

Diversity, Social Work & Practice Class

India and her diversity

About Speaker

- A 12 month faculty at FSU
- Lived in India for 30 years
 - Studied in the South
 - Worked in the South
 - Lived in different states
 - Traveled to many regions
- Living in the US for the past 20 years
- EC member of IATLH and ACT

Representative of IATLH at ACT

Overview

1. Role of Family

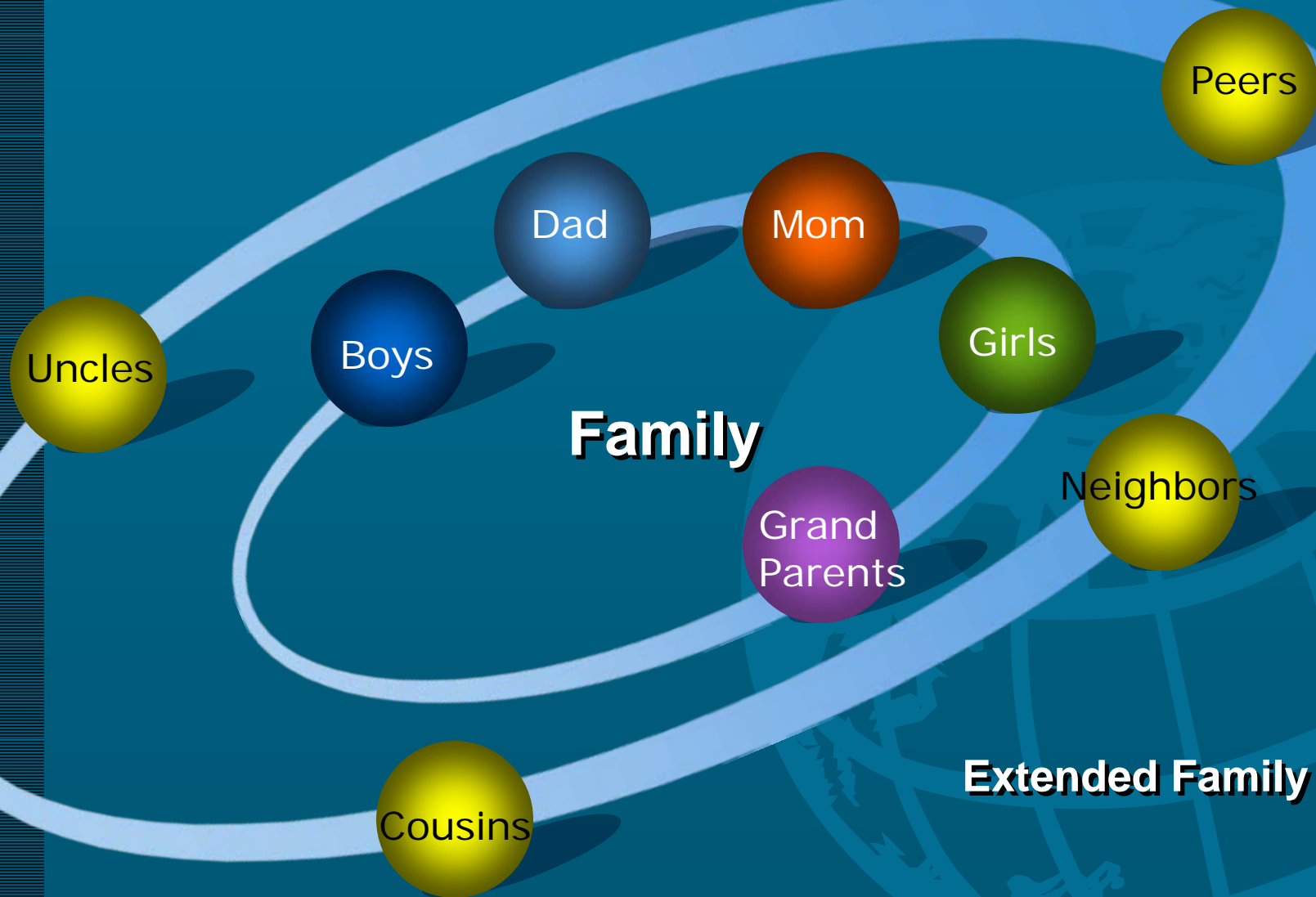
2. Traditions: Food, habits, and language

3. Communications: Verbal and non-verbal

4. Contemporary issues

5. Variations

Role of Family



Role of Family

- Patriarchal society
- Family comes first
- Individuals come later
- Boys have bit more say
- Girls get more protection
- Joint family unit still common
- Single family in urban areas

Traditions

- One of the oldest societies
- Homogeneous population
- Change comes slowly
- Family and socio-economic rank
- Variations: geography and location

Traditions

Custom

- Hand shake
- Welcoming
- Gender
- Home/Work
- Traditional
- No kissing
- Hugging OK

Language

- English
- Hindi
- Regional
- Learn
- Gestures

Food

- North
 - Wheat
 - Tea
 - Mild
- South
 - Rice
 - Coffee
 - Spicy

Habit

- Savers
- Believers
- Helpful
- Smoking
- Tobacco
- Drinking
- Spitting

Traditions



- Movies are very popular
- Television is taking over
- Night life in urban centers
- Entertainers/Entertainees
- Music movie/classical
- Public transportation

- Many are non-vegetarian
- But don't eat meat often
- Some are strict vegetarians
- Eating out is not very common
- Food and water safety important
- Use a new spoon after tasting
- Use of alcohol still a taboo

Communications

- Verbal and non-verbal important
- Indians can be talkative
- Don't feel shy to speak up
- Men and women meet separately
- Men share boarding
- Don't keep your feet raised
- Paying for food and drinks

Communications

- Make eye contacts
- Avoid unnecessary body contacts
- Symbolism important
 - Hands folded | in pockets
 - Sitting while talking
 - Head movements
 - Facial expressions
- Radical ideas take time

What to expect

- India
 - Crowded and less connected
 - Bureaucratic and slow
 - Hierarchical and less efficient
 - Dusty and has less reliable utilities
 - Petty thefts common
 - Pan handlers common

What to expect

- But
 - People are friendly
 - Will work hard
 - Well educated population
 - Good in many skills
 - Easy to please
 - No violent crimes
 - Lower cost of living
 - Afford helpers

Contemporary Issues

- Realization of global role
- Optimism high for a better life
- Women in bread-winner role
- Quick change to social fabric
- Richness versus Wealth
- Rural migration to urban centers
- Disappearance of joint family
- Widening gap between rich and poor
- Adoption of Western way of life

Variations

- Variations based on
 - Geography: North South
 - Location: Urban Rural
 - Language: Hindi Regional
 - Religion: Hindu Muslim Sikh

Q and A

- Explore by coming to our festivals
 - Experience Asia (late September)
 - Glimpses of India (mid November)
- Any Questions?
- Contact

tsomasundaram@fsu.edu

or

somabhanu@gmail.com

Thanks