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**COURSE TITLE:** INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II

**COURSE CODE:** SOC 102

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is family?

2. Discuss the functions of the family.

3. Discuss the African traditional family

4. Discuss your nuclear family.

5. Draw your family tree.

**ANSWERS:**

1. The most basic institution in any society is the family and it is the social context into which members of a society derive their primary identity. Sociologists have come up with different definitions of the family and this is owing to the fact that the family has various manifestations, organization and structures in various societies. One can then talk of various types of family including primary, secondary, single parent, nuclear and extended (Knuttila 2005). Hence, Mair(1972), defined the family as a domestic group in which parents and children live together and in its elementary form consists of a couple and their children. Duberman and Hartjen(1979) defined a family as a universal institution whose most important functions are to socialise and nurture the younger generation. Similarly, Smith and Preston(1982) defined the family as a social group whose members are related either through common ancestry or marriage and are bound by moral and economic rights and duties.

2i. Nurture: Every child is born into a family is expected to be fed, clothed, educated and cared for. This functions lies in the hands of the family.

ii. Procreation: The family through the regulation of sexual relationship fulfils the biological need of reproduction and perpetuation of both the immediate family and society as a whole.

iii. Regulation of sexual relationships: One of the paramount biological needs of man in all society is sexual relationship. Such relationship is often protected with rules and regulations in all societies and it is the family that helps and enforces such rules. This is done to prevent incestuous relationships.

iv. Social placement: An individual acquires his identity and place in society through his family. The family ascribes many statues to its members such as: race, ethnic, affiliation, nationality, religion, royalty etc

v. Affection and companionship: The family is expected to provide affection and companionship to its members. Children are given warm affection within the family to develop a positive self-image and adults in the family need intimate companionship to cope with life. This breeds a sense of belonging.

3. Overall, there are two forms of social groups that from the basis of Bemba marriage and traditional family. First, there is the local unit of matrilocal marriage….consisting of a man, his wife, his married daughters and their husbands and children. Second, the matrilineal decent group which consists of maternal relatives and ancestors traced back to several generations. These constitute the core of Bemba traditional African family around which the social organization of the traditional society revolves. ‘Both form the basis of the political structure of the tribe since the matrilocal extended family is the nucleus of the Bemba village although many other elements may be added to it and succession to al political offices is fixed by the rule of matrilineal descent’.

4. A nuclear family is a form of family that consists of a couple and their dependent children who share a residence and forma social unit. My family is a nuclear family. I have a father, mother and a sister. The roles within my family are mixed. My father goes to work every day. My mother also goes to work as well as helps out with some chores like cooking and cleaning. My sister and I does the rest work. As small as we are, there is a lot of joy, love and care among us.

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