

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION/SOCIAL STUDIES

TOPIC: NIGERIAN FAMILY LIFE LAWS

A Term Paper

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**TITLE PAGE**

**NIGERIAN FAMILY LIFE LAWS.**

DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to Almighty

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

This write-up is only elaborate on the family life in Nigeria. The emphasis based on husband and wife which is the bed rock foundation of the family for the consultation of society.

Monogamous family and polygamous family which are widely practised in Nigeria was also discussed. The functions of the family which one of the important roles in family for a child to be a functional member in the society from childhood to adulthood was also given in this write-up.

## CHAPTER TWO

## NIGERIAN FAMILY LIFE

First and foremost, I would like to attempt to the definition of the family before the next discussion. Many social scientists attempted to define family that: it is a group of persons living by the type of marriage, blood or adoption, consisting of single households, interacting and inter-communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sisters and whereby creating a common culture. Sociologist refers to the types of family as "elementary, primary or nuclear family".

The family of orientation that is the family into which one is born. The family of procreation, this is the family which one is established by marriage. It is exception includes the family people living on their own or single parent family.

In Nigerian context, family is described as a primary social group and the smallest, closest, warmest existing social institution. Once more, the Nigerian context family is defined as a social group which made up of a man and his wife or wives and their children. Most

individuals belong to two families in their life time.

### Types of Family in Nigeria

There are two main types of family practised in Nigeria. That is, "Monogamous family and Polygamous Family".

Monogamous family is simply mean a single household unit which comprises one man, that is, 'husband' and one woman that is, 'wife' and children. This family is also referred to as nuclear family. This type of family, is found in developed countries. It is also found among christian countries.

Polygamous family, this is referred to a multiple marriage. Though, there are two types of polygamous. These are polygamous and polyandry.

Polygamy simply mean a single household unit comprising a man and two or more wives and their children. Polygamy is common in African societies and moslem countries.

Polyandry on the other hand is where a woman is allowed to marry more than one husband at a time. Polyandry family is not common in Nigerian context. It is not practised in Nigeria.

## CHAPTER THREE

### FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

#### Procreation Function

In many societies, the family is the only recognised and approved institution for the procreation of human species. In traditional Africa Society procreation is the major functions of the family. For instance, a man marry many wives to have as many children as possible. To them, children are very important symbol of social status.

In the family, procreation is restricted within the family because the society wants to make sure that the child brought to the world is properly cared for, also protected and well socialized, otherwise the child will be a problem to the society. Secondly, sex is a physiological need of every man which requires some forms of control or else, it will get out of hand and it will lead to break down of order, of immorality and spreading of dangerous diseases.



### Socialization Functions

The family is the first primary group which every child comes to contact. The family therefore transmits to the child its values, beliefs, what is right and wrong, the family also initiates the child into the cultural heritage of the society.

### Economic Functions

The family performs the functions of care and protection of all the members by providing shelter, feeding, clothing and other important things of life. The most important role of the family is to prepare the child for adulthood which is through the provision of formal education and other training that will help the child to make a functional member of the society.

### Exchange of Affection

For the marriage couple sex act is not only for procreation. To a man sex, it is a psychological challenge and is a test for his masculinity, that helps him to reinforce his need to prove that he is a man. As for the woman she wants to be loved and appreciated for the demand for sex by her husband and to re-ensure her that she is still loved and admired or wanted. When a new baby arrived, it brings happiness and consumation of the marriage.

## CHAPTER THREE

### PROBLEMS OF FAMILY LIFE

In the family, sometimes, pressure and problems exist such problems are; health problem which affects many families. Such family or families' anxiety is present and there is unhappiness and unjoyful.

#### Financial Problems

In many cases, the family may need financial assistance that may be due to either death of the parent or retirement of the bread-winner of the family.

#### Parent/Child Relationship

Any child who steals from his or her father's and mother's purse, he or she is a problem to the family because, he could mature from this level to robbery.

#### Childlessness

This problem of childlessness is a serious problems most especially in Nigerian society. The parents of the man will not allow the son to live in the life of barrenness equally the parents. Of the woman will not agree their daughter(s) to live without child or children. This problem may lead to serious marital friction including infidelity.

### Conclusion

The Nigerian family life is similar to many other African countries family life. Nigerian context living in multi-cultural society, our family life has the same similarity despite the tribal diversity. Man is the head of the family. Though, some ethnic groups in Nigeria have diversity cultures in some cases. Nigeria adopting in polygamous and monogamous families.

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REFERENCE

Lecture Note on Essential of Social Studies.