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Question:

1 What is family

2 Discuss the functions of the Family

3 Discuss the African Traditiona family

4 Discuss your Nuclear family

5 Draw your family tree

Answer:

1. What is Family

Every individual in the society belongs to one family or the other. We all have ideas on what a family is, a family can be defined as a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit. It can also be defined as all the descendants of a common ancestor. The best definition of a family can be said to be defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. An example of family is all the descendants of a specific person.

To some, the **true meaning of a family** means a group of people related by blood or ancestry. To others, it has nothing to do with genes and everything to do with love, compassion, and support. The definition of the word **family** can mean many things.

1. Discuss the functions of the family

Every member of the family has a function to perform in other to hold the family together and make it strong. A family has to ensure physical care and maintenance, also they have addition of new family members and also they have to maintain socialization of children.

**PRIMARY FUNCTIONS**

**Stable satisfaction of sexual needs**

This is the most important essential function of family. Family has been performing this 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 urge of human being.

**Procreation and Rearing of Children**

Family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. Necessary arrangement of stale satisfaction of sexual urge resulted in procreation. By performing this function of procreation family and contributes to the continuity of family and ultimately human race. Hence perpetuation of human race or society is the most important function of a family. Not only the production of children but also child rearing is another important function of family. It provides healthy atmosphere in which the personality of the child develops properly. Family takes care of the child at the time of need. Hence, it is rightly remarked that family is an institution par excellence for the procreation and rearing of children. It has no parallels.

**Provision of Home**

Family performs another important function of providing a home for common living to all its members. It is only in a home that children are born in hospitals in modern time still they are taken care of and properly nourished in home only. In a home all the members of family live together and child is brought up under the strict vigilance of all its members.

**SECONDARY FUNCTIONS**

Famous Sociologist Maclver has divided functions into essential and non-essential functions. Under non-essential or secondary functions, it includes economic, religious, educational, health and recreational functions. The functions are secondary because they are also performed simultaneously by other social institutions in family

**Economic functions**

In ancient time family was both a production and consumption unit. used to fulfill almost all the economic needs of its members such as food, clothing, housing, etc. in the olden day’s family was self-sufficient. But now a day almost all the economic functions of family is performed by other agencies and family only remain as a consumption unit. The family also ensure equal distribution of property among its members.

**Educational functions**

As a primary educational institution, family usually teach letters, knowledge, skill, and trade secret to all its members. It looks after the primary education of its members and molds their career and character. Mother act as the first and the best teacher of a child. Besides he learns all sorts of informal education such as discipline, obedience, manners etc.

**Religious Function**

Family is the center of all religious activities. All the family members offer their prayers together and observe different religious rites, rituals and practices jointly. Children learn different religious values from their parents. Living in a spiritual atmosphere spirituality develops among the children. Family transmits religious beliefs and practices beliefs and practices from one generation to another.

**Health Function**

Family as a primary social group performs several health related functions for its members. It looks after the health and vigor of its members. It takes care of the sick old and aged persons of the family, by providing necessary nutritive food to its members.

1. **African Traditional Family**

The Traditional African family patterns are slow but progressively beingaltered as a result of the process of modernization which is exhibited through trends like urbanization. Family patterns that were the norm in traditional rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. The cultural and physical diversity added with the dramatic social changes of the last three decades on the continent makes the family pattern situation so variegated as to defy any sweeping generalization. As the African society has not been static, changes in the traditional family patterns will be briefly alluded to. Despite the changes taking place in sub Saharan African societies due to the modernization process, the family still remains a prominent nexus in the social life of Africans. In Africa, there is considerable importance attached to the respect for elders and ancestors. African communities are characterized by the prevalence of collectivism as opposed to individuality. Paulina Makinwa - Adebusoye outlined the major characteristic features of African household to be that they are mostly rural, patriarchal and hierarchical, polygamous and open to kinship networks, and finally they attached substantial importance to lineage continuation. The features in all play avital role in influencing the number of children women give birth to. The social organization of most African Family is embedded in a patriarchal and hierarchical system that precludes the possibility of women, who generally have lower status than men in the society to make deliberate choice on the number of children they want to have.

Contemporary African Family patterns are subjected to changes that emanates as a result of the ameliorated economic conditions, education and health opportunities. These factors continuously exert tremendous impact on contemporary family patterns in the sub-continent. Socioeconomic circumstances in the sub-continent are encountering alterations that have to a considerable extent triggered changes in the fundamental cultural values most especially in the domain of the family. Ther is rise in the pace towards the abandonment of traditional practices for modern ones(western)

4 **Dissuss my nuclear family**

My family is a nuclear family which contains My father named Mr. Akinola and my mother, Mrs. N. Akinola. I have two siblings, which makes us three children in the family. I have one brother and one sister named Muizz and Mozidat respectively. I am the first child and daughter of my family.

**MY FAMILY TREE**

GRANDMOTHER

Afusat suberu

GRANDFATHER

ADISA SUBERU

Grandmother

AFUSAT AKINOLA

**Grandfather**

**Yekini Akinola**

Mother Suberu nurat (Akinola)

Father

Akinola wale

MOZIDAT AKINOLA

MUIZZ AKINOLA

ME AKINOLA MARIAM