

## **S.5 CRE/DIVINTY Notes**

### **Topic | FAMILY**

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#### **A FAMILY**

A family is a basic unit of a society where people are loved and accepted. It consists of a husband, wife, children and relatives.

#### **Types of families**

There are two types of families

- (i) Extended families  
This is a type of family which comprises of father, mother, children and relatives.
- (ii) Nuclear family  
This is a type of family which comprises of a wife, husband and children.

#### **Merits of Extended families**

Discipline of children is maintained. This is because children belong to everyone in the family and anybody in the society disciplines them so they grow up in a morally upright way.

Security is maintained. This is because an extended family has wide membership, boys defend the community against external attacks.

It helps reduce incest. This is because in an extended family children grow up knowing their relatives because they stay with them.

Culture is preserved in an extended family. Culture is easily passed on to the children. They grow up knowing their clans, how to greet their elders because they are taught by them.

In times of death of parents, children of the deceased are looked after by the extended family mainly the aunties and uncles. This limits their suffering.

There is harmony in a home. In times of disputes, land inheritance, one of the family members participates in the reconciliation of conflicting parties hence bringing about peace.

Raising of bride wealth. Members of the extended family assist in joining effort to fundraise for bride wealth of their sons which leads to proper marriage of their sons.

It provides a sense of identity, solidarity and corporation. The children in the family grow up with a spirit of sharing because they are brought up together.

Labour force is provided. Members of the extended family contribute towards the production of what is consumed, this helps to reduce famine in a home.

Adult members in such families are consulted and provide advice on serious issues affecting the family and also choice of marriage partners which brings about marriage stability.

### **Demerits of extended family**

Sex abuse. Relatives of the woman are normally abused by the man and also boys and girls abuse each other due to constant sharing of beds at times which leads to arousal of sexual feelings hence sex.

There is limited privacy. Extended family members step in the privacy of man and woman since they are forced to share a few facilities available like the bedroom with other family members.

The family head is put to tension and is not free to play sex with his wife and wife cannot release sexual emotions because of fearing members who may hear them.

There is congestion of people which results into poor health conditions and some people are naturally unhygienic which leads to easy spread of diseases.

There is parental interference in a family especially if members are assisted in educating the family head or contributing bride wealth, then they will want to take part in decision making of their home.

The family head is overworked so he may be tempted to get money through wrong ways which may lead to his imprisonment or loss of a job.

There are quarrels, fights, rumour, and malice with each other which brings evils like witchcraft which at times leads to death. This is due to jealousy of a successful member in a family.

Laziness. Once a family has a successful member, the others tend to relax and wait for him for all the other needs which is so frustrating.

Provision of basic needs in a family is difficult. Catering for many people in an extended family is difficult i.e. providing basic needs for children and family members since they are many and things are expensive to buy.

Mistreatment by women(wives). Women always resent the presence of man's relatives, they mistreat them and abuse them which leads to conflicts in a home.

Land disputes occur among members of the family since they are many and each needs a share of the land to carry out agriculture to get money.

There is under development in a family. This is because it is hard to save and invest because of the very many members who have to be looked after by a few people or by one person.

### **REASONS WHY THE EXTENDED FAMILY IS DYING OUT:**

Adoption of western culture. Today people have adopted western culture like equality between men and women, right to divorce this has eroded away the extended family system since women have a say about the affairs in a home.

Education, there is a common feeling among the learned people that one should marry one wife, produce children, work away from home to avoid relatives who may be an inconvenience to them.

Greed/Selfishness, one neglects the relatives and only wants to look after his family even if they are able to maintain the extended family system.

Lack of accommodation especially in towns where houses and rooms are too small to accommodate many people and it is expensive to rent a big house.

Diseases for example Aids this has affected some of the cultural values that have been cherished in extended family for example sharing of wives and inheritance of widows.

Economic hardships given the high cost of living in a country it becomes very expensive to feed many people therefore people prefer a nuclear family.

Growth in the population. There is small space to confine all members of the same family in a particular area and therefore others migrate to foreign territories hence dying of the extended family.

Rural urban migration, it has broken the family network that existed in A.T.S. men go to towns to look for jobs leaving women and children at home so it makes it difficult for relatives to go in such a home

There is too much hatred, Extended families are dying out due to a lot of Jealousness and hatred which exists in extended families from the relatives this is due to Excellency of one of the family members in the extended family.

Modernization. unlike in the past where polygamy, producing many children, entertainment of visitors and relatives was common in a modern family a man looks at it as a form of backwardness and a wastage of time.

### **NUCLEAR FAMILY:**

#### **MERITS OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY:**

Mistreatment of the children is minimized since the parents love their children and care for them by providing for them basic needs of life.

There is unity among the family members since they are few they can easily bond and live together in peace.

