***SOCIAL STUDIES NOTE JSS 2***

**STEPS IN MARRIAGE**

* **Proposal:** This is the time either the man or the woman takes a bold step to ask for the hand of the other person in marriage.
* **Acceptance:** The man and the woman must out of love agree to marry each other.
* **Parental consent:** The man and the woman who accepted to marry will now seek for the consent of their parent, who should agree as well.
* **Courtship:** This is the period the man and woman get to know each other better as they develop their relationship.
* **Payment of bride price:** Here the man has to go to the family of the woman with some of his kinsmen to pay some money known as dowry.
* **Marriage ceremony:** This is the formal joining of the man and the woman officially in a ceremony to become husband and wife.

**TYPES OF MARRIAGE**

The two main types of marriage in Nigeria are monogamous and polygamous marriage.

1. **Monogamous marriage:** is the type of marriage in which a man marries only a wife. Christian marriage and marriage according to marriage act are monogamous in nature.
2. **Polygamous marriage:** is subdivided into two – polygyny and polyandry.

* **Polygyny:** is a situation where a man marries two or more wives at a time. This type of marriage in a typical African society is a mark of the man’s high status.
* **Polyandry:** is a type of marriage where a woman marries more than a husband at a time. This type of marriage is common in India.

Other types of marriage includes:-

1. **Sororate:** is the type of marriage where the widower marries the sister of his late wife.
2. **Levirate:** is a practice where a man marries his late elder brother’s wife (widow). Also here, a man can marry his late father’s wife (widow) that is not his mother.
3. **Ghost marriage:** is the practice of marrying a wife for dead person.
4. **Infant betrothal:** is the practice of fulfilling marriage formalities for a couple (a boy and a girl) before their maturity.
5. **Fraternal polyandry:** is the practice where many brothers put their resources together and marry a wife.
6. **Endogamy:** is the practice of selecting a spouse from within certain social and economic class, as well as religious and ethnic group.
7. **Exogamy:** involves selecting a spouse from outside your blood related groups. It can be from another clan, town, tribe or ethnic group.
8. **Incest:** is a sexual relationship or marriage with a member of our nuclear or extended families.
9. **Homosexuality/lesbianism:** is the type of marriage or association between two men or women. This type of marriage is forbidden by law in Nigeria.

**PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE**

1. **Procreation:** People marry for the purpose of having children (for the continuous existence of the society).
2. **Companionship:** People marry to have someone to talk to, confide in, and share good times and bad times with.
3. **Economic benefits:** People marry to merge their resources and live a comfortable life.
4. **Sexual satisfaction:** People marry to satisfy their sexual needs, avoid promiscuity or immorality.
5. People marry so as to be seen as a responsible person in society.
6. People marry to eradicate inter and intra ethnic conflict and to promote peace and unity in the society.

**CONDITIONS FOR MARRIAGE**

1. **Physiological fitness**: Marriage is for adult not for children. The two persons who want to get married must be mature physiologically. At least they must have attained the age of eighteen.
2. **Being psychologically stable**: People trying to get married should be able to control their feelings and manage their emotions. They must be sane.
3. **Being social stable**: They should be able to discuss common issues and create an effective communication channel both at home and outside.
4. **Financial readiness**: This entails that the people intending to get married must have something doing to keep the family together. At least one must have meaningful source of income.
5. **Compatibility**: They should be able to have good relationship and share similar opinions or interest.
6. **Counseling**: It is obtainable and compulsory in most Christian churches. During this period the intending couples are sensitized on the functions of marriage.

**EFFECTS OF LACK OF READINESS BEFORE MARRIAGE**

The following are some of the effect of rushing into marriage without adequate preparation.

1. Some people who rush into marriage get depressed and disappointed especially when they discover that their spouse is not what he claimed to be
2. Some people who were not able to be satisfied by their spouse engage in extra-marital affairs.
3. Some people run into debts which result in low standard of living and begging from family and friends.
4. Some were not able to solve little problem which result to fighting.
5. It leads to separation of couple who were legally married. By separation, the couple decides to live separate from each other.
6. Such couple might end up in divorce which is the legal end of marriage.