



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA  
AND  
NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE**

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME  
MANUAL**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

***(TESSA Integrated Manual)***

## Foreword

The National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna, was established in 1976 to provide in-service education for teachers through the open and distance learning system (DLS). As stipulated in Decree No. 7 (now Act No. 7) of the then Federal Military Government of Nigeria (1978), the Institute is **“charged with the duty of providing courses of instruction leading to the development, upgrading, and certification of teachers as specified in the relevant syllabus, using Distance Education techniques”**.

After several years of running the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) programmes, the Institute deems it appropriate to upgrade the academic and professional qualifications of teachers to the degree level, in order to greatly raise the quality of teaching and learning in schools. Consequently, the Institute has embarked on offering degree programmes, in affiliation with the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), initially in the following areas:

- (i) B.A. Ed. (English)
- (ii) B.A. Ed. (Social Studies)
- (iii) B.A. Ed. (Primary)
- (iv) B.Sc. Ed. (Mathematics)
- (v) B.Sc. Ed. (Integrated Science)
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In order to ensure the highest quality degree, existing course materials initially developed by NOUN in four (4) programmes of English, Mathematics, Integrated Science, and Primary Education were critically and expertly reviewed, updated, and upgraded by a team of seasoned academics from various universities across the country and the NTI. For programmes not available in NOUN, fresh course materials were expertly designed, developed, and produced by a core of experts in the areas of Social Studies and Physical and Health Education (PHE) ab initio. Furthermore, in order to ensure quality delivery of the degree programmes, course facilitators with the highest academic qualifications (Ph.D, M.Ed.) in the degree course programmes have been screened and employed to deliver the programmes to mature students along open and distance education lines, using best practice methods and techniques (learner-centred, participatory, and interactive approaches). The innovative techniques involve various media, which include ICT, audio-video, CD ROMs, and the net.

In order to further enhance quality, various facilities, such as science and PHE labs/workshops, library, etc are provided at the study centres.

For you to gain maximum benefits from the course materials, you are expected to study them very carefully/critically as well as acquaint yourself with their accompanying Study Guides. Furthermore, you are expected to work through the assignments in every unit/module in order to ensure full mastery of the contents and concepts presented in the course materials. This will help you in assessing your learning achievement as you progress towards your degree. I wish you the best.



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**SSE 122:**

**FAMILY-THE BASE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY**

## **UNIT 1 THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY**

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- 2.0 Objectives
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  - 3.3 Functions of a Family
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
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### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The family is the smallest, most personal and most intimate of social groups. It is the smallest unit of culture and the origin of human community. The family is seen as a universal institution because of its unique features, like: it is found in all existing societies and all societies that have existed. Certain functions of the family are shared by all societies, for example, reproduction, protection, socialisation, status ascription and economic support. The notion differs from one society to another society. The meaning and unique features of the family is our concern in this first unit of Module 5 which covers the overall picture of the family as the super structure of society.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of family;
- identify the unique features of the family; and
- discuss any eight functions of the family.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

1. Try to recall members of your family.
2. Itemize the reasons why you consider them as your family.
3. The idea of family discussed in this unit is familiar to you, thus, think of your role in the family and list them.
4. Please do all the activities and assignment before you check for their answers at the back of this book.



## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this units.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Procreation:** The ability to give birth to young ones; it means the same as reproduction.

**Cohabitation:** Living together as spouses without legal marriage.

**Social Group:** A group of two or more people that share a feeling of unity and bond together in relatively stable patterns of interaction.

**Family:** A group of people who are closely related through recognised birth, marriage or adoption. The common types of family are: nuclear and extended family

**Residence:** Living in the same house: A person's home especially a large and impressive one.

**Conjugal unit:** The nuclear family which comprises husband, his wife and children.

**Sibling:** One's brother or sister.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 The Concept of Family

The family is a basic social unit, regarded as the corner stone of society by sociologists. This is because every society depends on the continued reproduction of new generations of the population for its existence. The concept 'family' is used in many different ways.

In human context, a family is a group of people affiliated by recognized birth, affinity (by marriage), or by adoption. That is, it refers to a social group characterised by common residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship and one or more children, owned or adopted, by the sexually cohabiting adults.

In another dimension, family means a married couple with or without children; an unmarried couples with children; a group with common ancestors; a person with children; a kinship group united by blood or marriage. This means that people perceive family differently from society to society.

The foregoing definitions of family depict that family group live together in a house in most cases. Thus, a family may meet the traditional image of two married people,

biological parents and their children (offspring). The parents may mean single parents, grandparents raising children, adoptive parents, or foster parents.

However, parents may be of the same or different religions and of the same or different tribes or cultures. In essence, **family** implies an institutionalised social group whose members must be related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Define the word family.
2. State two unique features of the family.
3. Why is the family seen as an agency of protection to the child?

### 3.2 Types of Family

Basically, there are two types of family, they include:

- i) Nuclear family
- ii) Extended family

**Nuclear family:** The nuclear family is the type of family which involves the father, mother and their children living in the same house, commonly found in advanced countries of the world. The composition of this type of family differs mainly in relation to its size. For example, in the African society, especially in Nigeria, a man may be married to more than one wife and have as many children as he can give birth to. With the introduction of wage labour and hard economic conditions, many workers preferred the nuclear type of family. This is because of the harsh economic realities faced by most families especially in terms of feeding, house rent, school fees and medical care. However, the nuclear family may appear to be the ideal, but the general problem of extremely low income earning makes it difficult to provide for their daily obligations of feeding and training the children.

**Extended family:** This type of family refers to family structures that extend beyond the nuclear family. It comprises of the father, his wife/ wives, children, grandparents and other blood relatives living in the same compound or nearby. Every member of the family has the spirit of belongingness to protect a common interest. Therefore, each member individually or collectively contributes to the progress and development of other members of the family. Despite these advantages, it has a number of disadvantages like difficult to maintain and weak intimacy.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Identify the two types of family.
2. Briefly distinguish between nuclear and extended family

3. Which type of family do you prefer? Give three reasons to support your answer.

### 3.3 Functions of a Family

The following are identified as among the functions of the family:

1. **Protection-** the human infants unlike other animal species need endless care and economic security.
2. **Reproduction-** for society to preserve itself, it must replace its dying members through procreation.
3. **Socialization-** parents and other relatives monitor a child's behaviour and transmit the norms, values and language of a culture to the child.
4. **Status ascription**– Children inherit social position from their family's background and reputation.
5. **Affection and companionship-** the family provides members with warm and intimate relationships which make them feel satisfied and secured.
6. **Regulation of sexual behaviour** – the family clearly defines standards of sexual behaviour within family circle
7. **Religious training**–a child is seen to follow the religion of his parents at birth, they inculcate moral and religious values and beliefs, which promote discipline.
8. **Recreational outlets**–all kinds of recreational activities are provided by the family depending on their financial strength. It ranges from storytelling, indoor games, and visiting amusement parks to going on vacation.
9. **Education-** a child receives his early education within the household. This shapes his personality alongside his social and emotional stability. The child's educational needs are continuously catered for until he becomes fully independent.

From the above functions, it is evident that family is an organised system of relationships which involves agreeable ways of fulfilling basic social needs. Thus, most people are likely to be members of two different but overlapping nuclear families in their life time. For example:

- i) **Natal family or family of orientation:** That is the family in which one is born and bred, which consist of the individual, brothers, sisters, and parents.
- ii) **Conjugal family or family of procreation:** This is the kind of family formed through marriage. It composed of the individual, his or her spouse, and their children.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. Why is it necessary for every member of the family to perform his role?
2. Identify any eight functions of the family.
3. What is conjugal family?

#### **4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- In this unit, family has been viewed simply as an established social group whose members must be related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption.
- Basically, the nuclear and extended families are the common types of family.
- Family could imply a married couple with or without children; an unmarried couple with children; a group with common ancestors; a person with children; a kinship group united by blood or marriage. This means the definition of the family differs from society to society.
- The functions performed by family are common all over the world, thus makes it a universal institution.
- Generally, all people must belong and participate in one or two of the following family in their life time. E.g. family of orientation or family of procreation.

#### **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

1. From your personal experience, enumerate any five functions performed by your parents at home or you as a parent.
2. Distinguish between natal and conjugal family.
3. Find out the advantages of parents performing their roles effectively in the family.
4. Identify any six members of extended family in Nigeria.

