

## ***Study Materials for 4th SEM (Paper-ANTACOR10T)***

### ***Unit - III - Tools and Technique of Data Collection***

#### ***Genealogy and its application***

The word **Genealogy** comes from two Greek words—one meaning “race” or “family” and the other “theory” or “science.” Thus is derived “to trace **ancestry**,” the science of studying family history. **Genealogists** compile lists of ancestors, which they arrange in pedigree charts or other written forms.

**Genealogy** is the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages. Genealogists use oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members. The results are often displayed in charts or written as narratives. Although generally used interchangeably, the traditional definition of "genealogy" begins with a person who is usually deceased and traces his or her descendants forward in time, whereas, "family history" begins with a person who is usually living and traces his or her ancestors. Both the National Genealogical Society in the United States and the Society of Genealogists in the United Kingdom state that the word "genealogy" often refers to the scholarly discipline of researching lineages and connecting generations, whereas "family history" often refers to biographical studies of one's family, including family narratives and traditions.

**Genealogy** is the study of the history of families, especially through studying historical documents to discover the relationships between particular people and their families.

The technique was first employed by W.H.R.Rivers in his Torres Straits expedition. He stated, "the Genealogical method makes it possible to investigate abstract problems on a purely concrete basis. It is even possible by its means to formulate laws regulating the lives of people which they have probably never formulated themselves."

In this technique, the pedigree of the informant is traced. The genealogical knowledge plays an important role among the non-literate peoples, ancestry can be traced back to several generations with the help of standardized symbols and charts. A large number of collaterals are known by the name. This method helps to gather huge information relating to social structures and other institutions of human group.

The functional value of the kinship terminology has been identified by the Anthropologists. Genealogical data are, therefore, extremely valuable in understanding the nature of clan, the regulation of marriage, inheritance pattern of property, succession of chieftainship etc.

### The Genealogical Method

The genealogical (kinship) method has a long tradition in ethnography. Developed in the early years of anthropological research to document the family systems of tribal groups, it is still used today to discover connections of **kinship**, descent, marriage, and the overall social system. Because kinship and genealogy are so important in many nonindustrial societies, the technique is used to collect data on important relationships that form the foundation of the society and to trace social relationships more broadly in communities. When used by anthropologists, the genealogical method involves using symbols and diagrams to document relationships. Circles represent women and girls, triangles represent men and boys, and squares represent ambiguous or unknown gender. Equal signs between individuals represent their union or marriage and vertical lines descending from a union represent parent-child relationships. Children are usually represented from left to right – oldest to youngest. The death of an individual and the termination of a marriage are denoted by diagonal lines drawn across the shapes and equal signs. Kinship charts are diagrammed from the perspective of one person who is called the Ego, and all of the relationships in the chart are based on how the others are related to the Ego. Individuals in a chart are sometimes identified by numbers or names, and an accompanying list provides more-detailed information.