

Friendship

What is Friendship

- Devito:
 - An interpersonal relationship between two persons that is mutually productive, established and maintained through perceived mutual free choice, and characterized by mutual positive regard

- McDaniel
 - Friendships consist of “non kin peer relationships that are voluntary and are characterized by relatively high levels of emotional (but not physical) intimacy.”

Types of Friendships

- Friendship of reciprocity
 - Ideal friendship
 - Characterized by loyalty, self-sacrifice, mutual affection, generosity
 - Based on equality

- Friendship of receptivity
 - Imbalance in giving and receiving but both are content
 - Difference in status is essential for development
 - Example –
 - student and teacher
 - Mentor and protégé

- Friendship of association
 - Cordial but not intense
 - No great loyalty, trust, giving or receiving
 - Example
 - Someone you see in multiple classes

Values you look for in Friends

- Utility
- Affirmation
- Ego Support
- Stimulation
- Security

Commonalities within female and male friendship

- Both value intimate same-sex friendships
- Both agree on basic qualities of friendship
 - Intimacy
 - Acceptance
 - Trust
 - Help

gender linked patterns in friendship

- Communication is central to **women** friends, while activities are the primary focus of **men**.
 - Women's friendships = an evolving dialogue according to Becker

- Talk between **women friends** to be expressive and disclosive, focusing on details of personal lives, people, relationships and feelings; and **men's friendships** generally revolves around less personal topics such as sports, events, money, music, and politics.

Mixed – sex friendships

- Undertones of sexuality

“... is reduced when commitment to developing and maintaining the relationship as friends” (Beebe and Beebe)

Mixed – sex Friendships

- When formed:
 - women value them for companionship
 - less emotionally involved relationship
 - men value them for closeness
 - they have the emotional and expressive support that male friends generally don't provide

Family

Lecture Notes Will Be Available on
Website

What is a family?

- 1949 sociologist defined it as
 - “The family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, of one’s own or adopted, of the sexually cohabitating adults.”

Or is it

“An organized, naturally occurring relational interaction system, usually occupying a common living space over an extended time period, and possessing a confluence of interpersonal images which evolve through the exchange of messages over time.”

Bocher 1976

Or is it?

- A network of people who live together over long periods of time bound by ties of marriage, blood, or commitment, legal or otherwise.

– Galvin & Brommel 1991

Or is it

- “a unit made up of any number of persons who live in relationship with one another over time in a common living space, who are usually, but not always, united by marriage and kinship.”
 - Beebe and Beebe 2005

Definition we will use in class

Types of Families – Per Virginia Satir

- Natural family – traditional
 - mother (wife)
 - husband (father)
 - 1+ children
 - due to changes in culture and values
 - Therefore is sometimes called an idealized natural family

Satir con't

- Blended family
 - two adults
 - gay, lesbian or heterosexual
 - children
 - biological or adopted
- Single-Parent family
 - mother or father solely responsible
 - biological or adopted children
- Extended family
 - Refers to relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles
 - Surrogate relatives (extra grandparent, aunt)

Others Theorist Include These Types of Families

- Live-in Couples
 - live together as if married
 - may or may not have children
- Integrated family
 - parents or children are of different races or religions
- Boomerang family
 - adult children return home

Others Theorist Include These Types of Families

- Commuter family
 - one or more members commute from a primary residence to a work location in a distant city and remain there for a period of time
- Childless couple
 - same or different sex
 - married or other public ceremony
 - but no children

Does your family fit into any of these categories?

A Final Type of Family

- Family of Origin
 - “Family in which you were raised - no matter what type”
 - “A family is a family if the people in it think of themselves as family.”

(Beebe & Beebe, Interpersonal Communication, 4th ed page 352)

But what about



Those who are family but are not related by blood or marriage, but are like a third set of grandparents.



But what about

Those college dorm-mates who made 3 days of torrential rain fun?

Were they not your family that first year of school?



But what about

Your best friend who is like a sister



Even if they make you wear purple!

But what about





The family pet – who for some is like a child.

What About Them

- These people are part of your life but not included in family research.

Today's Topics with Regards to Families

- Family As A System
- Characteristics of a Family
- Functions of the Family
- Evolution and Family
- Satisfied Family

Family as a system

- Although each person is a unique individual, he/she is part of a system
- Underlying assumption what happens to one member affects the entire family

Characteristics of Family

- Family Members Perform Roles
 - turn-taking vs traditional/stereotypical
- Family Members Have Responsibilities
 - have expectations for each other
 - expect to pull together
 - provide and receive emotional support
 - and support us no matter what

- Family Members Share a Past, Present and Future
 - family culture
 - trust not to share past without permission
- Family Members Share Living Space
 - must adapt to other's personalities
 - deal with brother(s) or sister(s)
 - then with spouse/partner
- Families Have Rules

Think about your family

- What roles do you play in your family? Are you satisfied? Would you like to negotiate a new role?
- What part of your past do you hope to carry into the future?
- How did you/do you adapt to living with family? (Think back to summer after your freshman year!)
- What rules does your family have?

Functions of the Family

- 2 types
 - Internal – keep system running
 - External - provide for society

Functions of the Family

- Internal
 - Providing Care
 - Socialization
 - Intellectual development
 - Recreation
 - Emotional Support
- External
 - Transmission
 - Accommodation
 - Ties to community

Evolution

- Changes in the family
 - no one stays the same



14 years old



22 years old



- Families change when members are added.

Evolution continued

- Stressful contact with outside sources
- Divorce or Separation
- Illness or death in family



Satisfied Family

- Talk about relationship and feelings
- Listen Actively
- Support and Encourage one another
 - Communication climate
- Use Productive Strategies for Managing Conflict, Stress and Change