#### **6.0 REFERENCES**

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## **UNIT 2 THE NATURE OF THE FAMILY SYSTEM**

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  - 3.2 Characteristics of a Family System
  - 3.3 Factors Necessary for an Effective Family System
  - 3.4 Meaning of Family Values
    - 3.4.1 Importance of Values to the Family System
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The family is a natural social system that comprises of the man as the father, a woman as his wife and perhaps children living together in a place. A family system is a network of social relationship that functions out of the complexity of its own set of processes and problems. Similar to other operational social systems, the family unit is structured in a way that does not allow any of its Members to function in isolation. This relationship is determined by the importance of family values to the structure and operation of the family system. Therefore, families with strong values are able to identify these values in others quickly, which then produces a new generation with similar belief. On this basis, each member of the unit influences and affects every other part of his social network. Thus, the family is viewed as complete and each type of family is part of a larger kinship system.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of family system;
- discuss the factors for effective family system; and
- discuss the importance of family values to family system.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

1. Reflect your mind on how members of your family interact and the importance of such interaction at home.

2. Try to identify which roles you think are more appropriate to the role players.
3. Imagine the consequences of inappropriate performance of roles by members of family as a unit.
4. Try to relate this to reasons you think may be responsible.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this units.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Family of origin:** This implies the biological family one is born into and socialised. It means the same as family of orientation.

**Family system:** This refers to a network of relationship that determines how a family functions as a unit.

**Values:** This means ideals, morals or standards that serve as a yardstick for measurement. E.g. values and norms serve as bases of family change.

**Social network:** This refers to the people one interacts with in the family. For example, parents, siblings and relatives. It could refer to people outside one's family like peer group, friends, teachers, and classmates.

**Role:** The social expectation or behaviours that accompany a particular status. It means a character or function that one plays.

**Interaction:** The interplay between members.

**Reciprocity:** Both parties influence each as they interact with each other.

**Social norms:** A rule that tells members of a society how to behave in a particular.

**Subsystem:** Smaller units in the larger system which share the characteristics of the larger system.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 The Meaning of Family System

A family system is a social or biological construction made up of a set of people related by blood or intention. Thus, a family is seen as a living system that responds to environmental pressures which is affected by the perceptions and motivations of individual family members. Consequently, each family member must adjust to its environmental conditions so as to survive. At the same time, must also change its structure and alter its processes of adaptation to account for the needs and desires of its members. Family system refers to a formation of interdependent parts, that is, social positions with characteristic organisations and patterns of interdependence. For example, interdependence exists in husband-wife relationship.

### 3.1.1 The Nature of the Family System

The family as a unit of social system comprises of the man as the father, a woman as his wife and perhaps children living in a household. Most people are born into a biological family, or family of origin. That is, if a person is adopted or raised in this family, it is his or her family of orientation. By leaving this family to marry or cohabit, the individual becomes part of a family of procreation, the family a person forms by marrying and/or having or adopting children. Each type of family is part of a larger kinship system because family is the descendant of a common ancestral unit.

Family system has characteristic groups and patterns of interdependence rooted within a set of sub system. That is, the basic unit of a family is not the people but the interrelated statuses (positions) and the established patterns of expectations (roles) that accompany those positions. For example, husband- wife, parent- child, uncle-aunt, father- mother, grandparent- grandchild, brother- sister relationships. Each of these status combinations denotes a set of mutual role expectations, obligations, and rights that are worked out by those in the relationships in a way that addresses broader family system worries as well as their own individual wants and needs.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is family system?
2. Briefly explain the roles that go with social positions in family system.

### 3.1.2 Uniqueness of the Family System

The family system is unique because the following features distinguish it from other types of social systems:

1. **Structural factor:** Families are seen as intergenerational groups, like in case of a parent and his child. Thus, the intergenerational nature of the family structure is evident. This is based on its virtue of connection through role organisation and structure of rights and obligations stemming from the members abilities and needs.

This structure determines relationship that will influence the child's later marriage with or without children.

**2. Functional factor:** Families are unique in their functions at both the emotional and instrumental levels. The nature of interactions that occur within the families is modified as members accomplish tasks efficiently as well as being attentive to the emotional needs of their members. The level of emotional and instrumental functionality varies from society to society and from time to time as other social systems assist or hinder additional pressure on the family system to meet individual needs differently.

**3. Relational qualities:** Certain family qualities of interdependence such as emotional, physical, social, economic, behavioural and psychological distinguish them from other types of groups. This is because it may not be voluntary, thus, resisted by members of the family. Families these days are characterised by expectations for duration, as a result couples perceive their expectation as not temporary and will outlive other relationship in other system such as school, community and work.

### 3.2 Characteristics of a Family System

Family system refers to a formation of interdependent parts, that is, social positions with characteristic organisations and patterns of interdependence. Hence, members interact in reciprocal relationships. They respond to one another in the context of roles (a character or function one plays), Interaction (the interplay between members) and reciprocity (both parties influence each as they interact with each other). Below are some of the characteristics of family system:

**1. Wholeness:** To understand the family, it is necessary to view it from its entirety-not just at one or some parts. The system is greater than sum of the parts (Wholeness). Subtle signs from parents protect the family in their fragile relationship. For example, they see the family operating as whole rather than isolated individuals (father, mother or child).

**2. Boundaries:** Overall, human systems tend to work best when sub system boundaries are clear (neither too open nor too closed), interactions are clear and no repetitive, lines of authority are visible, rules are overt and flexible, changing positions replace rigid alliances, and stressors are confronted instead of being pushed onto scapegoats. There are families (extended families), neighborhoods and even companies that work this way. Members are clear about what to expect from one another. They neither intrude nor distance themselves, they speak openly and affectionately to one another, because they know who is in charge of what.

**3. Hierarchical power:** One Up/ One Down - Superior/ Inferior implies that-

- Captain makes decisions and first mate carries them out.



- **Egalitarian:** Both partners maintain or attempt to maintain an equal relationship, though difficult to maintain, if focus is on total equality, in every way.

4. **Epigenesis:** Whatever we do early in our lives and our relationships has a significant impact on what happens later in our lives. This is why your early experiences in your family have such an impact on you and why it is difficult to change long-standing patterns. For example, respect for elders.

5. **Equipotentiality:** (equal in the beginning), the same beginnings can result in different outcomes. That is, things with the same original conditions can go different ways. For example, members of the same family system can share a very similar upbringing but turn out to be very unlike each other. Even twins eventually take different roads, grow into individuals with their own insights and values, habits and preferences. Consciousness guarantees that what we choose to make of our original conditions is more important than the conditions themselves.

6. **Subsystem:** Smaller units in the larger system which share the characteristics of the larger system. This implies that, each part of the system affects all others: For example, an alcoholic in the family is likely to control the whole family with his behaviour. His absence, bad health, violence, unpredictability, and self-contempt distort every interaction between family members. The whole family learns to (mal) adapt itself to his drinking habit through denial, bailing him out of jail if he drinks and drives, calling in sick for him if he is hung over. Thus, a dysfunctional family member generally means a destabilizing family system.

7. Weaker elements in a system join with stronger (or combine with other weak ones) to counter a stronger element: an example is the ‘Grand alliance’ between family members.

### 3.3 Factors Necessary for an Effective Family System

The following factors are responsible for effective family system:

1. **Family Influence:** Family social systems may operate on a generational basis, where things change down the line with each new generation coming up. For example, as children grow up to move on to live of their own and parents grow older and go into retirement. These changes indicate temporary adjustments within the family social system. This is because the family social system is influenced by tradition, stability, loyalty, trust and interdependency. These are all important in understanding how a family unit really functions.

2. **Communication:** One key component to the successful functioning of a family system is how well a family communicates and processes information. This helps every family member plays a critical, if not unique, role in the system. Consequently, it is not possible that one member of the system changes without causing an influence of change throughout the family system. Therefore, as a natural social structure, the

family unit functions out of the complexity of its own set of processes, problems and properties. Similar to other operational social systems, the family unit is structured in a way that does not allow any of its members to function totally on his own.

**3. Family Bonds:** What makes the family different from other social systems is how it is built upon emotions like love, patience, forgiveness and endurance. This emotional bonding enables the family to build a basis of understanding and acceptance between family members when communication is done properly. The social structure of a family contains elements such as communication forms, rules, and patterns of resolution for arising conflicts, structures of power and family roles, which all assist in the solving of problems, the completion of various tasks and the obtainment of the family's goals.

**4. Coping Mechanism:** Another component that allows the family system to function is the Coping Mechanisms. For example, anxiety, anger, loss, fear, resentment and confusion are some of the emotions felt by different family members as the unit shifts to fit the new changes within the family structure. How successfully a family copes with these changes depend largely on its awareness of these alterations. Therefore, the changes within the family system can be viewed as either favourable or dangerous to the family base. These can either account for a positive change for the family or cause major dysfunction within the unit. Consequently, each member of the unit influences and affects every other part of his social network like any other social system.

