

Discuss the family problem of today.

The family is a unique social and natural institution. It refers to a related group of members, related by blood or affinity (by marriage) under one roof. As such, the family is one of the most fundamental units of society. As a social constituent unit, it tends to affect the activities and the pattern order that usually prevail in society. Consequently, all major developments whether political or social, educational or cultural, start from the family. It is therefore a laudable initiative international organization to decree the year 1994 as the year of the family.

In fact, the family is the link between the past and the present. It stands for the transmission of important traditional values from the past to the present. Indeed, it is here in the family that the young learn about culture, religion and most important of all, social etiquettes. The children through their parents learn to respect cultural values of the past and these lessons pre-disposed them to preserve these traditions in the future. The family therefore implies the perpetual flow of cultural and religious traditions from one generation to another.

Similarly, there is a striking correlation between the behavior of the parents and that of the children. In fact, the attitudes of the parents influence the children so much that most of the young tend to observe respect for the political views of their parents. Sociologists have highlighted the influence of parents on the political attitudes of the young. The parents confer indirectly the first political lesson on the children. The latter eventually preserve these attitudes when they have to take important lessons. Indeed, there is an intra-family relationship between parents and children. The relationship manifests itself in the future behavior of the young in and outside home. The family therefore represents a channel of transmission as far as political and social attitudes are concerned.

Parents are the first teachers of their offspring. The first lesson about morality and code of behaviour come to the young from their parents. The family is not only bound by emotions and affections, there is also a set of rules clearly implicit. All the members have to respect these so that harmony and peace prevail in the family. These are rules not written but understood. Besides, for the young home means the centre of love and affection. Here children get the necessary emotional support that eventually consolidates a sense of confidence and a strong personality in them. Parents through their wisdom and experience are the most important counselors for the children. They

advice the latter about their careers, for school leavers are likely to go out and ask their parents what type of job they would do.

Interestingly enough every family irrespective of its culture or religion pursues on the one hand economic progress and material comfort as a pledge of prosperity and security. And on the other hand seeks proper equilibrium in the family. The parents work to ensure a family substantial revenue capable of satisfying the pressing need of the young for the right place in the right society of tomorrow. For the family, the goal is progress. This naturally means that in society, family is collectively oriented towards progress.

Unfortunately, however, families are often afflicted by serious crisis. One of the most serious problems that affect family is undoubtedly divorce. The separation of parents splits the family and result in the frustration of children. Indeed, the root that causes homeless children is frustration among adolescence and break down dialogue in the family is divorce. The situation gets worse where parents opt for re-marriages. The relationship between children and step- parents remains a perpetual strain, resulting in tension and unrest.

Besides, some parents tend to be authoritative and rigid in their attitudes towards the young. The absence of flexibility in parents children relationship is one of the main causes of the breakdown of dialogue in the family. Some people call it the generation gap. It merely implies the end of communication between parents and children. Where this problem arises, family suffers at large. Indeed, in frustrated family members are invariably associated with hooliganism, vandalism and other social offences.

However, we cannot confuse social problem with family crisis. For instance, drug addiction is a major social problem that does not start from family. On the contrary, it is a problem that owes its root to social vices that eventually affect family. Luckily, there are family therapists who possess expert knowledge to deal with the family problems and to find appropriate solutions to overcome them.

▲ family has a great deal to offer to society. Indeed to quite an extent, the pattern of social behaviour is closely related to the standard of life in the family. In other words, there is a remarkable correlation between the family and society. ▲ All major developments and trend of progress should start from the family. One of the major challenges today the refore is to find appropriate solution to the family problems that arises. In fact, a happy family is a necessary prerequisite to a peaceful and harmonious society.

