Sociology glossary

Dual Burden – A family member, more commonly the mother, that performs both the expressive role and the instrumental role.

Monogamy – Someone in a relationship remaining faithful to only a single partner.

Serial Monogamy – Someone who enters into multiple relationships remain faithful to a single partner in each relationship.

Polygamy – Someone in a single relationship that has multiple partners at the same time, this is usually more common in western Asian countries and northern African countries such as Morocco and Egypt.

Arranged Marriage – Marriages that are not decided by the partners and are usually decided by parents, this is common in eastern Asian countries such as India and China.

Civil Partnership – This term refers to a marriage or a relationship between two individuals of the same sex.

Polygyny – One husband with two or more wives

Polyandry – One wife with two or more husbands

Nuclear Family – A family with two parents in a heterosexual relationship with two to three children as a result of their love

Extended Family – A family with several members from each generation usually with 4-5 generations

Beanpole Family – An extended family with only one or two members in each generation

Cereal Packet Family – A stereotypical nuclear family for use in advertisement

Patriarchal Family – A family that is headed by the father

Matriarchal Family – A family that is headed by the mother

Symmetrical Family – A family where equal power is held by the mother and the father

Reconstituted Family – A family made up of two parents that have previously been divorced and have married new people.

Lone Parent Family – A family that contains only a single parent usually the mother but occasionally the father, pressure group Fathers for Justice fight for the rights of lone parent fathers.

Gay or Lesbian Family – A nuclear family where the two parents are in a homosexual relationship as opposed to a heterosexual relationship

Single Person Household – A household with a single person, no children and no partner

Cohabitation – A household with to partners living together outside of marriage

LAT’s – Living Apart Together families consist of two people in a relationship that live in separate households, usually as a result of work