## **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II**

1. Enumerate any five characteristics of family system.
2. With relevant examples explain the factors leading to effective family system.
3. State three factors that make family system unique.

### **3.4 Meaning of Family Values**

Generally, people describe themselves and what inform their decisions on the basis of the values instilled in them by their families. Although, most people disregard their family values until a crisis arises that forces them to make decisions that may go contrary to their beliefs. While they may have never recognised their values, all of sudden they are faced with the realization that something does not quite fit into what they believe in. This is when people realize how important family values are to the structure and operation of their family system. Therefore, families with strong values are able to identify these values in others quickly, which then produces a new generation with similar beliefs.

#### **3.4.1 Importance of Values to the Family System**

Family values are important on many different levels of the family structure. For example:

**1. Establishing a basis for the Family:** A foundation supports a family. When crises arise, the family is able to withstand them because of the stability of the interpersonal structure. Families with distinct values are able to stand strong on their views despite other people's efforts to break through with contrasting beliefs. In addition, when family members feel frail from the unfriendly world, they know they can seek solace from their family members.

**2. Influencing Decision Making:** Family values influence the decisions people make both within the family structure and outside of it. Making a decision about vital matters can be difficult, and people may feel helpless if they do not know which way to proceed. Therefore, having solid family values helps people make the right decisions in life.

**3. Guidance for Raising Children:** Parenting is a challenge and with all of the world's influences, it can be absolute frightening. Knowing what you believe in as a parent and what you want for your children will help you raise them to be responsible and conscientious adults.

**4. Protection from Outside Influences:** Peer pressure has a significant effect on adolescents and adults alike. When people try to get others to do things that are not morally correct, they try to infiltrate the family values set in place. This implies that, if someone has a strong sense of what is right and wrong because of the values they were raised with, they are less likely to become victims of deviant influences.

Family systems have great socio- cultural influence in many societies. Values and norms serve as bases of family change. The extended family which is mainly common in developing countries tends to increase population which leads to population explosion. This is considered a problem in modern society, but it is normal in traditional society.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III**

1. What is the meaning of family values?
2. Identify and briefly explain any three important aspects of family values.

### **4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- A family system is a social and/or biological construction made up of a set of people related by blood or intention.
- Hierarchical power involves superior/ inferior relationship.
- Family influence, Family bonds, Communication and coping mechanism are key components to the successful functioning of a family system.
- Family systems have great socio- cultural influences on many societies.

- Families with strong values are able to identify these values in others quickly, which then produces a new generation with similar beliefs.
- Values such as protection from outside influence, influencing decision making, establishing a basis for family and guidance for raising children are among the important values of family system.

## **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

1. Find out and state what your family values are.
2. To what extent have you benefitted from your family values?

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

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**UNIT 3 THE STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY****CONTENTS**

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- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity
  - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Meaning of Family Structure
  - 3.2 Types of Family System
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Family structure and family process matters at the most fundamental level. Children growing up in a healthy, married, two-parent families are more likely to lead happy, healthy and successful lives than those who have not experienced the same level of family security and stability. The unique family structures that are becoming dominant in the world, especially Nigeria are raising questions as to the roles within the family and It is not surprising to now find single parent led families, grandparents raising grandchildren, step families that combine two family units and other combinations. Thus, the many changes in the structure of families have called for diverse opinions.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of family structure;
- identify the six types of family structure in society; and
- briefly explain any three family structure identified.

**2.1 ACTIVITY**

1. Reflect on the common types of family you know and their composition.
2. Think about other families that are seen as not common in your locality because of culture or religion.
3. Ask questions about reasons for their existence in your locality and what is to be done to encourage or discourage them.
4. Imagine the implications of such family structures on the children.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this units.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Single family:** a family that one of the spouses is absent.

**Reconstituted family:** blended or stepfamily with mixed parents, one or both parents remarried, bringing children of the former family into the new family.

**Two-Parent family:** a conjugal pair (husband and wife) with their children.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Meaning of Family Structure

The traditional family structure (nuclear family) is considered a family support system involving two married individuals providing care and stability for their biological offspring. However, this two-parent structure, nuclear family, has become less dominant, and alternative family forms have become more common. The family is created at birth and establishes ties across generations. Those generations, the extended family of aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins, can hold significant emotional and economic roles for the nuclear family.

However, a calm, nurturing single-parent home would provide more protection than a two-biological-parent home affected by alcohol and violence. Children can grow up happily, healthy, and without serious problems in all kinds of families, but children in two-parent households are more likely to escape poverty, teenaged unmarried childbearing, and school and mental health issues

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Explain briefly the meaning of family structure.
2. Why does family structure matters at the initial stage of development?

### 3.2 Types of Family Structure

In the recent past, the two-biological-parent family is considered as ‘normal’ and regarded any other family structure as having gaps. The many changes in the structure of families have called for a diverse opinion. Below are six specific types of family structures identified by society:

- i. Nuclear Family:** The nuclear family is the traditional type of family structure. This family type consists of two parents and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children. Children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults. According to U.S. Census data, almost 70 percent of children live in a nuclear family unit. Studies have revealed that families rely on themselves and toward their family for intimacy not because it is their mindful choice but partly as protection against the increasing complexity of society. Thus, the family becomes the small, meaningful community where each person finds a sense of his own identity and function.
- ii. Single Parent Family:** The single parent families arise from occupational mobility, cases of divorce and the emergence of unwed mothers. The single parent family consists of one parent raising one or more children on his own. Often, a single parent family is a mother with her children, although there are single fathers as well. The single parent family is the biggest change society has seen in terms of the changes in family structures. One in four children is born to a single mother in U.S.A. Single parent families are generally close and find ways to work together to solve problems, such as dividing up household chores. When only one parent is at home, it may be a struggle to find childcare, as there is only one parent working. This limits income and opportunities in many cases, although many single parent families have help from relatives and friends. Children raised in this family experience insecurity and aggressiveness. That is, life in a single parent family can be extremely stressful, in both economic and emotional terms.
- iii. Extended Family:** The extended family structure consists of two or more adults who are related, either by blood or marriage, living in the same home. This family includes many relatives living together and working toward common goals, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties. Many extended families include cousins, aunts or uncles and grandparents living together. This type of family structure may form due to financial difficulties or because older relatives are unable to care for themselves alone. Extended families are becoming increasingly common all over the world especially in rural African society. Usually, autocratic interaction prevails in this pattern which imposes restrictions on children's behaviour.
- iv. Childless Family:** While most people think of family as including children, there are couples who either cannot or choose not to have children. The childless family is sometimes referred to as the "forgotten family," as it does not meet the traditional standards set by society. Childless families consist of a husband and wife living and working together. Many childless families take on the responsibility of pet ownership, adopt children or have extensive contact with their nieces and nephews as a substitute for having their own children.
- v. Step/Blended family:** The term blended family or stepfamily describes families with mixed parents: one or both parents remarried, bringing children of the former

family into the new family. For example, many marriages end in divorce, and many of these individuals choose to get remarried. This creates the stepfamily, which involves two separate families merging into one new unit (reconstituted family). It consists of a new husband and wife and their children from previous marriages or relationships. Stepfamilies are about as common as the nuclear family, although they tend to have more problems, such as adjustment periods and discipline issues. Stepfamilies need to learn to work together and also work with their past love to ensure these family units run smoothly.

- vi. Grandparent Family:** Many grandparents in the developed countries today are raising their grandchildren for a variety of reasons. One in twelve children is raised by his grandparents, and the parents are not present in the child's life. This could be due to parents' death, addiction, abandonment or being unfit parents. Many grandparents need to go back to work or find additional sources of income to help raise their grandchildren. In the developing countries especially rural African society, it is the norm for grandparents to raise their grandchildren. This is perhaps due to the common extended family structure practiced.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Enumerate the six types of family structure.
2. Which family structure would you consider best?
3. Identify the factors responsible for changes in the extended family structure.

## 4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Family structure is the way in which a family is organized according to roles, rules, power, and hierarchies.
- The following types of families exist today, with some families naturally falling into multiple categories. For example, a single parent family who lives in a larger, extended family. While these types of families are distinct in definition, in practice the lines are less clear.
- Family values are important on many different levels of the family structure.
- The changing composition of the family does not change what is important to the child about being a member of a family, however. A recent report from the American Academy of Paediatrics states, “Children’s optimal development seems to be influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family unit than by the particular structural form it takes.
- Any family structure may have risk factors and protective factors, given the particular characteristics of the family.

