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**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**
6. **FAMILY;**

According to sociologists, the family is an intimate domestic group of people related to one another by bonds of blood, sexual mating, or legal ties. It has been a very resilient social unit that has survived and adapted through time. The family acts as a primary socialization of children whereby the child first learns the basic values and norms of the culture they will grow up in. A child needs to be carefully nurtured, cherished and molded into responsible individuals with good values and strong ethics. Therefore, it is important to provide them the best childcare so that they need to be mentally, physically and emotionally strong individuals.

Similarly, The United States Census Bureau (2007) defines the family as a relatively permanent group of two or more people who are related by blood, marriage or adoption and who live under the same roof. The family is seen as the main pillar block of a community, family structure and upbringing influence the social character and personality of any given society. Family is where everybody learns to love, to care, to be fair, to have common sense, to be honest, to use reasoning, etc. values which are essential for living in a community. Yet, there are ongoing debates that families’ values are in decline. Moreover the same family is viewed as an oppressive and bankrupt institution.

1. **FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY;**

A functional understanding of the family thus stresses the ways in which the family as a social institution helps make society possible. As such, the family performs several important functions;

1. **The family is a primary unit for socializing children;** No society is possible without adequate socialization of its young. In most societies, the family is the major unit in which socialization happens. Parents, siblings and if the family is extended rather than nuclear, other relatives all help to socialize children from the time they are born.
2. **The family is ideally a major source of practical and emotional support for its members;** It provides them food, clothing, shelter and other essentials, and it also provides them love, comfort, help in time of emotional distress and other types of intangible support we all need.
3. **The family helps regulate sexual activity and sexual reproduction;** All societies have norms governing with whom and how often a person should have sex. The family is the major unit for teaching these norms and the major unit through which sexual reproduction occurs. One reason for this is to ensure that infants have adequate emotional and practical care when they are born.
4. **The family provides its members with a social identity;** Children are born into their parents’ social class, race and ethnicity, religion and so forth. As we have seen, social identity is important for our life chances. Some children have advantages throughout life because the social class or race and ethnicity into which they are born is at the bottom of the social insecurity.
5. **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. Despite the changes taking place in the sun Saharan African societies due to the modernization process, the family still remains a prominent nexus in the social life of Africans. In Africa, there is a considerable importance attached to the respect for elders and ancestors. African communities are characterised by the prevalence of collectivism as opposed to individuality. Paula Makinwa-Adebusoye outlined the major characteristic features of African household to be that they are mostly rural, patriarchal and hierarchical, polygamous and open to kinship networks, and finally they attached substantial importance to lineage continuation. These features in all play a pivotal role in influencing the number of children women give birth to. The social organization of most African families is embedded in a patriarchal and hierarchical system that preludes the possibilities of women, who generally have lower status than all members of their husbands’ family. In traditional rural societies in must sub Saharan societies, women are voiceless and powerless. According to Goran Therborn African societies have experienced slight distortion in the patriarchal tradition, following the advent of urbanization, as well as due to the drop in the importance attached to land and cattle in the economy. Male supremacy has also being altered a bit even though it still has a strong hold in the society. There is the existence of substantial cultural importance attributed to fertility and lineage continuation, tight patriarchal traditions, wide rate of polygamy prevalence. These are the prominent features that characterized most traditional African societies.

In the aspect of marriage, traditional tenets of marriages are increasingly subjected to stabilize amidst sporadic societal changes emanating from modernization and globalization. Marriage is still quite important in African communities, the age at first marriage ranges between 17 to 22 years for women. It varies across regions depending on regional and ethnic practices. In traditional rural African societies, the contraction of marriage was dominated by arranged marriages whereby parents usually indulged in the selection of marriage partners for their children; this was commonly for their daughters. This was done without the consent of their children. In traditional societies in most sub Saharan African countries, there is a high value accorded to marriage; this has been marked by the practice of early marriages and childbearing which in most cases continues till the end of productivity age. At marriage, women tend to have lower status than all members of their husband family. Polygamous family also dominated traditional societies. In Nigeria, 32.7 percent of married women were in polygamous marriages that were made up of two or more wives. This is characterized by the trend of early marriage; most of the women married quite young, mostly to older men.

The advent of modernity has inherently fostered a progressive transformation of African family organization marked by the drift from larger family size to small size households. One of the major area that has encountered alteration is the size of the family that is the number of children that married women give birth to. The factors that have been identified to be responsible for high fertility rates are extensive, they range from high infant and child mortality, low contraceptive use, early marriage to cite a few.

In conclusion, African patterns are increasingly faced with the challenge and pressure between traditional and modern values and structure. There is a steady increase in the pace towards the abandonment of traditional practices for modern ones (western). There are other practices taking place such as non-material childbearing, single parenthood, that were not discussed that are as well gradually gaining momentum in the region.

1. **MY NUCLEAR FAMILY;**

A nuclear family is a family group consisting of two parents and their children (one or more). It is in contrast to a single-parent family, the larger extended family, and a family, and a family with more than two parents.

My family consists of my father, my mother and five children. Each person has their own role and is entitled to anything they want. Fathers like mothers, are pillars in the development of a child’s emotional well-being. Children look to their fathers to lay down the rules and enforce them. They also look to their fathers to provide a feeling of security, both physical and emotional.

As we all know, the father is the head of every home. The role of the father in the home is to lead. The father in every home is expected to lead, not just to lead, but lead with example so that every one of the home follows especially the children. A father’s role is to also pray and worship, this does not only apply to being a father’s role alone, but it is important as he is the father. A father’s role is to protect the beautiful, the innocent and the good. A father’s role is to provide for those we love and need.

The mother also has her own role to play in the family. There is a popular saying that the mother is the light of the home. A mother’s role is to love her children with all her heart, a nurturer, to take care of household care.

Lastly, the role of the children in every home is to run errands, obey the rules and regulations in the home and even in the society as well, study, etc.

1. **MY FAMILY TREE;**

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**MY FATHER MY MOTHER**

**THE CHILDREN.**