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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.

ANSWERS .

Definition of Family.

Family means a group of people related by blood or ancestry. A family is defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners , children, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. An example of a family is a set of parents living with their children . The definition of family is a group of people who share common ancestors. Family denotes individuals related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Functions of the Family.

1. Responsible for the addition of new members through reproduction; society

must maintain a stable population in order to survive. Population growth provides a competitive advantage that usually enables a society to become wealthier.

2. Provide physical care for their members, including adults and children; when families are unable to care for their members, hardship results unless the society is organised to replace the family in this function

3. Socialize children by teaching skills, knowledge, values, and attitudes of the society; Children who learn these can work and relate to others within appropriate adult roles.

4. Controlling the behaviour of members to maintain order within the family and the society in which they live; Families monitor and evaluate the behaviour of individuals and provide feedback. This control contributes to the socialization process and protects the reputation of individuals identified with family group within society.

 5. Provision of basic amenities and needs; The family provides the member of the family the basic amenities and needs such as; food, water, clothing and so much more. They make sure the members of the family does not lack any of the necessary items they need.

6. Love, care and protection; It is the duty of the family to care, protect and shower love on the members of the family most especially the children. Children should be cred for and prove ted by every cost. Parents should enable to love, care and protect their children because it isn their duty and obligation and if they do not do it the children will search for those things some where else.

7. Maintain morale and motivate individuals to participate in the society; Commitment to the family may be based on a spiritual sense of duty, or economic necessity. People assume that affective nurturance, meeting the emotional needs of individuals, is the foundation of our com fitment to each other. Participation in appropriate social roles contributes to the health of the society as well as providing the means with which families care for their members.

8. Provision of basic and primary education; one major role of the parents in the family is to provide the children with basic and primary education because it is neccessary in other for the children to be educated and be able to contribute to societal matters.

African Traditional Family.

Traditional African family patterns are slowly but progressively being altered as a result of the process of modernization which is exhibited through trends like urbanization. Family patterns that were norm in traditional rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. Sub Saharan Africa has one of the annual population growth rate. It is the fastest rate of urbanization presently taking place in the world. The transformation of societies in the sub-continent from rural to urban settings has immensely contributed in triggering changes in family structure. This has triggered the distortion of cultural /traditional norms and values that characterized rural communities in the region. African families are increasingly faced with the challenge and pressure emanating from the competition prevailing between traditional and modern family values. Hence, Contemporary family patterns in the region are increasingly subjected to transform and adapt to changing times. Discussions of family patterns in contemporary Sub Saharan Africa are usually made in reference to the process of accultaration, urbanization (the movement from rural to urban areas), which have helped to shape modern family structures, as well as fostered the prevalence of demographic changes. Family in Sub Saharan Africa is experiencing changes which are felt in fertility rates that is the number of children women gave birth to, and age at marriage to name a few.

The subject of traditional family patterns in Africa is very 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. This difficulty in generalization bone of diversity was already apparent to many early scholars

 of the African traditional family like Mair(1) and Goode(2). The traditional African family patterns describe the patrilineal and matrilineal families. The case studies presented will be those of the Baganda of Uganda and Bemba of Northern Zambia. Some of the major issues raised will include polygamy, tribe, clan, the extended family, bride price and the raising of children.

The Eurocentric nature of the descriptions and characterization of the traditional African family patterns by earlier scholars has tended to distort and obscure many of the strengths of the African traditional family.

MY NUCLEAR FAMILY.

Nuclear family is a type of family.the nuclear family is also called elementary family in sociology. It is regarded as a group of people who are united by ties of partnership and parenthood and consisting of a pair of adults and their socially recognized children. The nuclear family is made up of the father, mother and the children.

Using my family as a case study, we operate the nuclear which consists of my father, my mother, my sister, brother and me and we are regarded as the children in the family.

MY FAMILY TREE.

THIRD

CHILD

FATHER