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1. The family is the most basic institution in any society. It is said to be the very first phase of socialization. Is is from this context also that members derive their primary identity. There are varying definitions of family owning to the fact that it has various manifestations, organizations, and structures in various societies. According to Hence, Mair(1972), family is a domestic group in which parents and children live together, and in its elementary form consists of a couple and their children. Duberman and Harjten (1979) defined a family as a universal institution whose most important function are to socialize and nurture the younger generations. Similarly, Smith and Preston(1982) defined family as a social group whose members are related either through common ancestry or marriage and are bound by moral and economic rights and duties.
2. The family functions in a number of ways. The various functions of the family includes;
3. Procreation: the family through the regulation of sexual relationship function fulfils the biological need for reproduction and perpetuation of both the immediate family and the society as a whole
4. Social placement: an individual acquires his identity and place in the society through the family. It is from the family that statuses such as race, religion, tribe, nationality, royalty, etc are ascribed to members of the family.
5. Nurture: every child is expected to be fed, clothed, protected, educated, and cared for. It is the sole responsibility of the family to provide the needs of the members of that family. The amily therefore, ensures that provisions for the welfare needs of the children are met.
6. Affections and companionship: children are expected to be groomed with warm affection to develop their self-image, and adults in the family also need intimate companionship to cope with life. This however, breeds a sense of belonging.
7. As a result of modernization, the African traditional family pattern has been altered. Family patterns that were the norms are gradually being altered and modernized. The sub Saharan Africa is the largest in terms of population and has the fastest rate of urbanization presently in the world. The transformation of societies in the sub-continent from rural to urban settings has immensely contributed to in triggering changes in family structure. Thus, triggering the distortion of cultural/ traditional norms and values that characterized rural communities in the region. African families are increasingly faced with the difficulty and pressure emanating from the competition prevailing between traditional and modern family values. Hence, contemporary families are increasingly subjected to transform and adapt to changing times. Despite the changes taking place in sub Saharan African societies due to modernizations and process, the family still remains a prominent nexus in the social life of Africans. In Africa, respect for the elderly and ancestors is considered very important. African communities are characterized by the prevelance of collectivism as opposed to individuality. The major characteristics of African traditional family households were identified to be mostly rural, patriarchal, polygamous, and open to kinship networks and finally, they attached substantial importance to lineage continuation. The social organization in most African families is embedded in a patriarchal and hierarchical system that precludes the possibility of women, who generally have lower status than men in the society. In rural traditional societies, women were voiceless and powerless. With the advent of urbanization, Africa has experienced a slight distortion in the patriarchal tradition. The male supremacy has also been altered a bit though it stills remains prominent strong hold in the society.
8. A nuclear family is one which basically, consists of parents and their children. it is also the smallest unit in the society and could be called elementary family. My family basically consists of my parents, my brothers and myself. We all live in the same residence and share a common last name.
9. My family tree.

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