There is freedom in a nuclear family, there is freedom of expression, movement, worship, since children and parents are free with each other.

Children are treated equally that is they receive equal love and basic needs of life hence growing up in a good life which promotes family stability.

Sex abuse is limited this is because children sleep in different rooms and parents take proper care of their children and protect them from evil people.

There is easy provision of basic needs of life to children since they are manageable hence providing/ensuring good welfare for them.

Education: It is easy to educate members of the nuclear family because they are manageable this enables them to get to higher levels of education, be employed and have a bright future.

Saving is easy therefore a family is able to put up investments and increase on their family earnings this is because expenditure is less and surplus can be saved.

There is social interaction, children in a nuclear family are innovative they can associate freely generate self-confidence and inferiority complex is eradicated since they express themselves freely with their parents

There is parental love and care, Parents provide love to their children, all what they need and help them to grow up morally by exposing them to the right media.

There is spiritual growth and development in a nuclear family, members easily carry out bible study and conduct prayers this helps them to enrich their faith and learn more about **God**.

There is respect among the family, Family members respect each other this is because there is love among them and provision of basic needs of life and a good communication in a home.

## DEMERITS OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY:

There is limited labour force; labour is not enough in a nuclear family especially when a wife is lazy and the children are young. Famine and dirtiness will crop up in a home.

Lack of real life experience; children in a nuclear family lack real life experience since they do not suffer and have maids to do their work therefore when suffering comes/sets in they cannot handle.

Children lack exposure to their culture e.g. circumcision, genital elongation, their family background, greeting since they live with their parents who may also be ignorant of their cultures.

Children of the nuclear family are ignorant of their mother tongue they speak English, this has led to culture degeneration and poor communication to elders in the village.

Children grow up without knowing their relatives since they live with their parents only this promotes incest which is a sin before God.

Selfishness. In the nuclear family children think about themselves only and ignore their relatives yet sharing is part of our culture and religion.

It leads to permissiveness children are left to do what they want e.g. Sex abuse, taking drugs, drinking under the cover of being loved this has promoted immorality in the society,

There is insecurity in a family; the family is vulnerable to attacks because of few family members who cannot give adequate security in a home.

The family can easily collapse on the death of a family head this is because no one will continue to provide the necessary requirements especially when the woman is uneducated and unemployed and has no money.

Too much love given to children in a nuclear family makes them to be spoilt they grow up in an immoral way i.e. they disrespect elders etc.

African culture is neglected this is because nuclear family is a western setting which favors western culture. Therefore, the children forget their cultural norms e.g. circumcision which is a transition from childhood to adulthood.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF AN AFRICAN FAMILY (HOW WAS THE AFRICAN TRADITION FAMILY ORGANIZED)**

The father was the head of the family and was the decision maker. The wife was inferior to him and took all decisions made by the man.

It was an extended type of family; it was consisting of many people who lived together in peace and they included father, mother, and childrenrelatives and ancestors.

Polygamy was encouraged in a family men were allowed to marrymanywomen as a sign of respect and to satisfy their sexual desires especially those men with high libido.

Divorce was rare in a family it was only allowed for reasons understood by the community e.g. when the woman was a witch, of bad character and denying a man sex led to divorce.

Incest was prohibited i.e. one was supposed to marry a non-relative and not a relative to form a marriage because it was considered as a curse.

Widows were inherited by the brother of the deceased or dead this was to give sexual satisfaction to the wife and also look after the children very well.

Children were very important in the family. A familywithout a child was considered cursed by the spirits and there was need for polygamy since children helped in expansion of the clan.

Education of the children was done by the community; it was carried out by elders and parents this helped to maintain discipline among the children.

It was people of the same tribe but not a clan to create a family they therefore discouraged intermarriages because they would lead to misunderstandings in the family.

Families in A.T.S were patrilineali.e. inheritance of property and status was through the father's line not the mother's line

Every one of marriageable age was expected to marry and form a family there was no room for spinsters and bachelors this was aimed at reducing sex immorality among/in the community.

Every child was taught duties and skills depending on his or her sex, girls were taught domestic work like cooking and boys were taught things like hunting this helped them to live as responsible citizens.

Upbringing of children was extended to the entire society, neighbors and relatives. They carried out guidance and counselling to them, gave them food and instilled discipline in them. This led to proper upbringing and discipline among the children.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN FAMILIES (FAMILY LIFE IN MODERN SOCIETY)**

Headship can either be by man or woman there are many women headed families due to woman emancipation, education, loss of a husband where woman can support their families economically.

The nuclear family system of family is encouraged most people hate extended system because of economic hardships, modernity and western influence.

Divorce is common today in families this is promoted by factors like of adultery, drunkenness, and lack of sexual satisfaction which makes children to suffer.

Discipline of children has declined. parents have lost control over their children due to being busy at work and permissiveness in society hence moral decay.

