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Level:100

Matric no: 19/law01/075

Question: What is family

2 Discuss the functions of the Family

3 Discuss the African Traditional family

4 Discuss your Nuclear family

5 Draw your family tree

1. What is family: A family according to Webster dictionary is a basic social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group, whether dwelling together or not, while 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.

They are different kinds of family such as the nuclear and extended family, polygamous and monogamous family and so forth. The nuclear family consists a couple and their children living together as a social unit while an extended family consists of a couple, their children and dependent relatives living together. A monogamous family consists an individual to a spouse or partner and their children while a polygamous family has an individual to two or more partners and spouse with their children.

1. Discuss the function of a family: social institutions perform several important functions to help preserve social stability and otherwise keep a society working. A functional understanding of the family thus stresses the ways in which the family as a social institution helps make society possible. As such, the family performs several important functions.

* the family is the primary unit for socializing children. No society is possible without adequate socialization of its young. In most societies, the family is the major unit in which socialization happens. Parents, siblings, and, if the family is extended rather than nuclear, other relatives all help socialize children from the time they are born.
* , the family is ideally a major source of practical and emotional support for its members. It provides them food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials, and it also provides them love, comfort, and help in times of emotional distress, and other types of support.
* The family helps regulate sexual activity and sexual reproduction. All societies have norms governing with whom and how often a person should have sex. The family is the major unit for teaching these norms and the major unit through which sexual reproduction occurs. One reason for this is to ensure that infants have adequate emotional and practical care when they are born.
* The family provides its members with a social identity. Children are born into their parents’ social class, race and ethnicity, religion, and so forth. Some children have advantages throughout life because of the social identity they acquire from their parents, while others face many obstacles because the social class or race/ethnicity into which they are born is at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

1. Discuss the African traditional family: in Africa, way before colonialism came in and we got influenced by the western culture most marriages were polygamous specifically polygyny where a man is entitled to as many women as he wants and can take care of. The men were socially the main benefactors of the marriage, every credit of success of the family is given to the man of the house while women were saddled with the responsibility of child bearing, up bringing and training of the children and the general care of the home. The men of the house were the bread winners and were expected to provide basic amenities for the family such as food, shelter and clothing. The children are expected to provide support and assist their parents in whatever they do and also obey their parents. Many ceremonies are held to mark occasions such as marriages, child delivery, naming of the child, initiation into adulthood etc.
2. Discuss your nuclear family: a nuclear family consists of an individual to a spouse and their children. My family is not exactly a nuclear family because from time to time dependent relatives have come and gone. My mother is the first born of her siblings and being brought up in an African society she is automatically saddled with the responsibility of her younger siblings leading to the dependent relatives that live with us. I come from a monogamous family with six siblings.
3. Draw your Family tree:

My family tree.

**SISTER**

**SISTER**

**SISTER**

**SISTER**

**ME**

**BORTHER**

**MY MOTHER**

**MY FATHER**

**MY FAMILY TREE**