

## **The historical evolution of family**

When humans first appeared in this world, about 200,000 B.C., they had no characteristics that would help them survive, for example claws to hunt for food or fur to keep them warm in cold environments. So, in order for our species to survive, they had to gather together forming families.

But what exactly is a family? Today, a family is a small or large group of people that "share the same blood" meaning that they have some kind of biological connection between them. But the form of a family has changed over the hundred thousand years that have passed since the form of the first families.

At first, families formed during the primitive societies and until around 12.000 B.C.-10.000 B.C. were a way of securing supplies essential for survival and they consisted of large amounts of humans, each one with a certain role given to them due to their biological structure and age. At that time, adult men would go hunting for bigger animals that could feed a large number of people for an ample period of time, while younger men and women would secure herbs and small animals, for example, fish, rabbits etc. and take care of the livestock. Also, at that time, there wasn't much difference in the role of men and women.

After 10.000 B.C. , agrarian societies began to form as humans found out ways to cultivate the land and develop their own permanent food supply. To do so, they had to invent new tools that would be able to help them cultivate the land more easily, and so came the invention of the plough. The plough was a farming contraption with one or multiple blades fixed in its frame that when drawn over soil it would turn it over and cut any kind of weed in preparation for planting seeds, and for such a machine to be used, body strength was needed. And it is only natural for men to become more powerful in society, as they were the ones primarily securing food. And thus, the form of the family changed again with children and women having a lower position in hierarchy. Also, families started to become smaller.

During the 18th century, one of the biggest transitions to new production methods happened, and it was called the "Industrial Revolution". During that time, family life in most of the western societies, and mainly Britain, was subjected to dramatic changes in terms of form and function. Many people started to move from their farmland to big cities so they would be able to work in factories and that led to the cities becoming overpopulated and unorganized. At the time, the male sex was the strongest but women gradually acquired respect and recognition from state laws and were freed from male domination, although they were legally paid less than men. People were now able to survive by themselves and families no longer constituted economical units. Also, children had to be educated and socialized.

Today, we are living in a what we call post-industrial society. During this time, due to the feminist and civil right movement, gender and race equality is more or less achieved. Also, marriage is no longer a necessity for the survival of women but instead, it is purely based on free choice and feelings. These events have diversified family types drastically.