Mixed families are common; many people are married to people of different tribes and customs in order to form a family hence leading to misunderstanding among the members and decline in African culture

Family planning is encouraged; use of family planning methods e.g. condoms is encouraged this is aimed at minimizing the number of children in a family since people prefer few children.

Family life is optional it's not an obligation to marry and form a family i.e. one chooses to marry or not and still receive respect in society.

There is equality; there is equality between man and women in the family this is due to woman emancipation women are treated as equal to men they can also do what men can do.

There is freedom of choice of a marriage partner in beginning a family. some boys make their own choices and also the girls which promotes love in their families.

Widows are free to remarry or stay single; they are no longer inherited because of Aids and also the brothers of the dead fear to take on an additional responsibility.

Parent child education is at the decrease as parents especially fathers rarely have time to talk about family issues with their children. since they are busy with the work and looking for money.

Most families are monogamous; polygamy is discouraged by factors like economics, Christianity and it's expensive to look after many people.

Family life is disrupted by employment outside home area men work in towns and end up with school girls, prostitutes and concubines which leads to divorce.

### **CAUSES OF CHANGES IN FAMILY PATTERNS TODAY:**

Permissiveness today; Today people have the freedom to have a family or not to determine the number of children one would wish to produce. Unlike in A.T.S where children were treasured.

Formal education which has undermined the values attached to producing many children for prestige, bride wealth, and sources of labour as well as polygamy which assisted men of high libido to satisfy their sexual desires.

Women emancipation which has led some women to undermine family life and live single lives since they can look after themselves very well.

Urbanization today this has promoted nuclear families and indiscipline among children this is because there is a high cost of living and a busy schedule of parents.

Western influence has led to increased level of selfishness in a family unlike in A.T.S where communal sharing and care was given to the less privileged such as the orphans and widows.

Failure of children to involve parents in choosing a marriage partner to form a family has encouraged the practice of incestuous families which is a sin before God and our traditional culture.

Technological advancement has encouraged the use of modern family planning methods which limit the number of children in a family unlike in A.T.S the more children one produced the more respect they received.

Modernization has led to breakdown into cultural ties (extended families) to the extent that some children in urban area grow up without knowing their relatives in other areas. This has made them miss the valuable cultural norms from relatives.

Rural-urban migration due to seeking employment opportunities in urban areas it has paved way for inter-marriages since people mix up with many people of different tribes and races and end up making a family.

The influence of religion especially Christianity that strongly advocates for monogamy as the ideal family state God created one wife for Adam thereby satisfying monogamy.



The nature of the job in that some jobs are very demanding that one has little time left for the family they even separate for a while this has caused divorce in families as one part feels frustrated.

Aids disease this has left families in a state of widowhood and widowers. It has also killed the practice of wife inheritance that used to be common in the past.

Political instability this sometimes displaces families when there is war e.g. because of the war in northern Uganda some families became disintegrated by moving in different towns and cities hence death of the extended families.

### **RIGHTS OF A FAMILY IN THE MODERN SOCIETY:**

Right is what one is entitled to.

The universal declaration of human rights drawn up by the united nations general assembly says.

Men and women of full age have a right to marry and form a family and produce children since they lead to expand the clan.

Everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of a family and your life. The husband has to earn sufficient income to ensure this.

It has a right to be self-reliant and efficiently economically through government providing enabling social and economic policies for example giving out loans to the poor so as to invest get profits and buy food

It has a right to educate children; children have a right to be educated both by direct parental guidance and by their having access to formal education in order to have a brighter future, and live a better life.

It has a right to have children. Parents have a right to have as many children as they want without being subjected to undue pressure to limit birth for example in china the government limits a family to production of only two children because of over population.

A family has a right to be in a stable marriage. The family should be allowed to stay together in permanent union with husband, wife and children until they have grown. Children have a right to parental care and guidance.

Children have a right to inherit property of the deceased parents. They have to inherit 75% of the property in Uganda. In order to ensure a decent living after the death of their parents.

Everyone has a right to own property ,as well as in association with others in order to make profits and improve on their earning.eg one can make a company with others and they do bussiness

It has a right to freedom of worship, speech movement and other family members have a right to worship the God they want in order to improve on their faith and move to any part of the country without limitation if they are not criminals.

A family has a right to produce the number of children they want,without interference from the state, since children help to look after their parents in old age.

### **DUTIES OF A FAMILY:**

A duty is a responsibility;

It has a duty to obey state laws and impart the same spirit among children and other family members in order to live in peace.

It has a duty to train its children to be responsible children/citizens and cater for their basic needs i.e. food, cloth and education in order to live a decent life.

It has duty to provide quality labour to the state this contributes to the development of a country by producing quality goods and services to the country.

