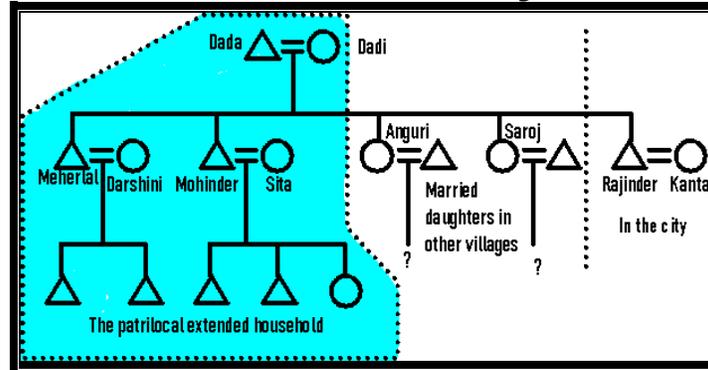


Dadi's Family



- How does dowry function in this society?
- How does this family structure enhance or detract from the family's economic status?
- How do post-marital residence rules affect family relations?
- In particular, pay attention to the role and status of mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law.
- What are the roles of women in this society? How do they change throughout a person's life?
- Think about the status of women; Dadi claims that women make up the “inferior caste;” how true does this seem to be as you view the film?
- Are there ways that women exert power and influence within this patrilineal kinship system? Does Dadi come across to you as a weak individual subject to male control, or does she appear to be a strong individual who can assert her influence?
- In what way is the birth of girls and boys valued in this culture?
- What pressures and conflicts occur within the extended family?
- Do you think that Dadi's family will remain together for much longer?
- Describe the difference in status, roles, expectations, advantages and disadvantages of the extended family among the 3 sons and daughters-in-law in Dadi's family.
- How do Dadi and her daughters-in-law compare women's lives now with Dadi's time?
- What is the difference in how daughters and daughters-in-law are regarded in Dadi's village? What does this have to do with village exogamy?
- What threatens the coherence of Dadi's extended household?
- Upon what does a woman's security depend according to the narrator in “Dadi's Family?” How does this cause tension between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law? Around whom does this conflict exist and why? (Hint: what were the women making sweets for the wedding party singing about? What was one of first daughter-in-law, Darshini's, complaints with Dadi? What was Dadi's complaint about Sita, the second daughter-in-law?)
- Dadi's third son, Rajinder has a different kind of marriage than his brothers. How is it different?
- Dadi expresses ambivalence with regard to educating women. Explain why she might feel this way.
- Why do the daughters-in-law in Dadi's family place so much importance on educating their children?
- Using appropriate terminology, describe Dadi's family in terms of family type, marriage, residence, and descent. Describe how the Nayar are different with respect to these 3 things.