1. A family is a group of people who are related to each other, especially parents and their children. It can also be defined as a basic unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group whether dwelling together or not.

Family may seem like a simple concept, but there is no simple definition of family. In its most basic terms, a family is a group of individuals who share a legal or genetic bond, but for many people,family means much more and even the simple idea of genetic bonds can be more complicated than it seems.

2. (I). Satisfaction of Sexual Needs: In all societies, primitive or modern, simple or complex, human sex urge requires established and socially recognized channels of satisfaction. Family enables adults of both sexes to maintain a socially approved sexual relationships.

(II). Reproduction of Children:

Satisfaction of sex needs leads to reproduction of children. To have children is considered both a religious as well as social need in Hindu society. Children perpetuate race which is desire of every individual.

(III). Socialization of members:

Socialization of human personality is another important function of family. The child’s first human relationships are with the immediate members of his family. When he grows older initiation of parental actions and exposures to their suggestion leads him to form habits which will affect his social life.

(IV). Economic Functions:

It is the responsibility of the family to see that there is proper division of work, so that none of the members is over burdened with work. It is through family that the economic needs of the people are met. It looks after family property.

(V). Religious Function:

Family is also required to perform many religious functions. What is the religion of a family and what are the modes and methods of worship are taught in the family.

3. Family is very important throughout Africa. Families, not individuals, are the building blocks of African society. Most people live in households that include not only the nuclear family but also members of their extended family.

However some or most African families organize theirselves through their households, several generations and several nuclear families, live and work together. In just family households, all members live together in a single large homestead or compound. In extended family households, the nuclear families within the household each live in separate compounds.

African family still maintains its strong bond through traditional practices such as the upbringing of children and maintaining strong family values. Traditionally, African Family practices polygamy because of the idea that the larger the family or clan, the more workers there are to work on the family or clan, the more workers there are to work on the family farms. Hence, more wealth can be possessed by the family.

However, nowadays the practice depended on the religion of the person. Muslims in Africa will take up to 3 to 4 wives, the number permitted in the religion while the Christains only practice monogamy. In some tribes they give out different tribal marks so as to distinguish members of different clans. A Nigerian ethnic group called the Ijaw will throw babies in the river to test their legitimacy. The infant will only be considered as legitimate if it floats. However some say an infant thrown into a river will always float. “It’s the oldest science”.

The Hausa people are patrilineal. Hence, their household family consists of relatives of the father. However, some tribes in Ghana and and Northern Zambia practice matrilined marriage as the extended family comprises of a man and his wife, their married daughters, son-in-laws and their children . Also Traditional African Society don’t practice dowry, the practice was introduced by Europeans missionaries and colonialists, the African bridesgrooms work for the brides father as a form of dowry to wed his daughter instead of giving money or property.

4. A nuclear family traditionally is defined as a nuclear family which is a family unit that includes two married parents of opposite genders and their biological or adopted children living in the same residence.

My nuclear family consists of my father , my mother and I ( the only child) . My father is a business man while my mother is a housewife and I , a student of Afe Babalola University( ABUAD).

5. ME

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