## 5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

As a teacher to be, how would you handle children from family structure with risk factors (problems)?

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## UNIT 4 PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN THE FAMILY

### CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity
  - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Problems of Living in a Family
  - 3.2 Types of Family Problems
  - 3.3 Coping with Family Problems
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

There is no family that does not experience one problem or the other. Some problems are seen as negligible while, others are seen as major. This is because living with family can sometimes be more difficult than living with strangers. You love your family members, and that love can make you to overlook many problems that should be dealt with earlier rather than later. Thus, it is important for members of the family to recognise their problems genuinely and try to manage such problems.

### 2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- enumerate six sources of family problems;
- identify any six family problems and proffer ways to cope with the problems identified; and
- briefly explain any three problems considered most important to you.

### 2.1 ACTIVITY

1. Describe any negative event that occurred in your family recently.
2. Cast your mind on something that made you restless which you could not handle by yourself.
3. Explain how frequent you see somebody with a similar experience.
4. Enumerate the strategies you adopted in solving the problem(s).
5. Attempt all the given activities and the TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT before you check for the answers at the end of the book.

### 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this units.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Stressor events(crisis):** provoking events and situations for which families have little or no preparation.

**Extramarital sex:** sexual intercourse between a man and a woman, at least one of whom is married to someone else.

**Childless marriage:** a marriage in which the couple has no children either voluntarily or involuntarily.

**Family problem:** It means a need in the family that has never been properly addressed, which exposes the members to pains and sufferings. Family problems are universal, although, this does not imply that all families have the same and identical problems. That is, there are minor as well as major problems. This perhaps explains why family problems vary in scope, form, frequency, and time. Hence, what matters is the manner of approach to the solution of the problems.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Problems of Living in the Family

One of the most difficult matters to confront with respect to family relationships is that you do not control the entire relationship yourself. Whether the relationship prospers or fails, it is not your responsibility alone because as the saying goes, it takes two to tango. There is no family that does not experience one problem or the other. Some problems are seen as negligible while, others are seen as major.

When major family relationship problems are encountered, it is common to attempt a control strategy. You try to get the other person to change. Sometimes this approach works, especially if your request and the other person are both reasonable. But many times it just leads to frustration. On the other hand, if you cannot change the other person, maybe you should just accept them as they are. That is another strategy that sometimes works, but this one can also lead to frustration and even bitterness if your needs are not being met.

Family problems stem from sources like accidents, war, genetic factors, ignorance and faulty relationships. Among the problems rampant in our society are poverty, male child syndrome, childlessness and divorce. It is important for members of the family to recognise their problems genuinely and try to manage such problems.

However, there are some common problems that you can try to address before they start. For example, consider a problematic relationship between yourself and another family member. Suppose you hold the belief that you must be close to every family member simply because they are related to you. Perhaps you would never tolerate this

person's behaviour if it came from a stranger, but if the person is a relative, then you tolerate it out of a sense of duty, obligation, or your personal concept of family.

Therefore, to push a family member out of your life might cause you to feel guilty, or it could lead to a reaction from other family members. But, sincerely ask yourself, if you would tolerate such behaviour from a total stranger. Why do you tolerate it from a family member then? Exactly why have you chosen to continue the relationship instead of simply letting the person out of your life? What are the beliefs that preserve this problematic relationship? Are those beliefs really true for you?

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I**

1. What is family problem?
2. Identify any five sources of family problems.

### **3.2 Types of Family Problems**

The following are among the problems identified as peculiar to the family:

**1. Handicapped or abnormal children and spouses:** There are many ways children and spouses become handicapped. Examples are sickness and diseases which can paralyze a person. Also, accident or war can be a cause of this.

**2. Sexual problems and differences:** Sex is a major pillar in the family foundation. Therefore, if this is absent or inadequate in marriage, it leads to unhappiness in marriage.

**3. Poverty and bankruptcy:** Poverty is a state of having little or no money as a result the necessities of life cannot be catered for. This is caused by unemployment, laziness, ignorance and mismanagement.

**4. Late pregnancy and barrenness:** Pregnancy can occur late in marriage due to medical problem. As a result, it can lead to divorce if the couples are not able to manage this problem.

**5. Male-child syndrome:** African societies value male children than female children and this is reflected negatively in their relationships with members of the family.

**6. Divorce and separation:** When love fads away in marriage it can lead to separation which subsequently leads to divorce.

**7. Sickness and death:** Sickness and death are inevitable, these have caused much pains in the family.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II**

1. Enumerate any seven family problems.
2. Briefly describe any four of these problems.

### 3.3 Coping with Family Problems

Family problems are many and varied. People adopt different approaches to solve their problems as soon as they are able to identify them. On this basis, solution depends on peoples' perception and beliefs. Such as:

1. Parents need to find out the level of abnormality in order to decide on how to assist them to survive.
2. Medical attention should be sought and couples should find out their sexual differences and respect their feelings.
3. People should seek for gainful employment and desist from extravagance.
4. People should go for medical check-up before and during such problems.
5. People should be enlightened on the issue of children's sex in order to deemphasize the preference for male at the detriment of female children.
6. Spouses should learn to settle their difference objectively and avoid third person interference except when necessary.
7. Person hygiene and general cleanliness should be held in high esteem

Even with these problems, living with family can be a great idea. You can grow closer together and have someone readily available to come to your aid if you ever face trouble.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. Proffer one solution each for the problems identified.
2. Why do people continue to tolerate members of their family despite the problems they sometime cause them?

### 4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Family problem implies a family need that has never been properly addressed, which exposes the members to pains and sufferings.
- There are minor as well as major problems.
- Family problems stem from sources like accidents, war, genetic factors, ignorance and faulty relationships.
- Among the problems rampant in our society are poverty, male child syndrome, childlessness and divorce.
- People adopt different approaches to solve their problems as soon as they are able to identify them.

## 5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

1. Distinguish between nuclear and extended family problems.
2. Based on the above, which type of family poses more problem than the other?

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## **UNIT 5 FAMILY AS A MICRO-SOCIETY**

### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity I
  - 2.2 How to Study this Unit
  - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Meaning of Micro-Society
  - 3.2 Family as a Micro-Society
  - 3.3 Indicators of Interaction within a Society
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The family is the most important unit of society and plays an essential role in fulfilling the emotional and physical needs of individuals, which is required for achieving economic and social development. Micro-society is the smallest of the levels of society. It consists of more than one person that forms the most intimate and personal of groups. A microsystem consists of the activities and interactions in the person's immediate surroundings. Thus, there are rules in place that govern the functionality of the family and create actions within the group.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- briefly explain the meaning of a micro-society;
- discuss family as a micro-system;
- identify and explain the indicators of interaction within the society; and
- list the composition of a micro-system.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

Read the introductory part of this unit to give you an insight.

1. Cast back your mind to members of your family and their roles at home.
2. Think of your days back in school and your relationship with your teachers.

3. Most of what is discussed in this unit is applicable to the society, so try to find out what obtains in your locality.
4. Do all the activities and TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS before checking the answers at the end of booklet.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this units.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Micro:** This refers to smallest level of something.

**Micro-system:** This involves the activities and interactions in the person's immediate surroundings.

**Socialisation:** A process by which values, norms and attitudes are inculcated in people to make them effective.

**Role:** The social expectation or behaviour that accompany a particular status. It means a character or function one plays.

**Interaction:** The interplay between members.

**Reciprocity:** Both parties influence each as they interact with each other.

**Social norms:** A rule that tells members of a society how to behave in a particular way.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Meaning of Micro-Society

Micro-society as the name suggests is the smallest of the levels of society. The family unit in terms of applied sociology is a micro level society, or the smallest structure of society within our vast world of societies. It consists of more than one person that forms the most intimate and personal groups. That is, micro level groupings are more intimate societies that many people automatically identify with first. Micro level societies are families, church groups, schools and the like. Though it may be very small, it is often a group of very like-minded people.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Define micro society.



2. Cite three examples of micro societies.

### **3.2 Family as a Micro-Society**

The family's micro-system consists of family members, both nuclear and extended, and the perceptions and expectations they hold for the family. Structures inside this system include family, peers, school, media, neighborhood, or childcare environments. Micro-system according to Bronfenbrenner (psychologist), consists of the activities and interactions in the person's immediate surroundings. Thus, there are guidelines in place that govern the functionality of the family and create behaviours within the group which makes the tiny society distinguishable from others. For example, it is the level within which a child experiences immediate interactions with other people.