A family has a duty of imparting discipline and respect for one another, this promotes peace and unity among family members and in the society members.since elders feel honoured

It has a duty of training children in different role depending on age and sex like boys have to learn brick laying and girls have to learn cooking for self-reliance in future.

It has a duty of imparting cultural values to young (Generation) so as to maintain and promote those good cultural values e.g. in Mbale all the males have to go undercircumcision as a transition from childhood to adulthood.

The family has a duty of producing children that can contribute to the expansion of the clan and the society.they also help in providing labour in the garden hence food supply

It has a duty of providing protection to its members against danger i.e. insecurity and pornography by regulating what they watch on TV which leads to morality.

It has a duty providing guidance and counselling to its member in order to discipline and provide love and emotional support to its members in times of trouble. which helpsto reduce on cases of suicide in the country.

It has a duty to provide political stability by discouraging antigovernment activities though exposing cases of insecurity to security organs of the country like police.so as to ensure law and order in society

### **HOW WERE CHILDREN EDUCATED IN A.T.S?**

Children belonged to the community and not the parents only and were educated in the following ways.

It was a joint responsibility of every member in the community and they taught them various aspects of day today life which enabled them to be good husbands and wives in future.

Mothers during infancy where very caring and responsible, they imparted important values into their children like how to greet to work which enabled the children to grow very well.

During boyhood and girlhood, the elder brothers and sisters rendered a hand in educating their young brothers and sisters. they were taught a number of activities like cooking, making ropes, marking small houses etc.

Young ones were taught about their clan affairs i.e. clan name, clan leader, and their ancestors this was through proverbs, stories and sharing from elders which helped them to preserve their cultures.

Puberty rites were conducted by the mother and aunties. boys and girls under went sex education they were taught how to keep one clean this was aimed at making them good wives and husbands and good future mother and fathers e.g. among the baganda adolescents were taught how to bath using herbs called “ebombo” in order to control bad bodyoduor.

Punishments were administered to unruly children in order to serve as an example to other children and also to reform the stubborn children e.g. among the bakiga of western Uganda if a girl got pregnant before marriage she was thrown off the cliff of river kisizi by the brother to die in order to serve as an example to the rest of the young girl.

Rewards were given. They were given to the disciplined children and they helped to instill discipline among other children in the community e.g. among the baganda if a girl maintained her virginity until marriage the man’s family would give a he goat to the aunties for appreciation of proper upbringing of a girl.

Young girls were taught by their mother their traditional role of keeping their home clean this enabled them to become responsible mothers in future e.g. in Acholi the young girls were taught how to grind millet using the grinding stone.

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN A.T.S.**

Parents and children had a very good relationship in A.T.S in the following ways: -

There was respect of parents by the children they knelt down as they greeted them like in Buganda because they were the transmitters of life.

Children were disciplined by their parents. They were taught how to behave in society and among themselves this helped them to grow in a morally upright way.

Children stayed with their parents it was rare for children to grow up from outside the family which promoted love and care.

Children ensured the basic survival of the community. If parents died they could remain alive because of the children through the names given to them and character traits

The boy children would provide security to their parents and their home i.e. they protected the home against external attacks especially at night from their enemies.

Children were submissive and obedient to their parents i.e. they did whatever they had to do which increased on their blessing from their parents.

Children provided labour in the garden which helped their parents to increase on food supply and prevented famine in a home.

Children helped in stabilizing the marriage relationship between husband and wife that is they sealed a relationship because it was hard for a woman who had children to abandon them and leave the home since they would suffer

Children were source of prestige to their parents' commanded respect from society after getting many children especially if they were disciplined.

Children were source of security to their parents especially at old age for they took care of them by providing food and ensured their decent burial.

The choice of the children's marriage partner was made by the parents which ensured a stable and happy marriage for their children since they had more wisdom.

However, This Relationship Was Interfered with to a Smaller Extent.

In A.T.S a boy was highly regarded than a girl. Boys were superior to the girls which was a form of discrimination yet all were created in Gods image.

Children were source of family stability in marriage. Yet Christian marriage has to be stable with or without children. Children are a blessing from God.

Christianity gives a chance to children to look for their own marriage partners while in A.T.S it was the parents who made a choice for their children.this made the children to get married to men they didnt love

A girl was looked at as a source of wealth because of the bride wealth while in Christianity God is the source of wealth he blesses people that he loves.

A boy was looked at as a source of security against enemies while in Christianity God is the protector and if he does not protect the city the night watch men guard in vain.

### **RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD:**

This refers to the act of parents taking care in upbringing of their children as morally upright and socially acceptable in society.

Responsible parenthood involves; -

Having an obligation to care for their children spiritually i.e. bringing them up in a God fearing way by encouraging them to go to church regularly.

It involves taking into account the size of the family. How many children one has and should have children that they can look after with ease without inconveniencing other people.

