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**Assignment tittle:**

**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**

**Definition of family**: **Family** is defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners, children, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. The **true meaning of family** means a group of people related by blood or ancestry. To others, it has nothing to do with genes and everything to do with love, compassion, and support.

The functions of the family

1. **Social functions:**

Family performs a number of social functions. It teaches about social customs, mores, traditions, norms, etiquette to the coming generations. Family exercises social control over its members and bring them into conformity with accepted standards. Senior members of family directly control the behavior of children and thereby they became a good citizen.

**2. Cultural functions:**

Family also performs several cultural functions as well. It preserves different cultural traits. Man learns and acquires culture from family and transmits it to succeeding generations. That is why family is considered as center of culture.

#### 3. **Recreational function:**

Family-performs several recreational functions for its members by entertaining them in various ways. In ancient period family was the only center of recreation. All the members together organize family feasts, visit the family relations, organize family picnics.

#### 4. **Religious functions:**

Family is the center of all religious activities. All the family members offer their prayers together and observe different religious rites, rituals and practices jointly. All the members believe in a particular religion and observe religious ceremonies at home. Children learn different religious values from their parents. Living in a spiritual atmosphere spirituality develops among the children. Family transmits religious beliefs and practices from one generation to another. But at present family became more secular in their outlook. Common family worship became very rare and absolute. Still family continues to play an important role in shaping religious attitude of its members.

#### 5. **Educational functions:**

Family performs many educational functions for its members. As a primary educational institution family used to teach letters, knowledge, skill and trade secret to all its members. It looks after the primary education of its members and molds their career and character. Mother act as the first and best teacher of a child. Besides he learns all sorts of informal education such as discipline, obedience, manners etc. from family. Of course at present many of the educational functions of family are taken over by school, college and universities sill family continues to play an important role in providing the first lessons and primary education to its members.

**6. Provision of Home:**

Family perform another important function of providing a home for common living to all it’s members. It is only in a home that children are born and brought up. Even if children are born in hospitals in modern time still they are taken care of and properly nourished in a home only. Because family and a home have no substitute. In a home all the members of family live together and a child is brought up under the strict vigilance of all it’s members.

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 in fertility rates that is the number of children women give birth to, and age at marriage to name a few.

**NUCLEAR FAMILY**

A **nuclear family**, also called a conjugal, elementary, or traditional **family**, typically consists of two married or committed parents and their biological or adopted children all living in the same residence and sharing the values, duties, and responsibilities of the **family** unit.

The family tree

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