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COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT: LAW

LEVEL: 100

COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II (SOC 102)

1. Family, according Smith and Preston (1982) defined the family as a social group whose members are related either through common ancestry or marriage and are bound by mood and economic rights and duties. Many sociologists have brought up many definitions of family. It is the most basic institution in any society.
2. Functions of the family

* Nurture: The responsibility of the family is to nurture and take care of the needs of the children for their survival and general wellbeing. The family ensures that every child is well fed, clothed, educated, and cared for.
* Regulation of sexual relationship: One important need of man in every society is to have a sexual relationship. Such relationship are protected with rules and regulations in all societies and it is the family that enforce such rules. This is to prevent incestuous relationships for example the need to have a sexual relationship with a close relative. The family also screens and approves sexual partners and spouses for their members.
* Procreation: The family through the regulation of sexual relationship function fulfils the biological need of reproduction and perpetuation of both the immediate family and the society as a whole.
* Social placement: an individual acquires his identity and place in society through. The family ascribes many statuses to its members such as: race, ethnic affiliation, nationality, religion, royalty etc.
* Affection and companionship: The family is expected to provide affection and companionship for its members. Children are given warm affection within the family to develop a positive self-image, and adults in the family need intimate companionship to cope with life. This breeds a sense of belonging.

1. In the African traditional family, some of the major issues raised include polygamy, tribe clan, the extended family, bride price and raising of children. As the African society has not been static, changes in the traditional family patterns. 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. Polygamy was widely practiced in Africa and it often formed the backbone of the traditional African family patterns. The major reason for its decline was due to the increasing modern influences, marrying more than one wife became an economic burden. We have the patrilocal and matrilocal families (for example the Banganda of Uganda and Bemba of Zambia respectively. Child bearing is of great importance in Africa where it is an expected return from marriage. Motherhood comes with high social status and relationship security not to mention extra hands to help in the fields (chakare 2013). Some of the issues that were the products of the eurocentrically biased judgments include the following two i) the strengths, durability and resilience of the African traditional family were never dwelt on explicitly and at length ii) the continued Eurocentric descriptions and characterizations of the African traditional family as somewhat depraved lead to the use of such items as bride price, avoidance of social taboos, segregated relationship, ‘lack of love’ and tenderness’ in African marriages and families.
2. A nuclear family comprise parents and children. It is the smallest unit of society and it is also called the elementary family. The traditional definition of a nuclear is a family unit that includes two married parents of opposite genders and their biological or adopted children living in the same residence. Nuclear family was first seen in the 13th century in England. My nuclear family consists of my parents, me and my seven siblings. My elder sisters study abroad and are most times away from home. My immediate elder brother, sister and I also travel to school for months within the country. So basically my parents are left with my younger ones. But during holidays, our nuclear family (my parents, me and my seven siblings) is complete.

MY FAMILY TREE

1. Mr. Alfa (late) Mrs. Alfa

Mrs. Agada (late

Mr. Agada 999((((9((((late (late

Ladi

Agnes

Rebecca Joan Leah (late) Racheal Grace

Stella

Dele

Jummai

Victoria John Samuel

Christaina

Blessing Deborah Joshua Michelle Peculiar Precious Caleb Favour