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COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II

MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/239

Answers

1)Family is defined as a specific group of people that may be made up of partners, children, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. The definition of family is the group of people who share common ancestors.

2 a) The family is inevitably concerned with every aspect of society’s operation. For example, the family is always in some way a unit through which the economic systems, the political systems, and the religious system operate. b) The family is crucial in keeping society’s in “working condition”. The family is a small unit to achieve an effective mutual responsibility for each individual’s physical and mental welfare. The assurance of a sense of belonging and provisions of a needed relationship helps sustain the individual in his social participation. c) Society delegates to the family the responsibility for protecting infants and children and caring for their physical needs. The family also keeps these incompletely socialized individuals (e.g. armed robbers, cheaters, thieves, etc.) from being a disruptive influence in society. d) The family performs the socialization function in two ways. e) The family’s status in the community is automatically assigned to its individual members, and this determines the individual’s initial orienting status. The status determines how others are expected to act towards the individual unit he changes or consolidates his status by his own actions. The family performs the functions of induction into the society and helps to insure that no individuals are without assigned positions governing their interaction with others. f) The family is an important social control agency, pressing towards conformity. In developing his self-conception the individual cannot accept the revealing judgment of himself that are made in the intimate family situation, even when he is relatively isolated from such criticism outside the family.

3) THE AFRICAN FAMILY TRADITION

Most words of African origin used in English are nouns describing animals, plants or cultural practices that have their origins in Africa.

Tradition is a noun that was the Latin root in the word “trader” which means hand over or hand down. So think of a tradtion as something that is handed down from one generation to another.

In African marriages, systems are highly diverse. In Sub-Sahara Africa, some paining of men and women are temporary, others are permanent. Depending on the culture, such as the **ASANTE** each spouse continues to live in the home in which he or she was born. Children may stay with their parents until they get married or they may spend part of their adolescence in the home of another relative.

African marriages can be polygamous- i.e. a man having more than one wife. In practice, only the senior or wealthy individuals in a society have been able to have multiple wives. When polygamy occurs, the family unit is based on mothers. Each wife has her own house and property that are generally transferred to her own children.

Rather than the husband and wife two forms of basis of family and kinship in such communities. Christian marriages in Africa, as elsewhere are generally monogamous, with a man having only one wife.

In some African societies, nuclear families are contained within larger social groups that may include kinfolk, neighbors, people of the same gender and others. The nuclear family does not always have its own property or decide what tasks its members will perform. Other relationships between husband and wives and between parents and children often within larger domestic units raved households which may consist of joint or extended families.

4) My nuclear family is not exactly like your everyday family. We live in the garden city of Port Harcourt and are very diverse in our works. There’s my Father, my Mother, My Elder Brother, Me, My Youngest Brother and My Two Younger sisters. Altogether we are a family of Seven and almost like an extended family.

My father, Mr. Godwin Nnanta Risi, is a 55 year old man and still has the stamina of when he was 25 (or so he would say). He’s a man with a big heart and always helps people even outside our family. He always advices us through he’s actions that we should all still remain good and just even though we live in a country that’s vice versa. He’s a devoted Christian and always conducts morning devotions for us every morning before leaving for work.

My mother Mrs. Augustina Risi on the other hand is a hardworking 40 year old woman. She’s the best relationship adviser and the best cook in the world. I always assume she’s more hardworking than my dad mainly because she’s a CEO of a company in a world largely dominated by men. She’s a no nonsense woman and always disciples her children no matter our age.

We the children are the most important part of the family, my eldest brother Okey has a B.Sc. in Computer Scince from the University of Port Harcourt. He currently has a small business he runs, the rest of us are still undergraduates with my last sister in High School.

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