Responsible parents teach their children house hold work depending on the age and sex in order to grow up as responsible children so as to be responsible father s and mothers in future.

Responsible parents teach children means of survival e.g. farming, brick laying, poultry, hair dressing this helps to prevent poverty in a home. Since they earn some money.

Responsible parents have to care for their children materially. The bible says who does not provide for (his own) and those who are his own especially these who are members of his house hold is worse of the non-believers (1timothy 1:5-8)

Responsible parents have to take interest in the friends of their children because bad company ruins good character and the children end up smoking, taking drugs and getting involved in sex.

Responsible parents have to assist their children to choose the right career by assisting them to choose the right combination this helps them to set good goal in future hence having a bright future.

Responsible parents have to assist their children in choosing a marriage partner and help them with marriage arrangements like paying bride wealth this helps to stables marriage.

Responsible parents need to make sure that their children know their relative through regular visits and culture practices this helps them to avoid incest and embarrassment.

Parents should give their children proper health treatment by responding to all immunization programs. To enable them grow properly and develop well as children.

Parents need to have a steady source of income in order to be in position to provide the basic requirements of life and also invest for their children in order to have a good life.

Responsible parent provides their children with leisure activities e.g. TV sets, taking out to beaches and for swimming and also should monitor their leisure activities this helps them to relax and avoid leisure misuse.

Responsible parents have to educate their children in order to enable them fit in the current world by taking them to necessary schools and up to university so that they get skills and be employed

### **IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICING RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.**

It promotes love and harmony in a family i.e. love between parents and children since parents provide basic needs of life to their children.

It helps children to fit well in the society after being equipped with life skills, once they are taught practical work by parents e.g. agriculture.

it prepares family members especially children for future tasks in their homes e.g. cooking, showing hospitality since they have been trained up by their parents.

It helps children to grow in a disciplined way e.g. God fearing because their parents have brought them spiritually by teaching them how to pray and taking them to church for prayers.

It lowers the economic burden on the side of the parents since they plan for their family and take care of them easily without much stress.

It promotes family stability; it minimizes cases of divorce and separation because there is love and care for one another and their children.

The children's health is always good since they are always catered for by their parents i.e. they feed well and they are given the right medication when they fall sick.

It enables parents to save money and invest in the future for example construction of a farm since they have a manageable number of people to look after.

It enables parents to be outward looking to take part in the welfare of others i.e. the church, widows' orphans etc. this is because they have some extra money to spend on other people.

It leads to proper upbringing of children; this is because parents mind about the company of their children which helps them to avoid peer group influence that leads to drug consumption.

Problems encountered when practicing responsible parenthood:

Too much love from parents towards their children hence no punishment is given when a mistake is done. This makes the children to grow up in a poor way.

Influence of western culture. Children are permissive i.e. they dress and relate with friends the way they want without parental interference. This makes them to go for early sex which at times leads to unwanted pregnancies.

Poor accommodation; there is no privacy because of crowding in homes which makes children to go in for sex hence leading to unwanted pregnancies and dropping out of school.

Peer group influence. Children learn bad morals from their friend's for example stealing which at times leads to imprisonment, being sent away from school which destroys their future.

Lack of co-operation from the couple, like children spacing and favoring of some children at the expense of others. This leads to hatred among children.

Lack of good examples from parents themselves. They involve in adultery; they fight before their children which serves as a bad example to the rest.

Financial problems. This makes some of the children to drop of school, receive poor diet, poor accommodation and poor medical attention which makes them live a miserable life.

Fear to talk about matters of sex. Parents find it difficult to discuss matters of sexuality to their children so the children end up being influenced by peer to fornicate, which leads to unprotected sex hence spread of diseases like Aids.

Government policies at times limit the authority of parent's children are given much freedom to do what they want like going out for dances they end up being in disciplined and get unwanted pregnancies.

Absence of children from home most of the time. That is being in boarding schools hence parents lack enough time to guide them on many issues like house hold work e.g. cooking. Hence they grow up without knowing how to cook and they become bad mothers in the future.

Influence of the mass media. Children watch TV and learn many negative things from it, yet their parents have limited control because they are busy working. This leads to violence, rebellion and immorality. Failure on part of government to Ban romantic, novels and entertainment like "ebimansulo" (strip dancing) which have promoted sexual immorality because they arouse sexual feelings of the viewer e.g. sax club in Namasuba shows strip dancing, "ebimansulo" where ladies expose their nakedness. Which promote immorality in society.

### **EVIDENCES OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD IN THE BIBLE:**

A responsible parent finds a wife for his son and even wages bride wealth e.g. Abraham before he died he looked for a wife for his son Isaac, the wife was Rebecca and paid bride wealth i.e. silver, gold and clothes. (Gen 24).

