**SOCIOLOGY ASSIGNMENT.**

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**BY**

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**What is family?**

The definition of family varies as it is a very broad term. A family naturally is defined as a group of people living together related by blood, marriage or adoption. It is a biological makeup of father, mother and their children. A family begins right from the matrimonial union between a man and a woman making them husband and wife. Family has also extended itself to include grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins etc. These groups of people usually share the same ancestors.

There are basically two types of family; the nuclear family which just consists of the father mother and children and the extended family, as the name implies, this type of family extends to the grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins, second cousins etc. Family is very important as it is the most important agent of socialization. It is the backbone of every individual in the society whether born or adopted. Family is the fundamental social institution that designs the primary identities of individuals. It also serves as the skeletal blueprint of a person. The family directs one’s engagement with other social institutions like the church, school, etc.

**The functions of the family;**

There are various functions of the family to be explained in the subsequent paragraphs below;

Socialization of children;

The first and most important agent of socialization is the family, this is the first place an individual is born into. The family teaches this newly born individual various norms, morals and values until he or she naturalizes into the society. Socialization is very important in an individual as it can make or mar him or her. Socialization teaches the individual how to or how not to take part in certain activities. In other words, socialization teaches an individual how to behave in the society.

Emotional and practical support;

Emotion is defined as one’s state of feeling. The family does not just serve as a statute or just an establishment for fun. As earlier explained, it is the backbone of every individual. It is called home, a place where one can go to and be vulnerable at any time and is not judged. The family is practically the only institution one can go to when you need emotional and practical support asides one’s peer group. They advise you on certain decisions and are there to pick you up from dust. They provide for our needs and buy us what we want sometime.

Maintenance and physical care;

The family also takes care of their children, they ensure that no harm comes to them, they nurture and love these children from birth and provide basic needs for them. If their income provides for it, they put their children in schools and watch them grow into strong individual. They also discipline them when they do something wrong and make sure that such never repeats itself.

**The African Traditional Family**

The subject of traditional family patterns in Africa is so broad that it cannot be adequately addressed. 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 a sweeping generalization. As the African society has not been static, changes in the traditional family patterns will be briefly alluded to.

The African traditional family is mostly polygamous where one man can marry more than one wife. Some of the major issues raised will include polygamy, tribe, clan, the extended family, bride price and the raising of children. As the African society has not been static changes in the traditional family patterns will be briefly allude to.

**My Nuclear Family**

A nuclear family is made up of the father, the mother and their child or children. My nuclear family is quite wide. It is made up of my father, my mother and seven children. These seven children comprise of four boys and three girls. I am the seventh child. My father believes in a monogamous home so he married one wife and my mother bore all seven of us. My parents have been married for over twenty-five years and counting.

**My Family Tree.**



FATHER

MOTHER

3RD DAUGHTER

4TH SON

2ND SON

3RD SON

2ND DAUGHTER

1ST DAUGHTERRR

1ST SON