At the beginning, the micro-system is the home, involving interactions with only one or two people in the family ("dyadic" or "triadic" interaction). As the child grows, the micro-system becomes more complex, involving more people, such as in a child-care centre or school. Despite, the complexity of this small group within the larger levels of society there are still smaller micro levels that make them up.

The micro level deals with the daily actions and interactions of people in society. It examines the social roles that we take on within society as well as how we react to society and comprehend it. For example, within the family unit there are still social roles that the family members take on and that are aware to everyone in the group. Such as, the father is the head of the family with the mother as a close partner. At this intimate level, the emphasis is on how people think within society as opposed to their behaviour.

However, the relationships inside the micro-system have bi-directional influences, in that they impact in two directions, both away and toward the child. For example, the parents in this situation have influence on the child. Also, the child has an influence on the parents. Also, other individuals in the micro-system affect the quality of the two-person relationship, such mutual support between two parents in child-rearing roles.

It is important to state that as long as there is increased numbers in a child's micro-system; it implies more lasting mutual relationships, thus, increasing the size of the system which enhances child development. On this basis, it is easy as a member of any family to recognize the key traits that form the family society. There are four areas in which a micro society like a family unit creates the ideas that govern it.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II**

1. What is the meaning of micro-system?
2. The Family is the basic unit of society' Elaborate.

### **3.3 Indicators of Interaction within a Society**

Micro-level study of society improves the smallest elements that create the idea of what a society is, and the norms and behaviours that make it recognizable as its own society. For example, socialization, ritual, segregation of activities and sanctions are all indicators to how one should interact within a society. They serve as the guidelines that emotionally inform us of the type of micro level society we are in.

1. **Socialization** is the creation of shared beliefs and ideals that led to the norms of a micro society. Socialization is the indicator of how one should interact within a society. An example of socialization would be sharing every meal on the mat instead of in front of the television because that is family discussion time.

2. **Segregation** on the other hand is the separation of parts of a society that are found to function better when separated from the whole. Even within the family there are some activities that people are far more comfortable performing in their own space on their own that could otherwise lead to conflict. It is like each family member having their own room.

3. **Ritual** refers to actions that are repeated, typical of interactions in a society of a certain situation. This is involved in micro level societies. They are the actions that come second nature within the setting and expected. Tucking a child before bed can be a ritual within a family unit.

4. **Sanctioning is a form of social control that makes up a micro society.** This is the one on one interaction of reading another person's actions and expressions to determine the appropriate behaviour within the society. By interpreting these gestures and expressions members of the society react to different situations as they understand they should in that moment. For example, It is the standard that counts when a child is about to be scolded by the parent.

By understanding how these elements make the family unit you can better understand the interactions between the family members and the ideas and actions that link you together as a small society. As a society the family has overall institutions and policies as well as smaller components that may not affect every member in the same way.

If the larger policies that affect the group as a whole are not functioning then the family unit will experience stress. When considering the policies that govern the family every member must be taken into consideration since each individual forms the whole. However, the social roles of each member must also be taken into consideration. The head of the family is the one who keeps order by setting rules and enforcing them.

In the case of problematic children it could be a refusal to recognize their social role in the family. By assisting them to understand their social role and explaining how it fits into the society, children can better understand the need for such regulation. This is especially true if you actively involve the child and really incorporate their needs and thoughts into the policies that are set.

The Micro-system has the most immediate impact, including, for example, a child's home, school, and peer group. Still the fact remains that there is a power authority hierarchy within the family society and each member has their societal roles. Using applied sociology within the family unit is very similar to practicing it at the micro level. The micro level focuses on the smallest societies which include the family. Like any applied sociologist in order to use the science within your society you must first understand that society.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III**

1. Discuss the role played by the family as a component of micro-system.
2. Briefly explain how the micro-system influences the child in a bi-directional way.

### **4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- The family is the most important unit of society and plays an indispensable role in fulfilling the emotional and physical needs of individuals.
- *The Family is the basic unit of society.*
- The factors responsible for interaction within a society include socialisation, ritual, segregation and sanction.
- The head of the family is the one who keeps order by setting rules and enforcing them.
- Micro level societies are families, church groups, schools and the like. Though it may be a very small group of very like-minded people.
- The Microsystem has the most immediate impact, including, for example, a child's home, school, and peer group.

### **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

As a teacher, briefly explain the impact of the school as a micro-system.

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## **UNIT 6 SOME SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE FAMILY-BASED**

### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity I
  - 2.2 How to Study this Unit
  - 2.3 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Meaning of Social Institutions
  - 3.2 Family as an Institution
  - 3.3 Family as a Relationship
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Society, just like any other biological organism, is made up of interrelated units that aid its smooth functioning. These unified units are known as social institutions. The family is generally recognized as a social institution because it is a system of norms that aims to achieve some goals or activity that people consider significant, such as reproduction, socialisation, affection and protection, maintenance, and placement. However, family institutions cannot be discussed in isolation from marriage, sex, parenthood, and kinship. Consequently, the study of this institution provides hints to understanding the role of the family better in our society.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- identify social institutions that are family based;
- mention any four residence distinguished on the basis of family;
- enumerate any five system of norms in the family; and
- list and briefly discuss any two types of relationship in a family.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

1. Reflect on any observation you have made on the activities of both nuclear and extended families.
2. Think of the means (a system of norms) used to achieve some goals or activity that people consider significant.

3. Try to make up your mind as to whether this system of norms is important as portrayed by family institution.
4. Ensure that you do all the activities and the TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT before you check answers at the end of the book.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this unit.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Kinship:** Implies ties of blood, descent and marriage.

**Institution:** A regular pattern of doing things in society. An established law or practice, or the action of instituting something.

**Social:** A phenomena associated with two or more persons in a matrix of relationship in a way that the action of one person or others determine their behaviour.

**Bilocal:** Describes a family system in which a newly married couple lives near the parents of either spouse.

**Matrilocal:** Describes a family system in which a newly married couple is expected to live with the wife's family.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Meaning of Social Institutions

Society just like any other biological organism is made up of interrelated units that aid its smooth functioning. These unified units are known as social institutions. Social institution means a set of beliefs, norms, and values which define how people, groups and organisations resolve common societal problems. Similarly, social institution refers to an accepted, orderly and enduring way in which people relate to one another in a particular sphere of life. That is, it is the established ways of solving political, economic, social and religious problems.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is social institution?
2. List some social institutions that are family based.
3. Identify any four residences distinguished on the basis of family.

### 3.2 Family as an Institution

An institution simply means a system of norms to achieve some goals or activity that people consider significant. The system of norms in the family includes among others the following:

- 1. Reproduction:** Procreation is expected to be carried out legally within the family through marriage which recognises the status of new members of the society.
- 2. Socialisation:** Socialisation is one of the family functions through which skills and norms are taught by someone or several people. This enables members to participate in the society effectively.
- 3. Maintenance:** Man is the only mammal that requires care for a long period of time. This is evident in the number of years a child stays with the parents before he becomes independent.
- 4. Placement:** Legitimate birth provides a stable process of placement in the society. This is done through inheritance of property, succession of status and placement either in ethnic, kinship or religious groups.
- 5. Affection and protection:** This is needed by all human beings. It is the function of the family to provide its members with warm affectionate relationship. Thus, the family provides physical, economic and psychological protection to its members.

However, Family cannot be discussed in isolation from marriage and parenthood. This is because marriage is an essential step towards family formation. Despite the similarities, there are also considerable worldwide variations in family form. Some of these include: the structure of the family and where married couples live. For example, the family may be distinguished based on the location of residence:

- i. If the nuclear family establishes their own residence, it is called neolocal residence.
- ii. While the extended family of two or more generations living together under the authority of a head live in virilocal residence where sons settle with their wives in their fathers household
- iii. In uxorilocal residences, daughters bring their husbands to their mother's household.
- iv. Avuncular residence is a situation where a brother, his sister, and her children reside together.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Identify any five systems of norms in the family.
2. Briefly discuss three of the norms identified.

### 3.3 Family as a Relationship

Family is an element of a broader kinship network that links ancestors and descendants of a person. The family is central for the transmission of human values and the development of individuals into responsible and self-reliant personalities. Thus, family can be seen as a relationship, since it is made up of socialised persons who have need for interaction. Examples of relationship in the family can be classified as parent/ children relationship, husband/ wife relationship.

