

Roles and Responsibilities of Family Members

- Members of a family have different roles to play. **A role is a pattern of behaviour that goes with a certain position.** It includes the rights, duties and responsibilities that belong to a certain position.
- Roles vary according to our position in the family.
- WHAT ROLES ARE USUALLY PLAYED BY GRANDPARENTS?



empoweringparents.com



www.everydaylife.globalpost.com

masalamommas.com



sheknows.com

GRANDPARENTS:

1. Pass on traditions
2. Act as babysitters
3. Assist in solving marital problems
4. Assist parents in the upbringing of the children





thyblackman.com



truenubia.com

WHAT ROLES ARE USUALLY PLAYED BY PARENTS?



hermelness.com



www.cnn.com

PARENTS:

- 1. Provide the basic economic needs of the children**
- 2. Help children develop healthy lifestyles**
- 3. Spend quality time with children**
- 4. Develop discipline in children by correcting them when they are disobedient**
- 5. Socialize the children to conform to the values of society: truth, honesty, respect (by being positive role models)**
- 6. Provide emotional security (e.g. by helping children with personal problems, providing encouragement, and showing interest in their well-being)**
- 7. Exchange ideas with children and communicate with them on a variety of subjects**
- 8. Pass on traditions**
- 9. Help children develop positive self-esteem**
- 10. Develop in children a passion for learning**
- 11. Teach children proper time management**



WHAT ROLES ARE USUALLY PLAYED BY CHILDREN?



www.ivillage.ca



www.parentdish.ca



www.103fm.net

CHILDREN:

1. Assist parents with the household chores involved in running of the home
2. Respect themselves and their parents
3. Pursue studies diligently
4. Practice thrift

FAMILY UNIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Various Caribbean family types developed as a result of our historical past (colonialism, African slavery and East Indian indentureship)

1. The Legal Union
2. The Common-law Union
3. The Visiting Union (Friending)

Amerindian influences on marriage

- Among the Amerindians of Guyana the work ethic is patterned by Amerindian cultural roles. Women see their role as sacred thus they aspire to be good homemakers, good cooks, good mothers and good wives.
- Work is gender related.
- Men's work is also considered sacred and must always be done thoroughly. Time for work is guided by the sun or the whistle of birds. Any manual work must be done before the sun comes up and must be finished while the day is cool.

European influence on marriage

- **European custom demanded that dating, courtship and marriage precede the establishment of a family.**
In the past engagements were long because it was necessary to save money in order to set up a home.
- **Marriage was viewed as a contract with a strict definition of male and female roles. The man was the breadwinner and the woman looked after the house and children.**

Slavery and the family structure

- For a long time under slavery, the term family had no meaning. The slave remained the property of the owner. Marriage was discouraged or forbidden. Thus among the slaves, a family relationship meant living with the person without any legal or religious attachment.
- This attitude has survived into present day Caribbean society in the common-law or consensual union.
- This relationship occurs mainly among the working class groups.

Slavery and the family structure

- No family structure had any guarantee of lasting; at any moment a man, woman or child could be sold. **The role of father as provider and protector did not exist.** Children belonged to the owner of the plantation although **women were still able to have some authority over their children.** This feature of **mother as dominant figure** has survived in many African families in the Caribbean.



Characteristics of the family under slavery

1. Slaves were not allowed to marry. Slave-owners forbade the practice. Any relationships between male and female slaves were unofficial.
2. Owners, overseers and white employees on the state were very promiscuous with female slaves.

Present influence

1. Prevalence of common-law union, especially among members of the lower socio-economic groups.
2. Promiscuous male, imitating the actions of the Whites during the days of slavery.

Characteristics of the family under slavery

3. White males almost always never cared for their offspring born of slaves.
4. Whenever white employees, representative of the upper class in society, wanted to marry, they had a legal, religious ceremony.

Present influence

3. Fathers sometimes unwilling to provide for children when separation or divorce occurs.
4. Marriage is a phenomenon representative of individuals of the Upper class in society.

Characteristics of the family under slavery

5. Older slave women who were unable to work in the fields were left at home to care for the children of slaves.

Present influence

5. Grandmothers and mothers are shouldered with the responsibility of socializing children.

CHANGES IN THE FAMILY OVER TIME



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EARLY 20TH CENTURY

TODAY

(1) Most families fell into the category of extended.

(1) A significant rise in the number of nuclear families.

(2) Few families practised family planning, leading to somewhat large families.

(2) Fewer children in households.

(3) Individuals got married in their teens.

(3) Marriage takes place mostly when individuals are in their mid twenties.

(4) There were a large number of arranged marriages.

(4) Fewer arranged marriages.

(5) Males were predominantly the breadwinners.

(5) An increase in the number of females joining males as breadwinners.

Factors contributing to the changing roles of family members

1. Industrialisation
2. Education
3. Technology
4. Women's Movements
5. Laws for the protection of women
6. Women's status