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**COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II**

**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/255**

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is family?
2. Discuss the functions of the family.
3. Discuss the African traditional family.
4. Discuss your Nuclear family.
5. Draw the family tree.

**ANSWERS**

1. **What is Family**

A family is a group of people related either by consanguinity (recognized by birth) or affinity (by marriage or other relationship). The purpose of a family is to maintain the well-being of its members.

Smith and Preston (1982) defined family as a social groupmwhose members are related either through common ancestry or marriage and are bound by moral and economic rights and duties.

Mair (1972), defined the family as a domestic group in which parents and children live together, and its elementary form consists of a couple and their children.

1. **Discuss the Function of the family**
2. **Affection and Companionship:** A 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.
3. **Procreation:** The family through the regulations of sexual relationship function fulfills the biological need of reproduction and perpetration of both the immediate family and society as a whole.
4. **Natural:** Every child is born into a family and every child is expected to be fed, clothed, educated and cared for. This responsibilities lies in the hands of the family; Hence the family ensures providing for the welfare needs of the children thereby ensuring the survival of the next generation of society.
5. **Social Placement:** An individual acquires his identity and place in society through his family. The family ascribes many statuses to its members such as; Race, Ethnic Affiliation, Nationality, Religion, Royalty, etc
6. **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 continents makes the family pattern situation so variegated as to defy any sweeping generalization. Scholars of the African Traditional Family agree that the one widely known aspect that distinguishes the African Traditional Family, save 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 practice in Africa is polygyny. Patrilineatily, matrilineality and the practice of polygyny are of three major distinguishing variations of the African Traditional extended family.

What is significant about this various description of the Traditional African Family is that they are from back in the period before the 1940’s and in the case of the baganda form the late 1800’s. Social change in Africa as everywhere else is ubiquitous. Such influences as end of intra and inter tribal warfare with the coming of European Colonialism, the Western Money economy; Industrialization, Migration and Urbanization as certainly transformed the traditional African from what it was 50 to 100 years ago. For Example, in the polygynous family, like among the baganda, ans many others, your father’s wives and brothers were not just mothers and fathers just as more kinship terms. The characterization of the African Traditional Family as somewhat depraved lead to the use of such terms as brideprice, avoidance social taboos, segregated relationship, lack of love and tenderness in African marriages and families. Family patterns that were the norm in Tradition Rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. The transformation of societies in the sub-continent form rural to urban settings has immersely contributed in triggering changes in family structure.

1. **Discuss your Nuclear Family**

My nuclear family is the smallest unit in the society and it is also called an elementary family. It refers a couple along with any dependent, unmarried children who share a resident and form social unit. My nuclear family is made up of my Father, Mother and four siblings including myself. We all live together; everyone has their different responsibilities in the family. My father provides all the basic necessities in the house and pays our school fees as well. My mother teaches us, corrects us, cooks for us and takes care of us while the children run different errands.

1. **Draw your family tree**

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