- i) **Parent/ children relationship:** This is the interaction between father, mother, and children based on the rules of authority or power relationship that exist in a family. This relationship could either be democratic- cordial, friendly and relatively peaceful or autocratic- based on fear and suspicion between parents and children.
- ii) **Husband/wife relationship:** This is the interaction between the husband and wife usually characterised by trust, companionship, intimacy, tolerance, recognition, privacy, acceptance and consideration.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. Identify any two types of relationship in a family.
2. Briefly discuss the relationships identified.

### 4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Family as a relationship is made up of socialised persons who have need for interaction.
- The system of norms in the family includes among others the following: reproduction, maintenance, socialisation, placement, affection and protection.
- Social institution means a set of beliefs, norms, and values which define how people, groups and organisations should resolve common societal problems.
- The family may be distinguished based on the location of residence. For example, nuclear family establishes a neolocal residence. Extended family live in virilocal residence, married sons in their fathers household live in uxrilocal residences, and married daughters with their husbands living in their mother's household. Avuncular residence is a situation where a brother, his sister, and her children reside together.

### 5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Find out from elders in your locality how family is distinguished based on residence. Write out your findings.

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## **UNIT 7 MARRIAGE INSTITUTION**

### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity I
  - 2.2 How to Study this Unit
  - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Definition of Marriage
  - 3.2 Purpose of Marriage
  - 3.3 Forms of Marriage
  - 3.4 Problems of Marriage
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Marriage is an essential step towards family formation. It is a universal institution. However countries vary in their specific norms and marriages are usually recognized only in the state that has legalized them. People advance many reasons why they get married. Marriage performs functions such as procreation, sexual gratification, cements relationship between families and provides feelings of commitment. Married people do encounter problems in their marriage once in a while. It is worthy to note that the ability to settle differences is indispensable if marriage is to succeed.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- define the concept of marriage;
- identify and explain any four purposes of marriage; and
- discuss any three problems of marriage you consider crucial.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

1. Read this unit carefully, it is not difficult for you because you are familiar with it.
2. As you read, take note of important points in the unit which you can discuss with your relatives or friends.
3. Most of what is discussed in this unit is not new, thus applicable to any society. Try to find out the equivalent in your locality.
4. Read any of the reference you can lay your hands on and note the essential points of discussion.

5. Do all the activities and the TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT before you check for the answers at the end of this book.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this unit.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Marriage:** Marriage is an alliance between a man and a woman which legitimises sexual access and children in society.

**Bride wealth or Bride price:** The goods, services, or money a family receives in exchange for giving their daughter in marriage.

**Polygamy:** A marriage of an individual to two or more spouses. E.g. polygyny and polyandry.

**Monogamy:** This is the marriage of one man to one woman.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Definition of Marriage

The concept of marriage has defined differently by scholars because of their diverse perceptions. Among the definitions of marriage include:

1. Marriage means a legally recognised relationship established by a civil or religious ceremony, between two people (opposite sex) who intend to live together as sexual and domestic partners.
2. In another view, marriage is a socially approved mating relationship that people expect to be stable and enduring.
3. Marriage is a social arrangement by which a child is given a legitimate position in the society, determined by parenthood in the social sense.

### 3.2 Purpose of Marriage

Marriage is one of society's most important and basic institutions. Thus, it is considered as universal. The following includes, among others, as purpose of marriage:

1. **Procreation:** This is important for the maintenance of human species.
2. **Sex gratification:** Sexual satisfaction is essential for relaxing tension and checking illegal marital sex.

**3. Love:** Marriage provides love which is essential for the sustenance of happiness in the home.

**4. Security:** Spouses provide each other social security which is especially important in the life of a woman.

**5. Companionship:** Married couple provides each other cooperation and human relationship, thus, eliminates loneliness.

**6. Child rearing:** The training of the culture of society starts from the family. Thus, marriage assists in training by educating children with basic moral etiquette, norms and values.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Briefly explain marriage in your own words.
2. Enumerate any six purposes of marriage.
3. Explain any three purposes identified above

### 3.3 Forms of Marriage

Forms of marriage is determined by many factors, but mainly by cultural and religious affiliation of the people involved.

**1. Traditional/ customary marriage:** This type of marriage is contracted based on the traditional rites of the parties involved. The union of the bride and groom is determined by the parents; hence they may influence the person they may give their daughter for marriage. The groom is expected to provide some traditional items and gifts to his bride. The marriage is polygamous in nature.

**2. Religious marriage:** This is performed according to the religions of the couple either in the church or mosque. The Christian marriage is monogamous in nature. Many churches require that customary ceremonies are done before the church ceremony since it provides greater stability to marriage. Muslim marriage is viewed as polygamous because it allows more than one wife during a man's life time.

**3. Civil/Ordinance marriage:** This form of marriage occurs in a court registry according to the laws of the state. It promotes monogamy thus, providing the wife and children stronger inheritance rights than they have with a customary marriage. It allows for divorce.

On the whole, whatever, the form of marriage, it is considered as legal hence, none is inferior to the other. Besides, marriage creates new rights, roles and new social relationships not only between partners but also between the kinsmen of the spouses.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Identify any two determinants of marriage form.
2. State the major forms of marriage.

### 3.4 Problems of Marriage

Even people who are happily married admit that freedom is reduced in marriage because spouses take into account each other's needs. However, it is true that despite the importance of marriage, some marriages hardly last. A lot of factors are responsible for marriage instability and problems in the society:

- 1. Economic hardship:** This could result from poverty or unemployment, which make the couple unable to cater for their necessity of life.
- 2. Cruelty:** This is an act of wickedness by either the husband or wife. It could be physical, emotional or psychological.
- 3. Barrenness:** This is the inability to be able to give birth to one's children.
- 4. Unfaithfulness:** This is the act of infidelity or adultery by one or both of the spouses which leads to divorce.
- 5. Troubles with in-laws:** This is the act of negative interference by relations of either the husband or wife. This brings pains, frustrations, and hatred to the family.
- 6. Incompatibility:** This is the difference that exists between spouses in terms of culture, religion, tribe, education, sex, and behaviour. This causes a lot of crisis in the family.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. Mention any six problems of marriage.
2. Briefly discuss any three problems identified above.

### 4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Marriage is an essential step towards family formation.
- Among the definitions of marriage is that, it is a social arrangement by which a child is given a legitimate position in the society, determined by parenthood in the social sense.
- Marriage performs functions such as procreation, sexual gratification, cements relationship between families and provides feelings of commitment.
- Forms of marriage are determined by factors, like cultural and religious affiliation of the people involved.

- There are three forms of marriage. These include: religious (Christian and Muslim), customary/ traditional and civil/ ordinance.
- Marriage is not a bed of roses as spouses encounter different problems in their marriage which lead to marital failure.

## **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS**

1. From your past experiences, what do you consider as the solutions to marital problems?
2. Identify and explain any three causes of divorce in your locality.

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

Ahmad, T.S (2010) ‘Social Change and the Nigerian Family’ in Yunusa K., Ololobou, C.O., Ahmad, T.S., and Abubakar, A.G. (Ed. 2010) Dynamics of Social Studies Education. Vol.2. Kano: Jaleyemi Graphics and General Enterprises.

Kadiri, Y. (2007) ‘Man and his Social Environment’ in Yunusa K., Ololobou, C.O., Ahmad, T.S., and Abubakar, A.G. (Ed. 2007) Social Studies for Tertiary Institutions. Vol.1 Kano: Solak Press & Publishing Company.

## **UNIT 8 KINSHIP SYSTEM**

### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity I
  - 2.2 How to Study this Unit
  - 2.3 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Definition of Kinship
  - 3.2 Functions of Kinship
  - 3.3 Aspects of Kinship
  - 3.4 Structure of Kinship
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In every culture, children meet relatives to whom they are expected to express emotional attachment. This state of being related to others is referred to as kinship. Societies all over the world practice one type of kinship or the other. Therefore, Kinship differs from one community to another, since, it is culturally learnt. Kinship is interpreted based on terminology, biological reference, social groups and kinship roles. Kinship performs certain important functions in societies.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- define the term kinship;
- enumerate the basis for interpreting kinship; and
- discuss the functions of kinship in our society.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

1. Reflect your mind on your past experience with your attachment to close relatives.
2. What is your relationship with people you consider as your closest relatives?
3. Do you see the relationship as worthwhile?
4. Try to make a list of twenty (10) members of your mother's relatives.
5. Read systematically and place yourself in the various exercises.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this unit.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Affinities:** Relationship through marriage.

**Cognate:** People with common ancestor.

**Clan:** A group of people believed to have descended through one line only from a common ancestor.

**Lineage:** A section of a clan localized in a particular settlement.

**Fictive kinship:** Exchange patterns resembling those of kin in which nonrelated friends offer services, support, and goods.

