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**F A M I L Y**

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines family as *‘A group of people who are related to each other, especially a mother, a father and their children.* This is the layman’s definition of a family.

A family is a social unit of two or more persons, related by blood, marriage or adoption and having a shared commitment to the mutual relationship.

The family is the most universal and fundamental social institution which performs a variety of functions in human society. Different sociologists have viewed or classified the functions of family into different types, but famous sociologist Maclver classified the function of family into two; Primary and Secondary function. Under primary functions are;

A.)Stable satisfaction of sex needs

It is a well known fact that sex urge is the most important and powerful instinct and natural urge of the human being Family has been performing this functions since the inceptions of human civilization. Through the mechanism of marriage, family regulate the sexual behavior of its members, ( usually the parents) because satisfaction of sex instinct brings the desire for life long partnership of husband and wife.

B.) Production and rearing of children

Family provides the legitimate basis for production of children. It institutionalizes the process of procreation. By performing this function of procreation, family contributes to the continuity of family and human race. Not only the production of children but also the rearing of children is another important function; Family takes care of the child(ren) at the time of need.

C.) provision of a home

Family performs another important function which is providing a home of common living to all its members. It is in a home that children are born and brought up, and are properly taken care of and nourished. All the members need a home to live happily with comfort, peace and protection.

D.) Socialization

The family is one of the primary agents of socialization. A child learns norms, values, morals and ideals of society from his family. His personality and character develops from his living in his family.

Other functions include; Economic, Educational, Religious, Health related, Recreational, Cultural and Social functions.

The African traditional family is one that has been and still is in existence for a long period of time. It is a family whose values norms characteristics and functions nowadays most individuals do not practice due to modernization of most African homes. In Nigeria, in a traditional Yoruba home, it is a custom for males to prostrate and females to kneel when greeting elders; this is a custom that has been practiced and passed down from generation to generation and is still a very active custom common among the Yoruba people. There are still many African traditional homes that still practice age long traditions and customs and values and beliefs even after the colonization by the whites. Old African legends, folktales and even rhymes are still being told to children, who would in turn pass it to their own children and so on. It is safe to say that although most African homes would not likely tag themselves as traditional, they still practice their various traditions and culture.

There are six people in my nuclear family, my parents and four children, three girls and a boy, I included. My father is a Bini man and my mother is an Itsekiri woman, so both my parents are from the southern part of Nigeria. We reside in Edo state, Benin city. My father works in a rubber factory and is into car sales while my mother is a house wife, so she dedicates her time and effort into taking care of the family. We do almost everything together because we are a loving Christian family, although there are issues and setbacks sometimes, we always get through it and perform our duties and functions as a family.

Late Chief Odia Napoleon- Mrs Benedicta Odia Mr Oretemi Onuwaje- Mrs Onuwaje Christy

Odia Osemwengie Terry ----------------- Onuwaje Itsetemi

Odia .O. Vanessa Odia .A. April Odia .O. Valerie Odia .A. Craig