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91/LAW01/002

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SOC 102: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II

ASSIGNMENT:

1 What is family?

2 Discuss the functions of the Family

3 Discuss the African Traditional family

4 Discuss your Nuclear family

5 Draw your family tree

ANSWERS

1. A family is a group of people bonded by marriage, blood or adoption that care for one another. A typical family consists of a father, a mother and a child or children. There are two types of family; the extended family and the nuclear family. The extended family is made up of many nuclear families, related by one way or another. The typical family setting of parents and children is the nuclear family. The family is the primary agent of socialization. It is where individuals are born, nurtured and given training in order to survive the world and other agents of socialization. It is the primary agent of socialization because it is where relationships are first formed.

2. The following are the functions of the family;
   ❖ The family serves as a source of encouragement and teamwork both for the good of their family and the society.
   ❖ The family plays a key role in population growth, through procreation. For a society to exist, it must increase in number and replace those that die.
   ❖ The family provides both formal and informal education to the children. Formal education is received in school and provided by teachers who help the child choose and be what he wants to become in life. Informal education refers to the domestic, moral cultural, religious and total education of the child provided by parents at home.

❖ The family is also responsible for the provision of basic needs for its members which cannot afford these needs themselves. Examples of these basic needs are food shelter and clothing. It is the duty of the parents to provide them for their children.

❖ The family serves as an agent of socialization. The child's first contact with society is with his or her family. This is where the child first learns what is good and bad and what is right and wrong. The child is taught the values, norms and traditions of the society. It is the duty of the parents to mould their children into socially acceptable human beings.

❖ Family members are also to serve as proper role models for the younger members of the family. This is to give the children a glimpse of the type of adult they would like to be. Good role models will incite positive attitude towards societal values, just as bad role models will incite negative attitude towards societal values.

3. The traditional African family is usually polygamous. In other words, it supports the union between a man and more than one wife. Each wife births her own children and may live in separate houses while in the same compound (this differs from culture to culture). However, the presence of more than one wife will birth the presence of more children on the family. It is a common belief for traditional men, that having many children is a sigh of manliness.

4. My nuclear family is made up of my father, my mother, my three sisters and I. My father is the head of the family and my mother supports him wholeheartedly. He is the breadwinner of the family, but both he and my mother provide our basic needs. These needs include food, shelter, clothing and education. In return, we, the children have duties which we are given the responsibility to carry out. These duties include; helping out with household chores, assisting in the kitchen, helping one another and obeying our parents. As siblings, we are entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of our younger ones as well as obeying our senior sisters. When our parents are not around, the eldest daughter is in charge.

5. MY FAMILY TREE

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                    Maternal                              Paternal
                  grandparents                          grandparents
   ┌──────┬──────┼──────┬──────┐              ┌──────────┼──────────┐
  Aunt   Uncle  Uncle  Aunt  My dad        My Mother  my uncles  my aunts
                       ┌──────┼──────┬──────┐
                  my senior   me   my junior  my junior
                    sister          siser      sister
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Maternal grandparents				
Aunt	Uncle	Uncle	Aunt	My dad

my senior sister	me	my junior siser	my junior sister

Paternal grandparents		
My Mother	my uncles	my aunts