ANYADIKE CHIZOBA FAVOUR

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LAW

100 LEVEL

SOC 102 ASSIGNMENT

1. The word “family” came into English in the fifteenth century. It is derived from the Latin word “famulus” which means servant. According to sociologists, 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. In simpler terms, a family is a social group made up of people related by blood or adoption.
2. The functions of the family include:
   1. Procreation: this is the main function of the family. The family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. It establishes the process of procreation which is the cause of the continuous existence of the human race.
   2. Rearing of children: another function of family is rearing of children. It is the responsibility of the family to rear children. It provides all the basic needs of its members examples include; food, shelter, protection, love and affection. It also provides a healthy atmosphere in which the personality of the child develops properly.
   3. Socialization: “we are not born human but made human”. The family plays an important role in the socialization process as it is the primary agent of socialization. Take for example, a new born baby, he/she knows nothing about the society we live in and it is the job of the family to introduce it to the society. The family teaches the norms, values, morals and ideas accepted in the society. It also teaches the child about the culture and it acquires its character through the process of socialization which is why there is popular adage which says “charity begins at home”. The family exercise social control over its members and brings them to conform.
   4. Economic and emotional support is a function of family. The family is the basic economy unit, meaning they a big part of making the society thrive economically. The division of labor of most societies is usually based on age. Also, the family serves as emotional support for the youth. Families are there to protect children, be there for them, and keep them safe from harm.  They are also the biggest emotional support. They are there to provide a helpful, loving environment for a child to grow up in.
3. As a result of modernization, the African traditional family are progressively being altered. However, the African family still maintains its strong bond through traditional practices such as the upbringing of children and maintaining strong family values. In Africa, there is considerable importance attached to the respect for elders and ancestors. African communities are characterized by the prevalence of collectivism as opposed to individuality. Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye (2001:5) stated the major features of the African household; they were mostly rural, patriarchal and hierarchical, polygamous and open to kinship networks and attached significance to lineage continuation.

In traditional African societies, marriage was dominated by arranged marriages where the parents actively took part by selecting partners for their children especially their daughters. This was done without their consent. Marriage was highly significant in traditional societies, this was marked by the practice of early marriage and childbearing which in most cases continues till they are unable to produce more.

African traditional families practiced polygamy in ancient times. This was characterized by the early marriage trend. “Polygamy constitutes a prime feature of rural Africa. Africa has the highest rate of polygamy prevalence in the world”. (Therborn 2006:13). The practice of polygamy was centered on the notion precluding the situation of husband shortage. The introduction of Christianity led to a shift to monogamy as the religion was against polygamy. However, polygamous marriages still occur but on a smaller scale.

In traditional societies the family consists of large number of children for economic, religious and political reasons. The high rate of mortality during these times was a major factor influencing this decision. When a child dies, it will be replaced, this was their mentality. Some died and some survived to save the family name and keep it from extinction. Another reason they had large families was because of the idea that the larger the family, the more workers to work on the family. Hence, more wealth can be possessed by the family.

African family patterns are increasingly faced with the challenge and pressure between traditional and modern family values and structure.

1. According to Oxford English Dictionary, the term “nuclear family” dates back to 1925 and is derived from the Latin word, “nucleus” which means core. A nuclear family is a family where father, mother and their children live in one household. They flock together like objects around a nucleus which is why it is termed nuclear family.

In simpler terms, a nuclear family is a family group made up of parents and their children. It is regarded as a basic social unit. It may also be called the immediate family.My nuclear family is made up of my father, mother and siblings ( 1 sister and two brothers).

My father is the head of the family. His name is Anyadike Henry. He is and engineer and is the breadwinner of the family. He makes the basic decisions for the family. He provides the basic needs of the family and ensure that we are comfortable. He serves as a protector and does his best to protect us from the vices of the world. He stands up for us and defends us. He is a dedicated Christian and a man of principle.

My mother is the heart of the home. Her name is Anyadike Grace. She is a business woman. She assists my father in running the household. Together they make and enforce the rules which we (my siblings and I) are expected to obey. She loves and cares for us as a mother should.

My sister’s name is Anyadike Chidinma. She is the first child of the family and is basically the second mother. She takes care of my siblings and I when my parents are not around. She is a student and is in her third year. She is studying microbiology at Elizade University.

My brother’s name is Anyadike Okechukwu. He is the second child and the first son of the family. He takes care of my younger brother and I when my sister and parents are not around. He is a student and is in his third year. He is studying Mechanical engineering at Elizade University.

My name is Anyadike Chizoba. I am the third child and also the second and last daughter of the family. I assist my mother in taking care of the home. I am a student and I’m in my first year. I am studying law at Afe-Babalola Univerity.

Lastly, my brother’s name is Anyadike Ikechukwu. He is the last born and doesn’t do anything. He is still in secondary school and is preparing for his Junior Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination. He plans to be a Civil engineer.

Fig 1.1 My family tree