Emina Mehmedovic

FHS 2400

Mr. Jarvis

January 22, 2015

What are the different kinship roles?

Kinship is created by either family relationships created through marriage that are known as conjugal relationships (Strong and Cohen, 2014, p. 17). For example, mother-in-laws, grandparents, cousins and sons-in-laws. In having an extended family; married couples can form a kinship system. Each person in the kinship has a role in the family. For example, an eighteen year old man may be a son, a brother, a cousin, and an uncle. Personally, I am a daughter, a sister, a cousin, and an aunt. My role entails me as the oldest daughter to decide my future and make decisions; as a sister to take care of my younger sisters; and as a granddaughter, to learn new perspectives from my grandma.

The extended family also have rights and obligations in a family. My uncles in the family are like my second dads’. The cousins in the extended family have an obligations to be like siblings for me. Also, cousins have the obligation to be a friend. My aunts have the obligations to support me and take care of me like their own daughter. Grandparents usually have an obligation to take care of grandchildren and tell life lessons to their grandchildren. My nephews’ have an obligation to watch out for me and give me advice on picking out men.

In my religion, Islam were are known to have fictive kin. For example, one Muslim to another Muslim are considered brothers or sisters. Muslims also look out for each other like brothers and sisters. I have fictive kin in my Bosnian society. For example, all my Bosnian friends are separated from my non-bosnian friends. I find my Bosnian friends as relatives and sisters although they aren’t. In one way neighbors aren’t fictive kin but are extended support. As for friends they aren’t fictive kin either but, they give us support and comfort in different ways than a family does. Friends make you feel like you have many sisters and brothers. Friends are something separate from family and extended families.

In my opinion fictive kin and other support become family by creating bonds with each other. Thus, it gives us the feeling of safety and being comfortable in these bonds. All these relationships become like family by building trust, laughter, and memories that are embedded in our mind. It’s funny on how we just pick a human being and just become friends. It’s also interesting how human beings pick a person and create an instant connection that then becomes part of his/her family. Fictive kin may also include when a person has been friends with another person for longer than ten years or so. This friend of ten years or longer has make a long lasting relationship. This long friendship bond creates a family type of feeling which then the friend just becomes part of the family. I think fictive kin becomes “like our family” in the reason that people create relationships with each other that feel like family type relationships.

Reference list:

Strong, B, and Cohen, T.F. (2014). *The marriage and family experience: Intimate relationships in a changing society* (12th ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.