**Matrilineal:** This describes a family system that traces descent and inheritance through the mother's side.

**Patrilineal:** This describes a family system that traces descent and inheritance through the father's side.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Definition of Kinship

The concept of kinship refers to people who descend from a common ancestor or those who are affiliated by marriage. It is a group of human beings who are related by blood or who are socially related by marriage and perform certain important responsibilities. Kinship implies ties of blood, descent and marriage. People from a common ancestor are referred to as cognates or cognatic kin. For example, the Hausa people trace their ancestor to Bayajidda. While, the Yoruba people who assume they descended from Oduduwa are referred to as cognate kin. People who related through marriage are referred to as affinal kin or Affines. A family kinship may comprise of grandfather, father, mother, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and those other people who are related through blood or marriage. However, kinship differs from one community to another because it is culturally learnt.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Define the term kinship.



2. With relevant example, briefly explain the meaning of cognate kin.
3. Enumerate the components of a family kinship.

### 3.2 Functions of Kinship

1. It enables the temporal continuity of recognizable family connections over generations, despite the limited lifespan of a family's members.
2. Through relationships defined by blood ties and marriage, kinship systems make possible ready-made contemporary networks of social ties sustained during the lifetimes of related persons.
3. It enjoins certain social obligations when the need arises; this includes social support and material assistance.
4. It regulates sexual relations of whom to marry or not to marry.
5. It contributes to social order and to the prediction of behaviour in society. For example, the child learns all that is needed to survive in society from parents and other kinsmen.
6. Certain ceremonies and rituals customarily require the presence of and assistance of kinsmen. Some examples are marriage, death, and funeral.
7. It allocates certain rights such as property inheritance, residence, group membership and citizenship, and succession to office.

### 3.3 Aspects of Kinship

There are different aspects of the interpretations the kinship system. Among the aspects include the following:

1. **Terminology:** Descriptive kinship means a specific member of the family. For example, father, mother, son, daughter or sister. While, classificatory kinship refers to certain categories of kinsmen put together and addressed by the same terms. For example, grandmother, uncle, or grandson.
2. **Biological reference:** has to do with how one is related to people through one's descent e.g. father or mother.
3. **Kinship role:** This refers to the degree of closeness in terms of immediate and distant relatives which determines how a person interacts with them.
4. **Social groups:** This is formed through the eligibility of kinship e.g. lineage the family one is born into or the family one forms through procreation.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Identify the four aspects of kinship.
2. Briefly discuss any four functions of kinship.
3. Briefly differentiate between descriptive and classificatory kinship.

### **3.4 Structure of Kinship**

Kinship implies ties of blood, descent and marriage. People from a common ancestor are referred to as cognates. Those through marriage are affinal kin or affines. Kinship differs from one community to another, thus, it is culturally learnt.

In African society, the members of a kin usually live around together on a piece of inherited land from ancestors. The members of a kin at times have similar features and behave alike, that is, they are interested in the private affairs of their members. Kinship system gives a person his place in society. For example, he is the son of an emir. Kinship is traced through different descents such as patrilineal or agnatic kinship, a descent through male kins. On the other hand where descent is traced through female kins, it is known as the matrilineal system. In situations where descent is traced through both male and female lines, it is called bilateral.

Kinship systems are mechanisms that link conjugal families (and individuals not living in families) in ways that affect the integration of the general social structure and enhance the ability of the society to reproduce itself in an orderly fashion.

Kinship roles change over time as daughter – Niece – Sister becomes Mother – Aunt – Sister – Wife affine.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III**

1. Briefly explain the three types of kinship.
2. Why does kinship differ from society to society?

### **4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- Kinship implies ties of blood, descent and marriage.
- Descriptive kinship means a specific member of the family e.g. Father.
- Classificatory kinship refers to certain categories of kinsmen put together and addressed by the same terms e.g. Uncle.
- Functions of kinship include: social support, regulation of sexual relations, allocation of certain rights such as property inheritance, and residence, as well as contributions to social order in society.
- Kinship is interpreted based on terminology, biological reference, social groups and kinship roles.

- Kinship roles change over time as daughter – Niece – Sister becomes Mother – Aunt – Sister – Wife affine.

## **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Find out from elders in your locality how kinship determines

- (i) Marriage stability.      (ii) Community development.

Write out your findings.

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

Osita-Njoku, and Uwaoma, (2001). *The family: A Socio-psychological Approach*. Owerri: Rescue Publishers.

Ahmad, T.S (2010) *Social Change and the Nigerian Family* In Yunusa, K., Ololobou, C.O., Ahmad, T.S., and Abubakar, A.G. (Eds). *Dynamics of social Studies Education*. Vol.2. Kano: Jaleyemi Graphics and General Enterprises.

## **UNIT 9 PARENTHOOD**

### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity I
  - 2.2 How to Study this Unit
  - 2.3 Word Study
- 3.0 MainContent
  - 3.1 Meaning of Parenthood
  - 3.2 Parental Role
  - 3.3 Parenting Pattern
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-MarkedAssignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The married couple is the social unit responsible for having children. Most couples accept this function. While, in extreme cases, some small percentage of couples may choose voluntarily to remain childless. The regulation of family size is also a responsibility of the married couple. Although public responsibility for family planning has been developing, this has not ruled out individual married couple family planning responsibility.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- define the concept of parenthood;
- enumerate the roles of parents; and
- discuss the age range for parents.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY**

1. Reflect on your past training as a child at home.
2. What are the methods adopted in the training you received?
3. Find out from your parents or elders about parenting in your locality.
4. Do all activities and the TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT before you check the answer at the back of this book.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this unit.

## 2.2 WORD STUDY

**Childrearing:** This means the way a child is socialized.

**Procreation:** This implies reproduction.

**Socialisation:** This is social learning.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 Meaning of Parenthood

Parents can either be the biological mother, biological father, or the legal guardian for adopted children. Traditionally, mothers were responsible for raising the kids. The father was out providing financially for the family. The age group for parents ranges from teenage parents to grandparents who have decided to raise their grandchildren. However, older parents are financially established and generally have less problems raising children compared to their teenage counterparts.

Parenthood means parenting or childrearing. It is the state of being a parent, taking responsibility for nurturing children to adulthood. As a natural inevitable process, children are born, they grow up and mature. The parent may grow to the climax or limit of procreation. Subsequently, adult children marry and set up their own families. That is, initially, individuals are born into a family comprising of parents and sibling (family of orientation), in adulthood people have or adopt children of their own (family of procreation).

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Who is a parent?
2. Mention the two overlapping nuclear family a person is likely to belong.

### 3.2 Parental Roles

Parenting is the ultimate learn-as-you-go attempt. Few parents have no clear idea of how they will do it until they are doing it. But parenting style matters, not just because it affects the way children grow up, but because it affects your relationship with them. Parenting is a major social function of the family. This is because the main obligations of parents portray they have responsibilities for their children. Among the responsibilities of parents to their children are to:

Provide physical care: Inculcate discipline; develop social competence; and encourage learning. They are also to provide opportunities for education, self-development, and inculcate values. Parents are charged with an incredible responsibility by society. Society expects parents to do a good job, to create healthy and productive citizens. That is, parents must develop the human resources for the people who will carry society forward into the future. In most cases, parents fulfill these expectations. However, there are failures as well.

## **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II**

1. Make a list of any five parental roles.
2. What is the age range for parents?

### **3.3 Parenting Pattern**

A child has a mother and father at birth. It may be reared by one, both or neither of these parents. Although rearing by both parents is the most usual, this pattern is often broken by marital breakdown, death, and customs of separate residence of spouses or fostering. The practice of childrearing result into various parenting patterns like nuclear model, extended model, step family or blended model, single parent model, fostering and adoption.

1. Parenting in the nuclear model is usually carried out solely by parents and siblings in urban areas. It encourages individualism and self-centeredness. Democratic interaction prevails among family members.
2. Child rearing in the extended family is through collective parenting. This pattern usually prevails in the rural areas. Autocratic interaction is common which restricts children's behaviour. It thus encourages obedience, conformity, independence and a high degree of adaptability of different persons and situations early in life.
3. Stepfamily or blended family results from high rate of divorce. This kind of family requires re-socialisation. Studies have revealed that children in this household is no better on average than the well-being of children in divorced and single parents households. This implies that step parents' role does not guarantee an improvement in their step children's lives.
4. Children raised in single parent family experience insecurity and aggressiveness. Life in this kind of family can be extremely stressful, in both economic and emotional terms.
5. Fostering means a situation where one brings up a child that is not related by blood as a member of the family. Most children raised by foster parents have been reported victims of child neglect. However, child neglect is equated with some parents' belief of good upbringing. That is training the child for responsibility and dignified labour.

