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**Dept: Law**

**Course: soc 102**

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**Question:**

* **What is family**
* **Discuss the functions of the Family**
* **Discuss the African Traditional family**
* **Discuss your Nuclear family**
* **Draw your family tree**

**What is a family?**

There are numerous definitions of family, here are a few:

a group of people who are related to each other, such as a mother, a father, and their children.

the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children.

a family (from Latin: familia) is a group of people related either by consanguinity (by recognized birth) or affinity (by marriage or other relationship).

Family is the biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children.

**Functions of the family**

**Stable Satisfaction of Sex need**:

This is the Primary and essential function of family. Sex instinct is the natural urge of human being. The satisfaction of this need requires that both male and female should live together as life partners. It is the family where the husband and wife can satisfy their sex instincts easily and comfortably. Without family the satisfaction of sex need is almost socially quite impossible. A family not only satisfies but also provides the appropriate mechanism through marriage to regulate sexual behavior of husband and wife.

**Reproduction or procreation**:

Reproduction or procreation is another essential function of family. The family along with regulating the sexual behavior in relation to the satisfaction of sexual needs secures a legitimate basis for procreation. Since the inception of family, it has been performing this fundamental function. This function of family contributes to the continuity of family and ultimately perpetuates the human race as a whole.

**Protection and care of the young**:

Protection and care of the children is another essential function of family. It is regarded as an institution par excellence for the production and rearing of children. It is true that no other institution can take required care of the child like family. The child at birth is complete helpless and cannot survive at all without the help of the family. It is the family which provides care, protection, security (Physical, mental) and fulfills all other needs to make him fit in the society.

**Socializing Functions**:

Family is one of the primary agents of socialization. Family members teach the child the norms, value morals, beliefs and ideals of society. In the family the children first learn what is good and bad, what is right and wrong. They develop specific habits, traits of character, attitudes and values. The senior members of the family pass the family culture to the new generation thought socialization process. Thus, family acts an instrument of culture transmission.

**Provision of a home**:

Family makes a provision of a home or a common habitation for its members. Here both husband and if live together for procreation, protection and care of the children. It is a place of multifarious activities. All the members of the family depend on home for comfort, protection and peace. It is that institution which provides the mental or the emotional satisfaction. Members of the family exchange their love, sympathy and affection among themselves.

**Economic function**:

The family fulfils the economic needs of its members. This has been traditional function of family. Family fulfils all the economic needs of its members such as food, clothing, shelter etc. The goods required by its members are produced at home.

**Educational function**:

Mazzin says, "The first lesson of child is learnt between mother's kiss and father's care". Family is regarded as the first school of children. The family provides the basis for the child's formal learning and gives the child his basic training in the social attitudes and habits.

**Religious function**:

The family is a center for the religious training of the children. The family used to teach the children the religious values, moral precepts etc. It is through the family the religious inheritance is passed on to the next generation.

**Recreational functions**:

Family is the center of recreation. It serves as a center of all recreational activities like singing, dancing, playing indoor games etc. The small children are the source of recreation for the elders.

**Protective function**:

Family always looks after the health of its members both young and old. It takes up the responsibility of its members and maintains sound and good health.

**African traditional family**

* It comprises, the living members of the family e.g. parents, children, in laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews etc.
* It comprises the living death
* It comprises the yet to be born
* It comprises several nuclear families that form a clan
* The clan has final authority on matters of marriage, security and observance of customs
* It is a social- religious unit in which all rituals are undertaken by its members
* It has such function as promoting a sense of belonging to its members, stability in marriage/unity/ responsibility/ impacting values etc.
* It is polygamous/ many wives/ children
* Its main function is procreation for perpetuation of the family lineage
* It is complete with children
* It is a divine institution which is affected by marriage/ ordained by God
* Husband is the head of the family
* All members adhere to the rule and regulations of the family
* Elders are highly respected

**Nuclear Family**

A nuclear family, elementary family or conjugal family is a family group consisting of two parents and their children. It is in contrast to a single-parent family, the larger extended family, and a family with more than two parents.

a family consisting of two parents and their children, but not including aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

from the information above my nuclear consists of my father, mother, sister, brother and myself only.

**Draw your family tree**

**Fathers side Mothers side**

My grandmother

My grandfather

My grandmother

My grandfather

myself

My brother

My sister

My mother

My father