streams in social institutes and times of impermanence.

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