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**QUESTIONS:**

* What is family?
* Discuss the function of family
* Discuss your nuclear family
* Draw your family tree.

**WHAT IS FAMILY?**

The word **“family’’** came into English in the fifteenth century. Its root lies in the Latin word famulus “servant’’. The first meaning in English was close our modern word household- a group of individuals living under one roof that included blood relations and servants.

The family is generally regarded as a major social institution and a locus of much of a person’s social activity. It is a social unit created by blood, marriage, or adoption, and can be described as a nuclear (parents and children) or extended (encompassing other relatives). The family functions to locate children socially, and plays a major role in their socialization.

Family also means **servants of a household**.

**Functions of family**

The word “function’’ is gotten from a root word ‘’funct’’ which is a Latin root word. Funct root word means no longer working or alive. There are multiple words based on this root word funct. For instance, function means to work to perform a role normally and mal function means to fail to work correctly. The various functions of the family include;

* Affectional
* Economic functions
* Recreational functions
* Protective functions
* Religious functions
* Educational functions.

K. Davis have also classified the functions of family into four main divisions such as;

* Reproduction
* Maintenance
* Placement
* Socialization of the young.

Good also classified the functions of the family into five different types such as;

* Procreation functions
* Socio-economic security functions
* Status determination functions
* Socialization functions
* Social control functions.

However, family performs the following essential functions;

* **Stable satisfaction of sexual needs:**

This is the most important essential function since the inceptions of human civilization. It is a well-known fact that sex urge is the most important and powerful instinct ad natural urge of human being.

* **Procreation and rearing of children:**

It is another important sectional function of family necessary arrangement or 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.

* **Provision of home:**

Family perform another important function of providing a home for common living to all its 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 hey 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 its members.

* **Socialization:**

It is another important essential family function. It is said man is not born human but made human. New born human baby become 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 acquits character through the process of socialization. It is personally developed in the course of his living in the family. From the family he learns what is right and wrong and what is good or bad.

Non-essential or secondary functions of family;

* **Economic functions:**

Since ancient time family has been performing several economic funtions.it is an important economic unit.in ancient time family was both a production and consumption unit. It used to fulfill almost all the economic. But in spite all family still perform some basic economic functions of purchasing protecting and maintaining property. It is equally distribute property among its members.

* **Educational functions:**

Family performs many educational functions for it members as a primary educational institution family used to teach letters, knowledge, skill and trade secret to all its members. It looks after the primary education of its members and mold their career and character. Mother acts as the first and best teacher of a child. Besides he learns all sorts of informal education such as discipline, obedience, manners etc. from family of course at present many of the educational functions of family are taken over by school, college and universities still family continues to play an important role in providing the first lessons and primary education to its members.

* **Religious functions:**

Family as a primary social group performs several health related functions for its members. It look 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 member’s family takes care of the health of all.

* **Recreational functions:**

Family performs several recreational functions for its members by entertaining them in various ways. In ancient period family was the only centre of recreation. All the members together organize family feast, visit the family relations, organize family picnic.

* **Cultural Functions:**

Family also performs several cultural functions as well. It preserves different cultural traits. Man learns and acquires cultural from family and transmits it to succeeding generations. That is why family is considered as centre of cultural.

**THE AFRICAN TRADITION FAMILY**

Most words of African origin used in English are nouns describing animals, plants or cultural practices that have their origins in Africa.

Tradition is a noun that was the Latin root in the word “trader” which means hand over or hand down. So think of a tradition as something that is handed down from one generation to another.

In Africa marriage systems are highly diverse. In Sub-Sahara Africa, some paining of men and women are temporary, others are permanent. Depending on the culture, a coupe may live in the husbands home on the wife’s home. Among some groups such as the **ASANTE** each spouse continues to live in the home in which he or she was born. Children my stay with their parents until they marry or they may spend part of their adolescence in the home of another relative.

African marriage can be polygamous – that is a man having more than one wife. In practice, only the senior or wealthy individuals in a society have been able to have multiple wives. When polygamy occurs, the family unit is based on mothers. Each wife has her own house and property that are generally transferred to her own children.

Rather than the husband and wife two forms of basis of family and kinship in such communities. Christian marriages in Africa, as elsewhere are generally monogamous, with a man having only one wife.

In some African societies, nuclear families are contained within larger social groups that may include kinfolk, neighbors, people of the same gender and others. The nuclear family does not always have its own property or decide what tasks its members will performs. Other relationships between husbands and wives and between parents and children often within larger domestic units raved households which may consist of joint or extended families.

**MY FAMILY TREE**

**GRAND FATHER**

**GRAND MOTHER**

**LUKE**

**DOMINIC**

**ISABEL**

**JOEL**

**KATE**

**JANE**

**OWEN**

**PETER**

**JAMES**

**JOHN**

**LAURA**