NAME: EHIZOGIE JESSICA IKHIANOSEN.

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW 01/079.

DEPARTMENT: LAW.

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# FAMILY

The family is an intimate domestic group made up of people related to one another by bonds of blood, sexual mating or legal ties. It is the smallest and most basic social unit, which is also the most important primary group found in any society.

It is the simplest and most elementary group found in a society. It is a social group consisting of a father, mother or one or more children. It is the most immediate group a child is exposed to. In fact, it is the most enduring group, which has tremendous influence on the life of an individual, from birth until death. It also accounts for the most enduring social relationship found in society.

# FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

As a social group and as an important social institution, family performs various functions that are as follows;

* Family is a unit through which procreation takes place. Marriage regulates sexual relationships, and it also establishes a family, which is further reinforced with the birth of children.
* Family provides an individual with an identity.
* Family is responsible for the production and upbringing of children.
* Family helps in propagation of human species and perpetuation of human race.
* The process of reproduction is institutionalized, regulated and controlled in a family. The family legitimizes the act of reproduction.
* It is through family that every family name is carried on from one generation to another.
* Family is an important agent of socialization. The primary socialization takes place within the family. The immediate family members teach all the basic rules and norms of social life to a child.
* Family is an important agent of cultural transmission. Culture is transmitted from one generation to another through family. All the aspects of culture are learnt within the family structure.
* Family is a great source of strength, emotional and psychological, for its members. All the members are aware that they can depend upon their family in the times of need.
* Family provides an individual with a home and establishes social relationships.
* Family is traditionally responsible for the upbringing of the children, their education and caring for their needs and welfare.

# AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILY

Family plays a central role in African society. It shapes such daily experiences as how and where individuals live, how they interact with the people around them, and even, in some cases, whom they marry. It can determine a person’s political identity the way money and property are transferred. In rural areas, the family typically remains the basic unit of agricultural production.

However, no single type of family exists in Africa. Each of the many family systems in Africa can be defined in terms of two broad kinds of relationships. Relationships of descent are genealogical- that is, based on the connections between generations. Relationships of affinity are marital- based on marriage. The interweaving of these relationships creates the family that an individual sees every day, as well as the wider network of kinship that surrounds each person.

In the African traditional society, it is mainly dominated by the **extended family**;- which is a family unit that extends past the nuclear family to include other relatives such as cousins, nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Another family type which dominated the African traditional society is the **compound family**:- which is a form of family organization seen as an overlapping set of nuclear families, each with the same man as family head. It consists of a man (head of households); his wives and concubines who live in different homestead with their children. In this case, the wives become head of their own respective household while the man rules and runs all households.

# NUCLEAR FAMILY

My nuclear family is made up of my parents (father and mother) alongside we the dependent, unmarried children living together in a single dwelling. We all perform different roles in other to keep the family together and such roles includes; My father is the head and breadwinner of the family, he sets good examples for us to follow and imitate, he is a provider, disciplinarian, protector, etc. My mother on the other hand, is the “light of the family”. She takes care of the husband, children, home and household chores. Together they help hand in hand to keep the family, raise the children, teach them values and the culture of which they belong and provide the basic needs like food, shelter and clothing. They also give love to all its members and promote their welfare. My father and mother are the role model of we, the children. As for the children, we are to obey the rules of the home, obey our parents, do what is required of us, perform excellently well at school, etc.

**NUCLEAR FAMILY TREE**

FATHER AND MOTHER

## FIRST CHILD SECOND CHILD THIRD CHILD

**EXTENDED FAMILY TREE**

GRAND FATHER

GRAND MOTHER

FATHER

MOTHER

UNCLE

AUNT

SISTER ME BROTHER

COUSIN COUSIN COUSIN

COUSIN

(TWINS)