**NAME: UDOM, EKEMINI VICTOR MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/254 COLLEGE: LAW DEPARTMENT: LAW COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II COURSE CODE: SOC 102**

**Question**

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

**ANSWER FOR NUMBER** **1: What is family?**

Family is defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners, children, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. An example of a family is a set of parents living with their children. It is also a group of people related by blood, Therefore we could say the definition of family is of many views and of many perspectives, to one a family could be a social group made up of parents and their children, to another a family could also be a group of people who share common ancestors.

**ANSWER FOR NUMBER 2:** **Discuss the functions of the family**

The family performs several essential functions for society. It socializes children, it provides emotional and practical support for its members, it helps regulate sexual activity and sexual reproduction, and it provides its members with a social identity. In addition, sudden or far-reaching changes in the family’s structure or processes threaten its stability and weaken society.

**First**, the family is the primary unit for socializing children. No society is possible without adequate socialization of its young. In most societies, the family is the major unit in which socialization happens. Parents, siblings, and, if the family is extended rather than nuclear, other relatives all help to socialize children from the time they are born.

One of the most important functions of the family is the socialization of children. In most societies the family is the major unit through which socialization occurs.

**Second**, the family is ideally a major source of practical and emotional support for its members. It provides them food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials, and it also provides them love, comfort, help in times of emotional distress, and other types of intangible support that we all need.

**Third**, the family helps regulate sexual activity and sexual reproduction. All societies have norms governing with whom and how often a person should have sex. The family is the major unit for teaching these norms and the major unit through which sexual reproduction occurs. One reason for this is to ensure that infants have adequate emotional and practical care when they are born. The incest taboo that most societies have, which prohibits sex between certain relatives, helps to minimize conflict within the family if sex occurred among its members and to establish social ties among different families and thus among society as a whole.

**Fourth**, the family provides its members with a social identity. Children are born into their parents’ social class, race and ethnicity, religion, and so forth. As we have seen in earlier chapters, social identity is important for our life chances. Some children have advantages throughout life because of the social identity they acquire from their parents, while others face many obstacles because the social class or race and ethnicity into which they are born is at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

**ANSWES FOR NUMBER 3: Discuss the African traditional family**

Family plays a central role in the African traditional society. It shapes such daily experiences as how and where individuals live, how they interact with the people around them, and even, in some cases, whom they marry. It can determine a person's political identity and the way money and property are transferred. In rural areas, the family typically remains the basic unit of agricultural production. However, no single type of family exists in Africa. Societies have defined family in many different ways, and many bear little resemblance to the Western idea of the nuclear family. Furthermore, throughout the continent, traditional family patterns are changing. Colonialism, capitalism, the growth of cities, exposure to Western culture, and increasing opportunities for women are some of the factors that are affecting the shape of family life.

FAMILY STRUCTURE

Each of the many family systems in Africa traditional society can be defined in terms of two broad kinds of relationships. Relationships of descent are genealogical that is, based on the connections between generations. Relationships of affinity are marital i.e. based on marriage. The interweaving of these relationships creates the family that an individual sees every day, as well as the wider network of kinship that surrounds each person.

**ANSWERS TO NUMBER 4: Discuss your nuclear family**

A nuclear family, elementary family or conjugal family is a family group consisting of two parents and their children (one or more). The traditional definition of a nuclear family is a family unit that includes two married parents of opposite genders and their biological or adopted children living in the same residence.

Like in **my family**, my nuclear family rather is made up of just my father and mother, me and my other three siblings.

This system is different from an extended family system, in which the household may include non-immediate family members, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles. Many believe that a nuclear family is the best arrangement, yielding numerous advantages. However, with any system personally I know, **there are also advantages and disadvantages.**

**And my Advantages of Nuclear Family include:**

(1) **Development of Personality:** Nuclear family plays an important role in the development of personality of individuals. Children are more close to the parents and can have more free and frank discussion about their problems with parents which helps for the better development of their personality.

(2**) Less number of children:** Family planning programme becomes successful in nuclear families. The members of nuclear family have to plan and limit their family as they have to bear all the responsibilities and expenses themselves to rear their children. The children also are benefited in the long run as they inherit directly property from their parents.

(3) **Peace and Harmony:** Peace and harmony are very much essential for a pleasant family life. In nuclear families there is no misunderstanding and they enjoy a harmonious atmosphere by living together.

(4) **Individual Responsibilities:** In nuclear family there is no shifting of responsibility like in joint family. The parents are bound to take responsibility of their children by themselves. The head of family has to work hard to take care of his family.

(5) **Problem Free Unit:** There is no chance of in-laws conflict. Financial problem does not arise in nuclear family. Money can be saved for future achievement and to face uncertain crisis of family. All enjoy independent life and can be engaged in any economic activities to supplement family income. The will and desires of children are considered and are given proper weight. All members of nuclear family are emotional secured. No superiority complex is felt by anybody. All are given equal weightage.

**My Disadvantages:**

(1**) Economic disadvantage**: The property of the family is divided among the brothers and each live separately. The land being subdivided does not yield much production resulting the land as an uneconomic holding. On the other hand one has to employ other labours to achieve the desired goal due to limited size of family. In this way the economic loss is more in nuclear family by paying remuneration to the labourers.

(2) **Insecurity of Children:** In nuclear family both husband and wife adopt profession outside the family, then children are neglected and looked after by the servants. They feel lonely and emotional insecure. They develop more anxiety. If the bread winner dies or becomes incapable to en, there is no one to support the family. Even in time of emergency like sickness, accident or during pregnancy family members are very much neglected and there is no one to take care of them.

(3) **Loneliness:** Feeling of loneliness is one of important drawbacks in nuclear family. After completion of household task, the housewife becomes alone at home. At the time of emergency one can get any help and support from any other.

(4) **Insecure for Old, Widow and Divorce:** In nuclear family widowed, old and divorce fare very much neglected. No one in the family bothers to take care of them. Physically and psychologically they feel insecure. Above all in nuclear family children are socially, emotionally and educational maladjusted. There is a chance of family breakage in case of conflict between them. Still then everybody wants to go for a nuclear family in the modern society because of its advantages which certainly outnumber the disadvantages.

**ANSWER TO NUMBER 5: Draw your family tree**

**My FAMILY TREE**

**MY MOTHER** **MY FATHER** (Mrs Christiana Victor Japheth) (Mr Victor Japheth Udom)

**ME**

(Ekemini Victor Japheth Udom)