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**QUESTION**

1. What is a family .
2. Discuss the functions of the family.
3. Discuss the African traditional family.
4. Discuss your nuclear family.

**ANSWERS**

1.)The answer to the question “what does family mean ?” is both difficult to answer and highly subjective . A lot has been said and discussed about a family in different languages. The earliest uses of family denoted “a group of people (persons) in the service of individual “, a sense that is now archaic . Although this early meaning may seem far afield from the way that most of us use family today , it is not surprising when we consider that the word comes from the Latin “familia , which meant “house hold “ , a designation that included both servants and relatives.

In modern use family may refer to one of a number of different groups of people or things collectively , such as chemical compounds , related languages , plants and animals , and people who may or may not share ancestry. Family is often encountered in legal use , but even within the jargon of the law it is not restricted to a single meaning . In many legal contexts family denotes “ individuals related by blood , marriage , or adoption , “ but in others the definition may be somewhat broder , encompassing groups of individuals not related by these things.

2.) DISCUSS THE FUNCTIONS OF FAMILY

First , the family is the primary unit for socializing children . As previous thoughts indicated , 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 may help to socialize the children from when they are born .

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 social activities in other words enlightening children on sex education . all societies have norms of 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 taboos that most societies have , which prohibits sex between certain relatives helps us to minimize the conflicts 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 provide its members with a social identity. Children are born into their parents social class , race ethnicity and religion . As we have seen in earlier chapters, a 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 or ethnic group into which they are born is at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

3.) THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILY .

Family plays a central role in African society . It shapes such daily experiences as how and where individuals live , how they interact with people around them , and even in some cases whom they marry . It can determine a person’s political identity and they 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.

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

4.)Discuss your nuclear family

My nuclear family is a family of five which includes my dad , my mum , my four siblings and I . we are all Christians and accept Christ as our personal savior .

In my family is roles and duties are assigned to each individual . For example , my father is tasked with providing financial revenue and other basic necessities . as the bread winner of the family he is expected to provide various needs for the family like food shelter , clothing etc.

My mother is responsible for taking care of the children and assisting my dad in providing various needs . as a woman she best knows what is right and wrong and takes care of the children thus , preventing them from going astray and indiscipline . I and my siblings are tasked with carrying out simple chores in the house . we help to keep the house and environment clean by performing simple chores .