A responsible parent protects his son from danger e.g. Moses' mother hid him at the bank of the river to save him from pharaoh's wrath. (Exodus 2:1-10).

A responsible parent brings up children in a God fearing way e.g. before King David died he gave his son Solomon last instructions to respect God and will receive whatever he wanted (1<sup>st</sup> king 2:1).

A responsible parent looks for his lost children e.g. when Jesus got lost in the temple in Jerusalem Mary the mother went looking for him (Luke 2:4).

A responsible parent gets the right marriage partner for his sons e.g. Isaac sent his son Jacob to his uncle Laban so that he may marry one of his daughter instead of woman who were foreigners who would make him turn away from God (genesis 29).

A responsible parent should fast and pray for his sick children in order to receive healing e.g. king David fasted for his sick child that he got out of adultery with Uriah's wife Bathsheba (2 kings).



Responsible parent should dedicate their children to God in order to get baptism e.g. Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to God and left him under the care of priest Eli and she used to make robes for him each year (1 Samuel 2)

Responsible parents provide their children with food e.g. Jesus used the example of responsible parents when he said that which parent can give a child a stone when he asks for bread and a snake when he asks for fish.

Responsible parents provide shelter to their family to ensure security e.g. Noah protected his family from the flood by building the ark (Genesis 7).

Responsible parents forgive their children when they do wrong in order to live in peace e.g. the father of the prodigal son forgave him when he asked for his wealth and misused it and he made for him a feast when he come back (Luke 15:11-30)

Responsible parents make clothes for their children in order to stay warm e.g. Jacob made for Joseph a coat of many of colours which he used to put on. Genesis

A parent takes his children to religious leaders for prayers in order to receive healing e.g. Jarius called upon Jesus to heal his daughter who was sick but Christ found her dead but raised her back to life (Mark 5:36-45).

A Responsible parent organizes parties for his children as a leisure activity, where they eat and drink and have fun. For example, Job he used to make sacrifices to God on behalf of his children during the party or parties.

### **HOW WAS RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD PRACTICED IN ATS (how did parents in A.T.S show that they were responsible).**

Parents in ATS were very responsible for their children.

Parents taught their children moral behaviors and respect of elders. This is because the elders were considered to be nearer to God e.g. in Buganda parents taught their children to kneel down and greet the elders using titles like ssebo and nyabo meaning Mr. and Mrs. respectively.

Parents taught children the history of their clan, culture values and the norms of their society this enabled the children to know their lineage and preserved their cultures.

Responsible parents taught their children sex education. This enabled them to grow up in a morally upright manner and also to maintain their future homes as responsible wives and husbands e.g. in Buganda Aunties took the girls to bush schools "okukyaliraensiko" to elongate their labia minora (pulling) in order to increase on their sexual arousal and satisfy their husbands sexually.

They disciplined their children both individually and as a community. The indisciplined children would be punished so as to serve as an example to the rest of the children e.g. among the Baganda of central Uganda if a girl got pregnant before marriage she would be isolated by the family members. They could construct a hut for her away from home to live alone.

Parents provided security to their children to ensure that their children were free from danger this was done to the extent that they would give them protection charms.

Fathers were responsible for the distribution of property to their children and this was written down in the will, this helped to avoid family conflicts over property.

Parents taught children basic skills of life this helped the children to become self-reliant and able to survive in society. This was done through informal education.

Parents helped children to know their relatives as a way of keeping the web of extended family strong and to avoid incest. They did this by sending their children to their relatives to visit.

Parents chose marriage partners for their children, this was mainly done by the aunties and uncles. This helped them to get the right person for marriage which led to marriage stability since they were considered to be wise.

Parents helped to pay bride wealth for their sons, this helped to ensure a good and stable marriage because bride wealth acted as a marriage certificate.

Parents enabled the children to pass through all the initiation rites. This was a way of helping them to become adults and get ready for marriage e.g. among the Bagisu of Mbale, boys approaching adulthood were expected to undergo the ritual of circumcision (Embalu) as a sign to show that they have grown and are ready for marriage.

Mothers were responsible for the nurturing, and upbringing of children into responsible members of society they tried as much as possible to train the girls as a responsible person by teaching them cooking and looking after children and making the home clean.

## **BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT PARENTS AND CHILDREN (BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN)**

Parents should treat their children in a special way as gifts from God. This can be done by providing them with protection against physical and spiritual danger e.g. Joseph and Mary hid Jesus in Egypt when King Herod wanted to kill the baby.

Parents need to bring up their children in a God-fearing way by teaching them the Bible, dedicating them to God e.g. Hannah took care of Samuel and later introduced him to priest Eli of Shiloh for further instructions and for God's service.

Parents should forgive and reconcile their children. Parents should be ready to accept their children as a way of correcting them e.g. in the story of the prodigal son the father was quick to forgive and reconcile with the son who had misused his wealth and made a feast for him.

