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**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II [SOC102]**

1. *WHAT IS FAMILY?*

Family is defined as consisting of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same housing unit. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, family can be defined as the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children. But 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. It has been a very resilient unit that has survived and adapted through time.

1. *DISCUSS THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY*

No society is possible without adequate socialization of its young. In most societies, the family is the major unit of in which socialization happens. The family helps socialize children from the time they are born.

Secondly, it is the main source of support for its members. It provides them with food, shelter, clothing, and other essentials as well as love, comfort, help in times of emotional distress, and other intangible support.

Thirdly, the family provides its members with a social identity. Children are born into their parents’ social class, race & ethnicity, religion, and so forth. Some children have advantages throughout their lives because of the social identity they acquired from their parents, while others face many obstacles because the social class or race & ethnicity they were born into is at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

Another unction of the family is regulation of sexual activities.

1. *DISCUSS THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILY*

In the traditional African society, the family includes children, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters who may have their own children and other immediate relatives. The relationships within the extended family would be based on kinship (biological or putative blood relationships) and affinity (relationship between blood relationships of one marriage partner and those of the other marriage partner). Such a family would also include adopted and foster children.

In the traditional society, polygamous marriages were a preferred form of marriage. Such marriages extended the relationships of the family be incorporating more members. The members of the extended family could live together in a traditional compound consisting of several houses and live close to each other or separated by some distance. The extended family was the primary place where an individual could exercise his freedom.

The wider family or extended family provided its members with an identity and so the members depended on the group for their physical and social survival. And in return they ensured the survival of the family through marriage and procreation. The group or family provided its members with a personal and corporal identity.one was associated with clears roles assigned to him at various stages of his life. The cultural and moral norms of the community applied within the extended family helped the members grow into responsible and respected members of the community. Those norms serve as a blueprint of his life.

The African society has been going through a lot of profound changes affecting all aspects of its traditional life. These changes affect the concept of a wider family. The only place this concept is still practiced in within the rural African society.

1. *DISCUSS YOUR NUCLEAR FAMILY*

My nuclear family consists of my parents, my three [3] siblings and I. my nuclear family consists of a total of six [6] individuals. I’m the first born followed by my brother and then my two sisters. We are indigenes of Ilorin, the capital of Kwara state, but we reside in Lagos.

1. *DRAW YOUR FAMILY TREE*