

# **RIVISON NOTES**

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## **Chapter-3**

### **Kinship, Caste and Class in Early Societies**

- **Many rules and different practices were followed by the people.**
- **Very often families were part of larger networks of people we define as relatives. Blood relations can be defined in many different ways.**
- **Mausmriti is considered the most o important Dharma Sutra and Dharmashastra. It was compiled between 200 BCE and 200 CE. This laid down rules governing social life.**
- **During Mahabharata age gotras were considered very important by higher verna of societies.**

- **Social differences prevailed and integration took place within the framework of caste system.**
- **According to the sutras only Kashtriyas could be a king.**
- **The original version of Mahabharata is in Sanskrit.**
- **It contains vivid descriptions of battles forest, palaces and settlements.**

### **Finding out about families:**

- **Family varies in terms of numbers of members, their relationship with one another as well as the kinds of activities they share.**
- **People belonging to the same family share food and other resources, and live, work and perform rituals together.**
- **Families are usually parts of larger networks of people defined as relatives, or to use a more technical term, kinfolk.**
- **While familial ties are often regarded as “natural” and based on blood, they are defined in many ways.**

- **Historians also investigate and analyse attitudes towards family and kinship.**

### ***The ideal of patriliney:***

- **Patriliney means tracing descent from father to son, grandson and so on.**
  - **Matriliney is the term used when descent is traced through the mother.**
  - **The concern with patriliney was not unique to ruling families. It is evident in mantras in ritual texts such as the Rigveda.**
  - **It is possible that these attitudes were shared by wealthy men and those who claimed high status, including Brahmanas.**
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