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Family is defined the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and having a shared commitment to the mutual relationship. The word ‘family’ has come from Latin word ‘Famulus’ which means the servant. The family is a small group of people consisting of father, mother, one or more children and some relatives.

2. Essential Functions of Family

* Stable satisfaction of sex need: This is the primary and essential function of family. It is and the satisfaction of this need requires that both male and female should live together as life partners. A Family not only satisfies but also provides the appropriate mechanism through marriage to regular sexual behavior of husband and wife.
* Reproduction or procreation: Reproduction or procreation is another essential function of family. This function of family contributes to the continuity of family and ultimately perpetuates the human race as a home.
* Provision of Home: Family perform another important function of providing a home for common living to all it’s members. A home provides emotional and psychological support to all it’s members. It is only in a home that children are brought up. In a home all members of the family live together a child is brought up under the strict vigilance of all it’s members.
* Socialization: It is an essential function of family. Family plays an important role in the socialization process. It is the primary agents of socialization. Living in a family human baby learns norms, values, morals and ideas of society.
* Social identity: family provides its members with social identity .children born into their parents’ social class, race and ethnicity, religion, and so forth.

3.African Traditional Family: family is considered a basic cell of the society. shorter defines family as a”minimal effective group of relatives by blood and \ or marriage and analogous groups’’ Nuclear family would consist of parents and their own children.

Extended\wider family comprises more people. in traditional society, the family includes children ,parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters who have their own children and other immediate relatives. The relationships within extended family would be based on kinship.

In 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. Wider family would include the deceased members of the family as well as those who are yet unborn .The unborn children were an important elememt in such a family, because they were assuring the survival of the family.

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.usually the members of the wider family would belong exclusively either to a paternal or maternal descent.

The extended family was the first religious community to which an individual belonged. it was through grandparents, parents and other members that learned about religious and spiritual heritage. It was probably the first place where one heard about God, spirits, ancestors and afterlife.

African marriage can be polygamous-that is,a man may have more than one wife. In practice though, only the senior or wealthy individuals in a society have been to have multiple wives. When Polygny occurs, the family unit is based on mothers. Each wife has her own house and property that are generally transferred to her own children. the mother and child, rather than the husband and wife, thus form the 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 a larger social groups that may include kinfolk, neighbors, people of the same age or gender, and others. The nuclear family does not always have its own property or decide what tasks its members will perform.

4. My family is a Nuclear Family, The name of my family’s surname is Emmanuel urugba we are five in my family consisting of my parents and three children in the family. The names of my parents are: Mr Emmanuel urugba and Mrs Emmanuel urugba Stella.

My family lives in Lagos state, I am the first child of my family my name is Destiny Emmanuel Urugba and the name of my other siblings are Redeemer Emmanuel urugba and Isaac Emmanuel urugba .my father is a travel agent and he owns his business company while my mother is a business woman. my family is a best home for me .

5.My father

My mother

Destiny

Redeemer

Isaac