Parents should guide their children to get good marriage partners who are God-fearing and full of self-respect; this will help them to get good marriage partners e.g. in the book of Genesis Isaac sent his son Jacob to his uncle Laban to marry one of his daughters and not foreign women who would make him worship foreign gods.

Parents should love and care for their children in order not to drive them into anger, e.g. St. Paul in his book to the Ephesians says parents don't treat your children in such a way, so as to make them angry, love them and care about them. Ephesians 6:4

Parents should bring up their children in Christian discipline and instruction so as to grow up as God-fearing people.

Children should listen to what their parents tell them. This is because parents are God's representatives on earth and have better wisdom than children e.g. the sons of priest Eli failed to listen to him; they carried out temple prostitution and were punished by God.

Children should obey their parents because it's the only right thing to do. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians he called upon children to obey their parents in each and everything.

Children should respect their parents in order to receive blessings and live longer. In one of the Ten Commandments, it says children respect your parents in order to live longer on earth.

Parents should provide basic needs to their children in order to grow up well. E.g. St. Paul says a man who doesn't provide for his family is worse of a non-believer.

Parents should pray for their children when sick in order to receive healing from God.e.g jairus invited jesus to pray for his daughter and she got healed

Parents should pay bride wealth for their children in form of material possessions. This will help them to get marriage partners and have stable marriages.

Parents should provide shelter to their children in order to be protected from wild animals and external attacks e.g. Noah built an ark and protected his children from floods.

**HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP:** (Ephesians 5; 21-33, 1peter 3; 1-8,1cor 7, and Gen 1and 2)

The husband is the head of the family (wife) that is the decision maker just as Jesus Christ is the head of the church.

The husband should love his wife just as loves his body and just as Christ loves the church and gave his life for him.

The wife should be submissive to the husband just as Christ is submissive to God, an unbelieving man will accept Christ because of the wife e.g. Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him her master.

Husband and wives should respect each other this helps them to live in peace and harmony Husband should know that their wives are a weaker and should treat them with respect.

There should be equality between a man and a woman both of them were created in Gods image e.g. in the book of genesis God said let us make man in our own image and he made male and female in his likeness.

Husbands and wives should play sex regularly and effectively in order to avoid sexual temptations which lead to adultery and also to satisfy their sexual desires.

There should be unity (oneness) between a husband and a wife they should bond and live together as one.eg in the book of Genesis God says that is why a man shall leave his father and mother and gets united to his wife to live as one.

There should be production of children between husband and a wife. God said go and produce and multiply and fill the world so children are a blessing from God.

There should be prayer between husband and a wife for family that prays together, stays together.

The relation between husband and wife should be monogamous it should be between one wife for one husband. God created Eve for Adam alone.

There should be companionship between husband and wife. God saw that it is not good for man to live alone and made for him a suitable partner. (Companion).

### **FAMILY PLANNING:**

It means producing a number of children you want to have and able to support and space the birth of your children according to the most convenient time.

#### **MERITS OF FAMILY PLANNING:**

It enables the parents to save and plan for their old age having many children leads to drain of financial resources which resulted into poverty in old age.

It eliminates the fear of unwanted pregnancies which leads to abortion which abortion will result into death of the mother.

It brings order and sense of responsibility into the parents. It enables the grandchildren and planned children to live in comfort and good care since they are manageable.

It reduces the social costs (problems) associated with many children like theft and violence because food is not enough for them and they lack satisfaction.

Family planning relieves the father of the burden of many children. The father has to over work themselves in order to provide basic needs this results into tiredness, anxiety and mental strain.

Family planning affords the couple to enjoy leisure and enjoy each other's company since they are less stressed with children and home responsibilities.

Family planning is good for the community, nations and mankind through family planning the country is able to regulate its population growth rate to be in harmony with economic growth rate.

It reduces on misery and congestion in a home and under nutrition since the number of people are managed in a home and as well fed on a balanced diet.

It decreases the dependency burden because parents produce the number of children they can look after rather than sending them to relatives to search for resources, which inconveniences them.

Through family planning the health of the child bearing mother is safe and is not endangered since she gets time to recover fully after each birth.

In times of death of the father, it reduces the inheritance problems because the children had been planned for already by the parents and even make a will.

#### DEMERITS OF FAMILY PLANNING/PROBLEMS:

It promotes self-respect and discipline in that the wife and husband respect and discipline in that the community respects them and they are contented with life and they have disciplined children.

It reduces on the rate of infant mortality this is because the parents are in position to attend and provide them with immunization against the killer diseases and good feeding.

Culture beliefs hinders the effectiveness of family planning like the production of more children for remembrance of the dead and prestige. This prompts the couple to produce more children in order to remember the dead.

