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**QUESTION:**

1. **What is A Family**
2. **Discuss the functions of a family**
3. **Discuss the African Traditional Family**
4. **Discuss your Nuclear family**
5. **Draw your family tree**

* **What is a Family?**

The dictionary defines family in several ways. One definition is "a fundamental social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children." While this definition is a good starting point, there are several modern family structures that are excluded by this definition, such as childless couples or other variations on the family unit.

But to the general meaning a family is a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit.

* **DISCUSS THE FUNCTIONS OF A FAMILY**

The functions of a family include:

1. Responsible for the addition of new members through reproduction.
2. Provide physical care for their members, including adults, children and dependent elderly.
3. Socialize children by teaching skills, knowledge, values, and attitudes of the society.
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.
5. Maintain morale and motivate individuals to participate in society. Commitment to family may be based on a spiritual sense of duty, or economic necessity.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.
6. Economic function of producing and consuming goods and services. At one time, each family produced all the goods and services it consumed, and used only what it could produce. Now individuals sell their time and skills by producing goods and services within a specialized economy.

* **Discuss the African Traditional Family**
* The subject of “traditional family patterns in Africa” is so 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. Scholars of the African traditional family agree that the one widely known aspect that distinguishes the African traditional family, say from the European on the perversity of polygamy. Although polygamy is the act of an individual being married to more than one spouse at the same time, the more commonly practiced in Africa is polygyny. Patrilineality, matrilineality and the practice of polygyny are of three major distinguishing variations of the African tradition extended family. What is significant about these various descriptions of the traditional African family is that they are from back in the period before the 1940s and in case of the Baganda from the late 1800s. Social change in Africa as everywhere else in ubiquitous. Such influences as end of intra and inter-tribal warfare with the coming of the European colonialism, the western money economy, industrialization, migration and urbanization have certainly transformed the traditional African family from what it was 50 to 100 years ago. For example, in the polygynous family, like among the Baganda, and many others, your father’s wives and brothers were not just mothers and father just as more kinship terms. The characterization of the African traditional family as somewhat depraved lead to the use of such terms as bride price, avoidance social taboos, segregated relationships, lack of love and tenderness in African marriages and families. Family patterns that were the norm in traditional rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. The transformation of societies in the sub-continent from rural to urban settings has immensely contributed in triggering changes in family structure.
* **Discuss your Nuclear Family**

My nuclear family is the smallest unit in the society and it is also called elementary family. It refers to a couple along with any dependent, unmarried children who share a residence and form social unit. My nuclear family is made up of my father (the head/breadwinner of the house), my mother (the care taker) and the children including me. We all live together in a single dwelling. Everyone has their different responsibilities in my family. My father provides for us, he pays our school fees and provide the basic necessities needed in the house. My mother teaches us, guides us, protect and correct us, makes sure that there is enough food for us and care for us. While we the children run different errands and do the house chores.

* Draw your family tree

