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**COURSE CODE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II**

**ASSIGNMENT**

1. **What is a family**

The most basic institution in any society is the family and it is the social context into which members of a society derive their primary identity. Sociologists have come up with different definitions of the family and this is owing to the fact that the family has various manifestations, organization and structures in various society. One can then talk of various types or forms of family, including primary, secondary, single parent, nuclear and extended (Knuttila 2005).

Hence, Mair (1972), defined the family as a domestic group in which parents and children live together, and its elementary form consists of a couple and their children. Duberman and Hartjen (1979) defined a family as a universal institution whose most important function are to socialize and nature the younger generation. Similarly, Smith and Preston (1982) defined the family as asocial group whose members are related either through common ancestry or marriage and are bound by moral and economic rights and duties.

1. **Discuss the functions of the family**
2. **Natural**: Every child is born into a family and every child is expected to be fed, clothed, educated and cared for. This responsibilities lies in the hands of the family; hence the family ensures providing for the welfare needs of the children thereby ensuring the survival of the next generation of society.
3. **Regulation of Sexual Relationship**: One of the paramount biological needs of man in all society is sexual relationship. Such relationship is often protected with rules and regulations in all societies and it is the family that helps and enforces such rules. This is done to prevent incestuous relationships for example the need for one not to have sexual relationship with a close relative or kin etc. The family also screens and approves sexual partners and spouses for members.
4. **Procreation**: The family through the regulations of sexual relationship function fulfils the biological need of reproduction and perpetuation of both the immediate family and the society as a whole (Okodudu 2010).
5. **Social placement**: An individual acquires his identity and place in society through his family. The family ascribes many statuses to its members such as; race, ethnic affiliation, nationality, religion, royalty etc.
6. **Affection and companionship**: The family is expected to provide affection and companionship for its members. Children are given warm affection within the family to develop a positive self-image, and adults in the family need intimate companionship to cope with life.

Other functions of the family include; health related, recreational functions, cultural functions etc.

1. **Discuss the African Traditional family**

The subject of “traditional family patterns in Africa” is so broad. 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 generalizations. Scholars of the African traditional family agree that the one widely known aspect that distinguishes the African traditional family, say from the European on the perversity of polygamy. Although polygamy is the act of an individual being married to more than one spouse at the same time, the more commonly practiced in Africa is polygyny. Patrilineality, matrilineality and the practice of polygyny are of three major distinguishing variations of the African tradition extended family. What is significant about these various descriptions of the traditional African family is that they are from back in the period before the 1940s and in case of the Baganda from the late 1800s. Social change in Africa as everywhere else in ubiquitous. Such influences as end of intra and inter-tribal warfare with the coming of the European colonialism, the western money economy, industrialization, migration and urbanization have certainly transformed the traditional African family from what it was 50 to 100 years ago. For example, in the polygynous family, like among the Baganda, and many others, your father’s wives and brothers were not just mothers and father just as more kinship terms. The characterization of the African traditional family as somewhat depraved lead to the use of such terms as bride price, avoidance social taboos, segregated relationships, lack of love and tenderness in African marriages and families. Family patterns that were the norm in traditional rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. The transformation of societies in the sub-continent from rural to urban settings has immensely contributed in triggering changes in family structure.

1. **Discuss your nuclear family**

My nuclear family is the smallest unit in the society and it is also called elementary family. It refers to a couple along with any dependent, unmarried children who share a residence and form social unit. My nuclear family is made up of my father (the head/breadwinner of the house), my mother (the care taker) and the children including me. We all live together in a single dwelling. Everyone has their different responsibilities in my family. My father provides for us, he pays our school fees and provide the basic necessities needed in the house. My mother teaches us, guides us, protect and correct us, makes sure that there is enough food for us and care for us. While we the children run different errands and do the house chores.

1. **Draw your family tree**

**CHIOMA**

**OSCAR**

**CHRIS**

**JANE**

**ANN**

**EBUKA**

**EMEKA**