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DEPARTMENT: SOCIOLOGY

1. Write on the history of your family up to the third generation.

My father’s paternal grandfather was a warrior and village head of Ikot-Edo Edidem village. He had three wives and ten children while my mother’s paternal grandfather was a teacher who had one wife and five children. My late paternal grandfather was a magnate, a wealthy influential business man. He had just one wife, she was a teacher and she played the violin. They have five children, two males and three females. My father is the first son and first child of his parents. My late maternal grandfather was a colonel; he was in the military. He also had one wife, she was an immigration officer. They have four children, one male and three females. My mother is the first female and second child of her parents. My father and my mother have five children, four girls and one boy. I am the third child and third girl in my family.

In the era of my father’s paternal grandfather, it was an agrarian society. People thrived on farming, hunting and gathering as their means of livelihood therefore they had many wives so that they could sire many children for themselves, to work on their farms and to help with the hunting. During this time there was very high value for children, male especially, because of the farm work, show of masculinity on the part of the father particularly when he was able to have many sons and then, to ensure the preservation of his lineage.

Modernization brought about education, the entrance of missionaries and the creation of white collar jobs. This caused people to reduce interest in farming and seek clerical positions in order to take care of their families. There was a reduction in the need for many children but not much reduction in the value of children. This is the age that my grandparents were born into. In this age people sought out better jobs to earn better pay to be able to send their children to school. The sizes of families reduced too, as they became more nuclear-inclined with modernity rather than extended as in the traditional agrarian period.

More recently in the time of my parents, people have sought out even smaller family sizes for different reasons including:

Social mobility: The modern jobs came in different forms, some higher than others. A smaller family is easier to maintain and it makes it easier to get into the higher classes of society quicker

Physical Mobility: families are more mobile when they are less in number. One is able to relocate or travel freely if the need arises.

1. There are five functions of the family namely:
2. Care function
3. Emotional function
4. Reproduction function
5. Economic function
6. Social function
7. CARE FUNCTION:

One of the main functions of the family is the care function. My family performs the care function by:

Serving as a support system to other family members, immediate and extended. They have served this purpose by providing care when our members are sick, in trouble, injured and/or unable to take care of themselves.

1. EMOTIONAL FUNCTION:

This is another important function which the family performs by providing physical and emotional support for its members. The family offers moral guidance by giving advice to members on what they think is best for members. Members of the family also act as confidants; they keep the secrets of other family members. They also show emotional support by showing up for graduations, marriage ceremonies and other important events.

1. REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTION:

The primary responsibility of the family is procreation. This implies that the family is tasked with the responsibility of providing more citizens to join and impact on the society. My family is comprised of five children who are well-cultured and well-raised to add positively to the society.

1. ECONOMIC FUNCTION:

This function tasks the family with the responsibility of assisting one another in the event of scarcity of food, money and other needs. My family assists our kin in payment of hospital bills that cannot be handled by them and payment of school fees when they are in need.

1. SOCIAL FUNCTION:

The family determines the social class and social status the we are all born into. The also handle socialization of the children they produce. They are the most influential setting for socialization. They have the responsibility of teaching their children the norms, standards, beliefs etc. of that society.

1. The Umoh family tree

First generation

Maternal Paternal

Granddaddy Grandmummy Grandpa Granny

Second generation

Nanpon Nanji Nanle Nanre Solo Uwem Nsy Nse Ini

& & & & & &

Matilda Isaac Idy Simon Dickson Solo

Third generation

Emem Edidiong Enobong kiki Mfon

Kin relationships are traditionally defined as ties based on blood and mariage. They include lineal generational bonds(children, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents), collateral bonds(siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews, and aunts and uncles), and ties with in-laws.( Reis & Sprecher {n.d.})

My father has four siblings, one brother and three sisters therefore I have one uncle and three aunties on my fathers side. By marriage my uncles wife is my aunty and my aunties husbands are my uncles therefore in total on my fathers side I have four aunties and four uncles. The total number of my fathers siblings childen is fifteen, therefore I have fifteen cousins from my fathers side. In addition to my siblings and I, there are twenty children so my paternal grandmother has twenty grandchildren .

My mother has three siblings, one brother and two sisters therefore I have one uncle and two aunties on my mothers side. Accordingly I have a total of three aunties and two uncles on my mothers side. The total number of my mothers siblings children is one, therefore I have one cousin on my fathers side. In addition to my siblings and I, there are six children so my maternal grandmother has six grandchildren.

REFERENCE

Reis H.T. & Sprecher S. (n.d.)(Eds), *Encyclopedia of human relationships (pp.951-954)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.