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COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

COURSE CODE: SOC 102

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. WHAT IS FAMILY

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 term family is used to refer to that portion of human experience which results from the behavior of men and women in connection with reproduction and care of off-spring. Both these activities, related to reproduction and care of the offspring, have the biological purpose of the survival of the species

1. DISCUSS THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

A.)Socialization:

It is another important essential function of family. It is said man is not born human but made human. New born human baby became human being after they are socialized. Family plays an important role in the socialization processIt is one of the primary agents of socialization. Living in a family human baby learns norms, values, morals and ideals of society. He learns culture and acquires character through the process of socialization. His personality develops in the course of his living in family. From family he learns what is right and wrong and what is good or bad. Through socialization he became a social man and acquires good character.

(B) Stable satisfaction of Sexual needs:

This is the most important essential function of family. Family has been performing this functions since the inceptions of human civilization. It is a well-known fact that sex urge is the most important and powerful instinct and natural urge of human being. It is the primary duty of family to satisfy the sexual urge of its members in a stable and desirable way.

(C) Procreation and Rearing of Children:It is another important sectional function of family .Necessary arrangement of stable satisfaction of sexual urge resulted in procreation. Family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. It institutionalizes the process of procreation. By performing this function of procreation family contributes to the continuity of family and ultimately human race. Hence perpetuation of human race or society is the most important function of family. Not only is the production of children but also child rearing another important function of family. Family is the only place where the function of child rearing is better performed.

(D) Provision of Home:Family perform another important function of providing a home for common living to all its 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 its members.

(E)  Responsible for the addition of new members through reproduction. Society must maintain a stable population in order to survive. Population growth provides a competitive advantage that usually enables a society to become wealthier.

(F) Provide physical care for their members, including adults, children and dependent elderly. When families are unable to care for their members, hardship results unless the society is organized to replace the family in this function. (E.g.: Retirement homes)

(G) Socialize children by teaching skills, knowledge, values, and attitudes of the society. Children who learn these can work and relate to others within appropriate adult roles.

(H) Controlling the behavior of members to maintain order within the family and the society in which they live. Families monitor and evaluate the behavior of individuals and provide feedback. This control contributes to the socialization process and protects the reputation of individuals identified with family group within society.

3. DISCUSS THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILY

 Traditionally, African family practices polygamy because of the idea that the larger the family or clan, the more workers there are to work on the family farms. Hence, more wealth can be possessed by the family.

However, nowadays the practice depended on the religion of the person. Muslims in Africa will take up to 3 to 4 wives, the number permitted in the religion while the Christians only practice monogamy.

The tribe is bigger in terms of size compared to clan but the latter has greater influence on the family. Four factors that link their kinship were profession-derived names, tribal marks, distinguishing personal names and determining the child’s legitimacy as a clan member.

The clan’s name is also included in a person’s name like his which is Miyim which denotes that he comes from the clan’s profession as hunters.

He also has a tribal marking on his right cheek usually given to children at about the age of seven. Tribal marks were widely used during tribal wars to distinguish members of different clans.

Only legitimate children will bear the clan’s name. The naming ceremony is very important as a child will not be considered as a part of the clan till his or her legitimacy is established.

The test of a child’s legitimacy in traditional Hausa customs is by dropping the child’s umbilical cord into a can filled with water and milk. The clan chief will only accept the child as a part of the clan if the cord floats. If it sinks, the child will be considered as illegitimate and disowned.

A Nigerian ethnic group called the *Ijaw* will throw babies in the river to test their legitimacy. The infant will only be considered as legitimate if it floats. However, Abu Bakar asserted that an infant thrown into a river will always float. “It’s the oldest science,” he said.

The children are then taken care of by their fathers’ brother, not by the biological parents. Nonetheless the real parents do not forget their children for they will continue to visit their children. This practice was done in order to prepare the girls to become wives and mothers and the boys to become husbands and fathers.

The Hausa people are patrilineal. Hence, their household family consists of relatives of the father. However, some tribes in Ghana and Northern Zambia practice matrilineal marriage as the extended family comprises of a man and his wife, their married daughters, son-in-laws, and their children.

The dowry is not practiced in traditional African society. The practice was introduced by European missionaries and colonialists. Abu Bakar said that African bridegrooms work for the bride’s father as a form of ‘dowry’ to wed his daughter instead of giving money or property.

1. DISCUSS YOUR NUCLEAR FAMILY

**Nuclear family**, also called **elementary family**, in [sociology](https://www.britannica.com/topic/sociology) and [anthropology](https://www.britannica.com/science/anthropology), a group of people who are united by ties of partnership and parenthood and consisting of a pair of adults and their socially recognized children. Typically, but not always, the adults in a nuclear family are married. Although such couples are most often a man and a woman, the definition of the nuclear family has expanded with the advent of [same-sex marriage](https://www.britannica.com/topic/same-sex-marriage). Children in a nuclear family may be the couple’s biological or [adopted](https://www.britannica.com/topic/adoption-kinship) offspring. Thus defined, the nuclear family was once widely held to be the most basic and universal form of social organization. Anthropological research, however, has [illuminated](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/illuminated) so much variability of this form that it is safer to assume that what is universal is a “nuclear family complex” in which the roles of husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, and sister are embodied by people whose biological relationships do not necessarily conform to the Western definitions of these terms. In matrilineal societies, for example, a child may be the responsibility not of his biological genitor but of his mother’s brother, who fulfills the roles typical of Western fatherhood.

Closely related in form to the predominant nuclear-family unit are the [conjugal family](https://www.britannica.com/topic/conjugal-family) and the [consanguineal](https://www.britannica.com/topic/consanguinity) family. As its name implies, the conjugal family is knit together primarily by the marriage tie and consists of mother, father, their children, and some close relatives. The consanguineal family, on the other hand, typically groups itself around a unilineal [descent](https://www.britannica.com/topic/descent) group known as a [lineage](https://www.britannica.com/topic/lineage-sociology), a form that reckons [kinship](https://www.britannica.com/topic/kinship) through either the father’s or the mother’s line but not both. Whether a [culture](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/culture) is patrilineal or matrilineal, a consanguineal family [comprises](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/comprises) lineage relatives and consists of parents, their children, and their children’s children.

In my family, we comprise of my dad- the head of the house-, my mom and my two sisters.

1. DRAW YOUR FAMILY TREE

**MY MOTHERS SIDE OF THE FAMILY**



**MY FATHERS SIDE OF THE FAMILY**

