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Assignment

1. What is family?

According to sociologists, the family is an intimate group of people related to one another by blood, marriage or legal ties. Family is a group of people related either by consanguinity, which is by recognized birth or affinity, which is by marriage or other relationships. George Murdock defines the family as a universal institution. According to him, the family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic corporation and reproduction.

1. Discuss the functions of family.

* An agent of socialization: Family is seen to be the primary agent of socialization. It is from the family that a child learns the basic rules and norms of social life
* Procreation and rearing of children: Family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. By doing this, it contributes to the continuity of family and ultimately human race.
* An agent of cultural transmission: Family is seen to be an important agent of cultural transmission because aspects of culture are learnt within the family structure and through the family, culture can be transmitted from one generation to another.
* Provision of home: The family performs another function of providing a home where all the members live together and a child is taken care of and properly nourished
* Recreational functions: The family also helps in providing recreation which helps in bringing the family together. Examples are family reunions, family gatherings, marriages etc.

1. Discuss the African traditional family

The African traditional family is a large family which consists of the extended family members which include uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces and grandparents. This type of family is usually polygamous especially polygyny where the husband marries more than one wife. The idea is that the larger the family or clan, the more workers there are to work on the family farms. However, colonialization and Christianity came and promoted monogamy as the only morally accepted type of marriage.

1. Discuss your nuclear family

Nuclear family is a type of family that consists of the husband, wife and their unmarried children. This type of family is based on companionship between parents and children. This is seen to be the predominant form in modern industrial societies. My nuclear family consists of my father, my mother, my two brothers and me which makes it three children.

1. Draw your family tree