Most husbands prohibit their wives to practice family planning they threaten to give harsh treatment to them or divorce them because they are interested in many children as a way of expanding the clan.

Most religion regard family planning as a contradiction to Gods will of being fruitful, multiply and fill the world so they regard this act as a sign of murder.

In polygamous homes the more children one has the more she expects from her husband's property hence this leads to production of more children that one will fully look after.

Some people lack proper education about family planning. They are ignorant about family planning especially the illiterates and they end up misusing it and becoming pregnant.

Some methods cause psychological tension in the process of playing sex e.g.withdraw method which makes sex meaningless and purposeless the man with draws his organ(penis) from the woman's organ(vagina) at the moment when sex it is at its best.

Some family planning methods are irreversible e.g.serializationin case of calamity like the death of all children the couple remains with no kids since the fallopian tube of the woman were cut.

Family planning and its methods have contributed to sexual immorality, since the people involved are assured of preventing pregnancy and STDs and AIDs using condoms.

Woman find consolation in children especially the uneducated, poor, and unemployed so they prefer to produce more children who can entertain them.

Some methods are only available to people in urban areas hence villagers miss them making it difficult to plan for their families e.g. spermicides.

Some methods are ineffective i.e. not 100% safe and may lead to unwanted pregnancies e.g. the withdraw method since some sperms may escape before ejaculation and make a woman pregnant.

Health problems. Some family planning methods are very dangerous to mothers e.g. injections which causes excessive bleeding, weight gain and excessive weight loss and severe headache.

### **CHRISTIANITY AND THE CHURCH TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING METHODS:**

To a larger extent:

Christianity is not in line with family planning because of the following reasons;

God provides for his people, so they should produce many children since God provides for the birds of the air and also provides for them (Matt 9:29, Luke 12:24-25)

Children are a blessing from God hence blessings should not be minimized. A childless marriage is unhappy so if God blesses you with child bearing produce children.

Family planning methods promote immorality since there are less chances of being pregnant and yet immoral people will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-22

Sex play is a God given gift to be enjoyed in marriage therefore to interrupt this exercise using the withdraw method is to abuse and undermine God's intention of enjoying sex.

It affects the physical integrity of a person. Methods like sterilization involves the cutting of the body parts i.e. the fallopian tubes of a woman yet we were created in the image of God.

The roman catholic church strongly opposes the artificial family planning they say it's against the dignity of women because of their disadvantage they only encourage natural methods for example safe days.

The protestant church recommends family planning methods provided they're not intended for sexual immorality but to space the children.

The body of a person is a temple of a Holy Spirit and they and the Holy Spirit dwells in it, methods like pills affect the proper functioning of the body because they deposit hormones in it.

Family planning methods denies Christians a right to exercise their charitable virtues of adoption of children because they are busy looking after their children that they had planned for.

Abortion as a method of family planning is paramount to murder of the unborn and yet a person has no right to kill a person. It contradicts with God's plan for mankind. God created man and woman to procreate he said go and produce and multiply and fill the world (Genesis 2:28).

### **FAMILY IN THE BIBLE:**

The husband is the head of the family and as the head is to protect, secure and guide the family in the right direction e.g. St Paul's teaching to the Ephesians he says the husband is the head of the family just as Christ is the head of the church.

Having a family is optional this is because both a family and celibacy are gifts from God, that one can freely opt for (Matthew 19:11-12) (1 cor 7)

The families are meant to be monogamous in nature. In the book of Genesis God created one-woman Eve for Adam.

In a family there is equality between a wife and a husband which helps them to live in peace e.g. in the book of Genesis, God created both man and woman in his image, he said let us make man and he made male and female in his own image.

Children have to respect their parents this is because they are channels of life. E.g. in the book of Exodus in the Ten Commandments children have to obey the parents in order to live longer.

Children are a blessing in a family. The birth of children in a family brings satisfaction and happiness. E.g. in the book of Genesis Sarah was happy when God blessed her with a son Isaac after a long time of being barren. She gave birth in her old age.

Family is a divine institution and should be highly protected with a principle of faithfulness e.g. in the book of Exodus one of the ten commandments says do not commit adultery.

In a family, a wife should be submissive to their husbands and show them respect this brings about peace and harmony in a family e.g. in the book of 1 Peter Sarah was submissive to her husband Abraham and called him master.



husbands have to love their wives. This love has to be unselfish and should be extended to the children and the rest of mankind. Just as Christ loved the church unconditionally.

There should be sexual satisfaction in a family. Husbands and wives should play sex in order to avoid sexual temptations like adultery e.g. in the book of 1corinthians Paul says women have to fulfil their duties as wives and satisfy their husbands needs and husbands should also do so and should not deny one another sex.

Parents have to bring up their children with Christian instructions and morals and should discipline them. Ephesians 6:4.

END.