6. Adoption refers to a pattern of child rearing where a person is taken into a family as a relation. For example, an orphan or rejected child is taken into a family as a son or daughter. Children raised through adoption are over-protected. This could result to feelings of insecurity, submissiveness and anxiety.

The process of nurturing children to adulthood makes them fit into the group or community effectively. However, this process varies from society to society depending on the unique features in each culture that determine the manner children are raised. These include family system, relationship between parents and children, religious beliefs, cultural values, social status of parents and place of residence.

Generally, child rearing in African society is done by parents and other significant people in the child's life through collective parenting. That is, a mother's sister is also a child's mother, as is a father's brother also a child's father. Therefore, this other man is addressed as a father and is expected to behave in a manner deserving as being called a father.

The following are ways for proper child rearing; family norms, values, and standards must be established and insisted upon, parents should lay proper foundation for the children from the start, parents should be close to the children and serve as confidants, parents' should create time between them and their children daily, parents should ensure they censor the kind of information children receive and parents should avoid showering children with gifts instead of spending time with them.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III**

1. Briefly explain parenting pattern.
2. Enumerate any five types of parenting patterns
3. Identify the unique features that determine the way children are raised in a culture.

## **4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- Parenting is a major social function of the family.
- The regulation of family size is also a responsibility of the married couple.
- Child rearing in African society is done by parents and other significant people in the child's life through collective parenting.
- Individuals are born into a family comprising of parents and sibling (family of orientation), in adulthood people have or adopt children of their own (family of procreation).
- Parenting patterns include among others nuclear model, extended model, step family, single parents, adoption and fostering.
- The unique features in each culture that determine the manner children are raised include family system, relationship between parents and children, religious beliefs, cultural values, social status of parents and place of residence.
- Parenting style matters because it affects the way children grow up and it affects their relationship with children.

## **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Make a list of the parenting patterns discussed in this unit.
2. With relevant examples, discuss any one of them identified above.

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

Ahmad, T.S (2013). Parenting Pattern in the Nigeria for National Development: Challenges for Social Studies Education. *Badala Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*.9 (9), 102-108.

Osita-Njoku, and Uwaoma, (2001) *The Family: A Socio-psychological Approach*. Owerri: Rescue Publishers.

[http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/what\\_is\\_parenthood#sthash.MEbnvpBN.dpuf](http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/what_is_parenthood#sthash.MEbnvpBN.dpuf)



## **UNIT 10 CONSOLIDATION**

### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
  - 2.1 Activity I
  - 2.2 How to Study this Unit
  - 2.3 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
  - 3.1 The Concept of Family, Family System and Structure
  - 3.2 Family as a Micro-Society
  - 3.3 Social Institutions that are Family Based
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In this Module, we are concerned with the family as the base of societal structure. The entire module is devoted to the concept of family. Unit one examines the conception of family. Units two and three focus on how family interacts as a social system and the structure of the family. Unit four discusses the problems of living in the family. Unit five highlights the family as a micro-society. Units six to nine examine some social institutions that are family-based such as marriage, kinship, and parenthood without which there will be no family. Unit 10 presents a summary of the entire module as a coherent whole.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- explain the concept of family;
- list and briefly explain any five structure of the family;
- discuss the nature of family system; and
- explain the meanings of marriage, kinship and parenthood.

### **2.1 ACTIVITY I**

1. Try to reflect on the major points of the previous units.

2. Go over the previous activities and TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS. Take note of the areas of difficulty with the aim of studying the units in details.
3. This unit serves as a summary, therefore, attempt all the given activities and TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS.
4. Do not check for the answers at the end of the book until you have attempted the activities.

## 2.2 How to Study his Unit

1. Carefully this Unit, noting and mastering the major points.
2. Attempt the self-assessment exercise and tutor-marked assignments in this unit.

## 2.3 WORD STUDY

**Marital roles:** This implies the roles played by both couple in their household.

**Dowry:** A property which a wife brings to her husband's house to endow the marriage e.g. land or money.

**Divorce:** This is the legal termination of a marriage.

**Parenting:** This means childrearing or socialisation.

## 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

### 3.1 The Concept of Family, Family System and Structure

The family is a basic social unit, regarded as the corner stone of society. This is because every society depends on the continued reproduction of new generations of the population for its existence.

The definition of the family differs from society to society. Thus, family could imply a married couple with or without children; unmarried couples with children; a group with common ancestors; a person with children; a kinship group united by blood or marriage. The functions performed by family such as protection, socialisation, and status placement are common all over the world, thus makes it a universal institution. Generally, all people must belong and participate in one or two of the following family in their life time for example, family of orientation or family of procreation.

A family system is a social and/or biological construction made up of a set of people related by blood or intention. Similar to other operational social systems, the family unit is structured in a way that does not allow any of its Members to function in isolation. This relationship is determined by the importance of family values to the structure and operation of the family system. Therefore, families with strong values

are able to identify these values in others quickly, which then produces a new generation with similar belief. On this basis, each member of the unit influences and affects every other part of his social network. Thus, the family is viewed as complete and each type of family is part of a larger kinship system. The key components to the successful functioning of a family system include family influence, Family bonds, communication and coping mechanism.

The traditional family structure (nuclear family) is considered a family support system involving two married individuals providing care and stability for their biological offspring. However, this two-parent, nuclear family has become less dominant, and alternative family forms such as extended, single family, step family, and grandparent family have become more common.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I**

1. Cite any three definitions of the family.
2. Which family structure is more common in your locality?
3. State one importance of family value.

### **3.2 Family as a Micro-Society**

The family is the most important unit of society and plays an indispensable role in fulfilling the emotional and physical needs of individuals. The factors responsible for interaction within a society include socialisation, ritual, segregation and sanction. Micro level groupings are more intimate societies that many people automatically identify with first. Micro level societies are families, church groups, schools and the like. Though it may be a very small group, it is very much of like-minded people. The head of the family is the one who keeps order by setting rules and enforcing them. The micro-system has the most immediate impact, including, for example, a child's home, school, and peer group. Still the fact remains that there is a power hierarchy within the family society and each member has their societal roles.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II**

1. Mention any two components of a micro-system.
2. Explain briefly why the family is considered the most important unit of society.

### **3.3 Social Institutions that are Family Based**

Marriage is an essential step towards family formation. Marriage means a social arrangement by which a child is given a legitimate position in the society, determined by parenthood in the social sense. Marriage performs functions such as procreation, sexual gratification, cements relationship between families and provides feelings of

commitment. There are three forms of marriage; these include: religious (Christian and Muslim), customary/ traditional and civil/ ordinance. The forms of marriage are determined by factors, like cultural and religious affiliation of the people involved.

Kinship refers to ties of blood, descent and marriage. Kinship is interpreted based on terminology like descriptive and classificatory, biological reference, social groups and kinship roles. Among the functions performed by kinship include social support, regulates sexual relations, allocates certain rights such as property inheritance, and residence, and contributes to social order in society. Parenthood means parenting or childrearing. It is the state of being a parent, taking responsibility for nurturing children to adulthood. As a natural inevitable process, children are born, they grow up and mature.

Parenting patterns include among others nuclear model, extended model, step family, single parents, adoption and fostering. Parenting is a major social function of the family. Parents portray they have responsibilities for their children. Among the responsibilities of parents to their children are to: Provide physical care, inculcate discipline, develop social competence, encourage learning, provide opportunities for education and self-development, and inculcate values. Parents are charged with an incredible responsibility by society.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III**

1. Define marriage in your own words.
2. Mention any three parental roles.
3. With relevant examples explain classificatory kinship.

## **4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- The family is a basic social unit, regarded as the corner stone of society.
- Scholars have defined marriage differently, for example, it is a union between a man and woman with the intention to live together for the rest of their lives.
- There are different types of marriage as well as forms which is determined mainly by culture and religious inclination.
- Kinship refers to ties of blood, descent and marriage. Kinship is interpreted based on terminology like descriptive and classificatory, biological reference, social groups and kinship roles.
- Parenthood means parenting or childrearing. It is the state of being a parent, taking responsibility for nurturing children to adulthood.
- Family system is a social and/or biological construction made up of a set of people related by blood or intention.

## **5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

1. Make a list of roles performed by parents in their household and describe each role.
2. Which form of marriage is commonly practised in your locality and how?

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

References are all those indicated in units one to nine.