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**COURSE CODE: SOC 102**

**COURSE TITTLE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II**

**DATE: 19th April, 2020**

**QUESTION:**

1 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

ANSWERS:

1. The family is the most basic institution in any society and it is the social context through members of the society derive their identity. Sociologists have come up with different definitions of the family and this is owing to the fact that the family has different manifestation, organization and structures in various societies. It has various forms or types also. According to Mair, the 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 Hartjen defined the family as a universal institution whose most important functions are to socialize and nurture the younger generation. Another definition by Smith and Preston sees the 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. Families are categorized based on the number and generations of people involved in the family groups and the leadership or power/authority holders in the group. The family can be categorized into based on
2. Nuclear family: This refers to a couple along with any dependent or unmarried children who share a single residence and form a social unit. It is the smallest unit of the family and is also called elementary family.
3. Extended family: a constituent of several related persons by descent, marriage, or adoption such as a husband and a wife and their children, at least one of their sets of parents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews all living together in a single dwelling or in close proximity.
4. Compound family: this family type can be seen as an overlapping set of nuclear families, each with the same man as family head. It consists of a man (head of household), his wives and concubines who live in a different homestead with their children. This kind of family is most popular amongst traditional Nigerian societies.

The family also performs a lot of functions in the society and it is incontrovertible that societies cannot exist without families.

1. The family has a number of functions to perform, these include
2. To nurture: a function of the family is procreation, when children are born into families, it is the responsibility of the family to feed, clothe, educate and generally care for these children. The family is responsible for providing for the welfare needs of the children thereby ensuring the survival of the next generation of society.
3. To procreate: procreation is the root function of the family, through the regulation of sexual relationship function, the family fulfills the biological need of reproduction and the coming about of both the immediate family and the society at large.
4. Social placement of citizens: the family is said to be the social context through members of the society derive their identity and place. Elements of culture and certain statutes such as language, norms, values, nationality, religion, etc. are passed across to members of the society from their families.
5. Regulation of sexual relationships: one of the paramount needs of matured humans is sexual relationship, such relationship is often protected with rules and regulations in all societies and it is the family that helps and enforces such rules. This is done to prevent sexual relationship types which are not allowed in the society for example, incest. The family also screens and approves sexual partners for members.
6. Affection and companionship: the 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. This breeds a sense of belonging.
7. Sociologists and anthropologists have identified various forms and kinds of families with regards to the cultural peculiarities as obtainable in various societies over time. Each person in African traditional life lives in or part of a family, the family community was the fundamental element of the African, the basis sphere of action, through which they became integrated with the larger, human community. For African people, the family has a much wider circle of members than the word suggests in the western world. In African traditional society, the family includes children, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters who may have their own children, and other immediate relatives. The relationship within extended family would be based on kinship (biological blood relationship) and affinity (relationship between blood relationships of one marriage partner and those of the other marriage partner) such a family would include adopted or fostered children. In the traditional society polygamous marriages were a preferred form of marriage. Such marriages contributed to the extension of relationships of the family by incorporating more people. The members of the extended family could live together in a traditional compound consisting of several houses, live close to one another or be separated by some distance. In case of geographic separation, they would gather together to make important decisions concerning the family. The social organization of most African families is embedded in a hierarchical and patriarchal system that precludes the possibility of women, who generally have lower status than men in the society to make deliberate choice over the number of children they want to have. In most traditional societies, women are voiceless a powerless. In traditional African societies, the contraction of marriage was dominated by arranged marriages whereby parents usually indulged in the selection of marriage partners for their children; this was most commonly for their daughters. This was done without the consent of their children; the society is also characterized by the trend of early marriage. Most of the women got married quite young particularly to older men. Polygamy and large family size where generally markers of the traditional African society.
8. 4. My nuclear family is a Christian family made up of my parents, Dr Greenwell Fi-iwarigoma Ernest and Barr (Mrs.) Mary Ejinma Ernest, my siblings, Okara and Inatime Ernest and me, Ibifiri Nadia Ernest; I am the first of three children. My dad is a retired medical doctor, my mum is a lawyer, I am currently a first year law student at Afe Babalola University, my brother is a JSS 2 student at Cherryfield College, Abuja and my sister is a primary one pupil at Premier International School, Abuja. We live together in Wuse, Abuja but occasionally visit Rivers state, our state of origin.

5. MY FAMILY TREE

Late Chief and Mrs I.E. Onwubueke (MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS)

Mr and Mrs Nathan Ernest (PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS)

Ibifiri Nadia Ernest (ME)

Okara Ernest (BROTHER)

Inatime Ernest (SISTER)

Mr Monday Ernest (UNCLE)

Dr Greenwell .F. Ernest **(FATHER**)

Mr Tony Abraham (UNCLE)

Barr Mary .E. Ernest **(MOTHER**)

Mr F.I Onwubueke (UNCLE)