































































































community norms. Other important influences include schools, peer groups, people, mass media, the workplace, and government. The degree to which the norms of a particular society or community are adopted determines one's willingness to engage with others. The norms of tolerance, reciprocity, and trust are important "habits of the heart," as de Tocqueville put it, in an individual's involvement in community.

Community's responsibilities also lie in promoting the wellbeing of individuals within them, both directly and indirectly, through supporting families to fulfill their responsibilities and providing opportunities for all members to participate in community life. Fulfillment of these responsibilities is important not only for the wellbeing of individuals and their families but also for national and international wellbeing.

Clearly, then, study and research into family and community life is important for the identification of potential or existing resources and deficits or challenges confronting these social units, their individual members, and broader social systems. Ultimately, such research is important for the development and monitoring of the effectiveness of policies that are directed towards ensuring that individuals live in safe, supportive environments that enable them to reach their potential, adopt health-promoting lifestyles, participate in community life, and develop or maintain a sense of purpose and meaning in life.

---

## 4.9 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

---

- 1) Discuss the functions of the institution of family.
- 2) Identify the role family and community in shaping individual's behaviour.
- 3) Explain the distinguishing features and types of the communities in India.
- 4) Discuss the factors responsible for the breakdown of the joint family system in India.
- 5) Discuss some of the new family types that have emerged. How are they different from the traditional types of Family?
- 6) Describe the impact of technological changes on the dynamics of the family and community.

---

## SUGGESTED READINGS

---

Vidya, Bhushan, & D. R. Sachdeva, *An Introduction to Sociology*, Kitab Mahal, Patna.

Newman David (2008): *Families: A Sociological Perspective*, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, Boston Mass.

Parsons, Talcott. (1955). *Family, Socialisation and Interaction Process*, Robert F. Bales and James Olds. Free Press.

Blackwell *Encyclopedia of Sociology*, Edited by: George Ritzer, 2007.

Ahuja, Ram, *Society in India: Concepts, Theories and Recent Trends*, Rawat Publications, 2003.