

individual with respect to each other as well as towards the social institutions. For instance, **government, families, religion, education, marketplace** are the major social structures present in every society.

Family is composed of **affinal or conjugal relationships** based on marriage of two opposite sex and **consanguineal relationships** based on blood relations between kins.

Family structure refers to the **way power is shared** and exercised within family, **relationship pattern and hierarchy**, **roles and responsibilities** of different family members, **size** of the family etc. Change in social structure directly or indirectly impacts the family structure in following ways:

Social structure	Change in family structure
Government frames and changes the laws which in turn impacts the pattern of relationships in family.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independent India enacted personal codes (like Hindu Marriage Act) and prohibited polygamy in India (except for Muslims and some other sections) and monogamy has become norm. 2. Land ceiling fixed upper limit on the size of individual land holding. This led to fragmentation of families <i>and paved way for nuclear families in India.</i> 3. <i>Acts related to domestic violence and inheritance right have empowered women which have led to better status of women in families.</i> 4. Government programmes to control population has led to reduced average size of family. 5. Law against child marriage has pushed up the average age of marriage and impacted the family structure.
Change in economic structure after globalisation and liberalisation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More women have entered the job market and started earning money. This has resulted in improved status and decision-making authority of working women in family, made her more independent, changed perceived role in family and division of labour has become more fluid. 2. Migration of men from rural to urban areas for work has resulted in substantial number of female-headed rural households. The family left behind in rural areas have different structure composed of senior citizens, children and young brides. 3. With both husband and wife working, senior citizens (grand-parents) are moving in with the family to provide care for young children. Thus, a shift away from nuclear family in urban areas. 4. There is decline in close bond between parents and children. Parents are replacing time spent with children by providing them money.