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QUESTIONS:

1. What is a Family?

2. Discuss the functions of the family

3. Discuss the African Traditional Family

4. Discuss your Nuclear Family

5. Draw your family tree

1. A Family is group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit. Family is defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners, children, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. In lay mans definition, a family consists of the father, mother and children.

2. Family is the most universal and fundamental social institution which performs a variety of functions in human society. Different sociologists have viewed or classified the functions of family into different types.

#### **(1) Stable satisfaction of Sexual needs:**

This is the most important essential function of family. Family has been performing this function since the inceptions of human civilization. It is a well known fact that sex urge is the most important and powerful instinct and natural urge of human being. It is the primary duty of family to satisfy the sexual urge of its members in a stable and desirable way.

#### **(2) Procreation and Rearing of Children:**

It is another important sectional function of family .Necessary arrangement of stable satisfaction of sexual urge resulted in procreation. Family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. It institutionalizes the process of procreation. By performing this function of procreation family contributes to the continuity of family and ultimately human race. Hence perpetuation of human race or society is the most important function of family. Not only the production of children but also child rearing another important function of family. Family is the only place where the function of child rearing is better performed.

#### **(3) Provision of Home:**

Family perform another important function of providing a home for common living to all it’s members. It is only in a home that children are born and brought up. Even if children are born in hospitals in modern time still they are taken care of and properly nourished in a home only. Because family and a home have no substitute. In a home all the members of family live together and a child is brought up under the strict vigilance of all it’s members.

#### **(4) Socialization:**

It is another important essential function of family. It is said man is not born human but made human. New born human baby became human being after they are socialized. Family plays an important role in the socialization process

It is one of the primary agents of socialization. Living in a family human baby learns norms, values, morals and ideals of society. He learns culture and acquires character through the process of socialization. His personality develops in the course of his living in family. From family he learns what is right and wrong and what is good or bad. Through socialization he became a social man and acquires good character.

3. African family still maintains its strong bond through traditional practices such as the upbringing of children and maintaining strong family values. This is centred on the three major tribes in Nigeria, the Hausa, Yoruba and the Igbo. Abu Bakar who is a Hausa said that the Hausas are mostly Muslims occupying the northern part of Nigeria.

His talk focused on family related issues such as polygamy, tribe, clan, the extended family, the dowry and the raising of children.

 Traditionally, African family practices polygamy because of the idea that the larger the family or clan, the more workers there are to work on the family farms. Hence, more wealth can be possessed by the family.

However, nowadays the practice depended on the religion of the person. Muslims in Africa will take up to 3 to 4 wives, the number permitted in the religion while the Christians only practice monogamy.

The tribe is bigger in terms of size compared to clan but the latter has greater influence on the family. Four factors that link their kinship were profession-derived names, tribal marks, distinguishing personal names and determining the child’s legitimacy as a clan member.

The clan’s name is also included in a person’s name like his which is Miyim which denotes that he comes from the clan’s profession as hunters.

He also has a tribal marking on his right cheek usually given to children at about the age of seven. Tribal marks were widely used during tribal wars to distinguish members of different clans.

Only legitimate children will bear the clan’s name. The naming ceremony is very important as a child will not be considered as a part of the clan till his or her legitimacy is established.

The test of a child’s legitimacy in traditional Hausa customs is by dropping the child’s umbilical cord into a can filled with water and milk. The clan chief will only accept the child as a part of the clan if the cord floats. If it sinks, the child will be considered as illegitimate and disowned.

A Nigerian ethnic group called the Ijaw will throw babies in the river to test their legitimacy. The infant will only be considered as legitimate if it floats. However, Abu Bakar asserted that an infant thrown into a river will always float. “It’s the oldest science,” he said.

The children are then taken care of by their fathers’ brother, not by the biological parents. Nonetheless the real parents do not forget their children for they will continue to visit their children. This practice was done in order to prepare the girls to become wives and mothers and the boys to become husbands and fathers.

The Hausa people are patrilineal. Hence, their household family consists of relatives of the father. However, some tribes in Ghana and Northern Zambia practice matrilineal marriage as the extended family comprises of a man and his wife, their married daughters, son-in-laws, and their children.

He also said that the dowry is not practiced in traditional African society. The practice was introduced by European missionaries and colonialists. Abu Bakar said that African bridegrooms work for the bride’s father as a form of ‘dowry’ to wed his daughter instead of giving money or property.

4.My nuclear family
My nuclear family is made up of 7 people
And this 7 people are my dad, my mum and my five siblings
The first child of my family is a girl and she is 22 years old, the second child is a boy, and he is 21 years old, the third child is a boy and he is 20 years old the fourth child is me, a girl and I am 15 years old, the last child is a girl and she's 8 years old.

5.

THIRD

CHILD

SECOND

CHILD

MOTHER