Dadi’s Family

Dadi is the grandmother and mother-in-law, or, as she explains, the "manager" of an extended family. In the Haryana region of Northern India, women leave their natal villages and come as strangers to the households of their husband's mothers. This film explores the family and its problems particularly through the women of Dadi's family. The women speak about inherent tensions created by the authority of Dadi, the loneliness of veiled daughters-in-law who always remain outsiders, and husbands' expectations that wives will labor in the fields, fetch water and cow dung, and still have food and water waiting at home. Beyond the internal tensions, **social and economic changes** outside the village also threaten the stability and cohesion of the family. Dadi’s third son, for example, marries a teacher in the city and Dadi frets that he will no longer contribute financially to the farm and that all the family wealth will be subdivided. In the family, says Dadi, "we can bear anything because we all suffer together." Yet it is clear that her children's generation is already ambivalent about life on the farm, and a daughter-in-law speaks of her wish for her own children to leave the village and it's dirt. Dadi herself is keenly aware of these processes: "Doesn't everything change?" she asks.
Haryana Region in India
## Dadi's Family

A common extended family form among agricultural peasants:

- patrilocal extended (stem) family
- *Jat* caste and the caste system
- all incomes and resources are pooled
- household heads (Dada and Dadi) give resources to other family members as needed
Patrilocal extended family

The patrilocal extended household

Source: http://www.uwgb.edu/walterl/kinship/dadi.htm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male and Female Specializations</th>
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<tr>
<td>➤ men dominate agricultural production</td>
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<tr>
<td>➤ women dominate agricultural processing &amp; distribution</td>
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  - collect dung, milk cows & cut fodder |
  - prepare and serve food |
| ➤ men represent family politically |
| ➤ women's power largely in domestic sphere |
Dadi's Family

Dadi's role in household and personnel management:
- assign tasks to women in household
- adjudicate disputes among daughters and between daughters and daughters-in-laws
- maintain harmony and solidarity within household by treating everyone equally
- Dadi considers women as the inferior caste: they must be submissive and work hard
- Dadi reflects on with socioeconomic changes leading to:
  - breakup of extended family household
  - disruption of traditional authority
  - greater female autonomy and freedom