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Department: Sociology

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1. 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 to our modern word “household.” A group of individuals living under one roof that included blood relations and servants.

Family is defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners, children, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents.

1. Discuss the functions of the Family

The family performs several essential functions for society. It socializes children, it provides emotional and practical support for its members, it helps regulate sexual activity and sexual reproduction, and it provides its members with a social identity. There are also other universal functions of the family which are;

1. Maintenance and physical care.

2. Love and nurturance.

3. Production of goods and services.

4. Social control of children

3. Discuss the 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 the norm in traditional rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. Sub Saharan Africa has one of the fastest annual population growth rate(Merrick 202:41). It has 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 acculturation, 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 (Kalu 1981:353).Family in sub Saharan Africa is experiencing changes which are felt infertility rates that is the number of children women give birth to, and age at marriage to name a few.

1. Discuss your Nuclear family

A nuclear family, elementary family or conjugal family is a family group consisting of two parents and their children

My nuclear family consist of my Dad, my Mum, myself and my three siblings. We recede in Bauchi, Bauchi State. My Dad works as a Professor at ATBU in Bauchi and my Mum works as a civil servant. I go to the ABUAD University. My immediate younger sister goes to Unique High School in Jos. My younger brother goes to Immaculate Conception in Bauchi. My youngest sister schools in Heritage Model School also in Bauchi.

1. Draw your family tree

MY FAMILY TREE

MY DADDY; JOHN MY MUMMY; STELLA

ME; ABIGAIL MY SISTER; DANIELLA MY BROTHER; JOHN MY SISTER; ESTHER