Family & Culture

• Family is an essential element in all cultures
• The concept of family differs from culture to culture
• Family is the fundamental building block of all societies.
• Family relationships influence political, economic and social structures
What is Culture?

Culture is the sum total of the attainments and learned behavior patterns of any specific period, ethnic group or people based on a recognized belief system and regarded as expressing a traditional way of life subject to gradual but continuous modification by succeeding generations.
People don’t live in countries

People live in **cultures**
Understanding Culture

Value Systems

Sublime

and

Mundane

Relationships

Problem Solving
Goals

←

Relationships
Individualism (Rights) versus Loyalty to the Group (Responsibilities)
Individual versus the Team

The Individual

The Team
Family & Culture

• Family tends to be more significant in Relationship-strong Cultures

• Blood relationship is more important in family oriented cultures
What is Family?
What is Family?
Family Patterns

- Nuclear
- Extended
- Patriarchal Extended
- Matriarchal Extended
- Clan
- Village
Purpose of Family

- Social Security
- Business Partnership
- Political Influence
- Economic Influence
Purpose of Family
Family Structure and Cultural

- Extended/Clan Families thrive in Social Group oriented Cultures

- Nuclear Families thrive in Individualistic Cultures
Family & Culture

• Family Structures and Cultural Influences

• Family Structure and Cultural Context

• Transplanting Family Structure
Transplanted Family Structures

- Non-supportive Cultural environments
- Destructive Cultural environments
- Supportive Cultural environments
- Protective Cultural environments
Transplanted Families and Culture

- Understanding Acculturation
- Culture “Shock”
- Conflicting Values
- Conflicting Behaviors
- Adjustment Trauma
Discussion