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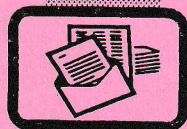


HISTORY

TEWW H₁

MODULE 2

The Development of Social and Political System in Africa



Unit 2:1 Modes of Production

Unit 2:2 Development of Social and Political System

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MODULE 2
**The Development of Social and Political
System in Africa**

- UNIT 2:1: Modes of Production**
UNIT 2:2: Development of Social and Political System

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MODULE 2
THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
SYSTEM IN AFRICA

Unit 2:1: Modes of Production

Unit 2:2: Development of Social and Political System

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2.0.1 INTRODUCTION

In unit Module one you learned about the study of man's history, sources and importance of history, evaluation of man, technology and environment, development of early economic activities African communities.

In Module Two you will be introduced to modes of production, development of social and political systems.

Readily carefully the explanations of the basic history concepts. Answer all the self check exercise questions and not forget to post your Tutor Marked Assignment to your tutor.

2.0.2 OBJECTIVES OF MODULE 2



At the end of this module you should be able to:

- Describe clearly what Mode of Productions is;
- Identify the different types of Modes of Production.

UNIT 2.1
MODES OF PRODUCTION

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2.1.0.1 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to unit 1 which is about Modes of Production. In this unit you will learn about Basic Concepts of Production and different modes of production namely the slave mode of production, feudal mode of production, capitalism and socialism modes of production.

2.1.0.2 OBJECTIVES OF UNIT



At the end of this unit you should be able to

- Define mode of production.
- Explain different types of mode of production.
- Describe concept of production.
- Show characteristics of different mode of production.

2.1.1 SECTION ONE: BASIC CONCEPTS OF PRODUCTION

In this section the discussion will begin on the definition of various concepts which are important in the process of understanding the stages of human development in history.

To recognise the stages of human development in history you need to be familiar with such concepts such as productive forces, relations of production, modes of production, and other concepts related to these ones. It is also important to tell the characteristics of each mode of production.

Productive forces

These are elements of an activity of using energy. The elements are human labour, objects of labour, and means of labour. Thus, you can also define productive forces as things which involve human labour, objects of labour, means of labour and means of production.

- a) *Human labour*
Human labour involves personal factors in the production. Process such as skills, experience and scientific and technical knowledge.
- b) *Objects of labour*
These are things which are subjected to man's labour. The objects of labour are found commonly in nature. They include land, minerals, water bodies (rivers, lakes and ocean/sea), animals and plants.
- c) *Means of labour*
These are the things people use in production. They include the instruments of labour i.e. tools of labour such as hoes, machines and tractors. Instruments of labour ease the muscular and physical energy of human labour. Labour is man's struggle against nature aided by instruments of labour
- d) *The means of production*
The means of production is sometimes referred to as infrastructure; things which include roads, railways, harbours, godowns and buildings.

e) *Classes*

This are economic groups distinguished on the basis of the ownership of means of production. There are those classes which own the means of production and therefore control society wealth and there are those classes which are disposed. Classes are also distinguished by their relation of production to the social division of labour and the manner in which wealth is distributed in society.

f) *Relations of production*

In the process of production people act on nature and at the same time enter into relations with one another. For example man does not go hunting alone especially if he wants a big animal. So he invites his fellow men. Some day himself will be invited by other fellow men. In other words they will need each other and therefore relate to each other. This relation of needing each other is called relation of production. Therefore in production we must have the productive forces and the production relations.

Mode of production

This is the combination of the productive forces and the relations of production. Mode of production is the way how production of material wealth takes place. It tries to explain how man has struggled with the environment in order to produce or sustain life. The mode of production is the means for life which involves the productive forces or the object of labour for example the natural resources of means of production given by nature such as land, forest, water for power and energy. The objects of production are the means of labour or the instruments of production. Karl Marx identified five modes of production which human society has experience. There are primitive communalism, slavery, feudalism, capitalism and socialism.

Primitive Communalism/communal Mode of Production

This was the earliest or the first mode of production in which the development of human societies have passed or began. All societies went through this stage, and it existed longer than all other subsequent modes. It existed through the Stone Age, and the Iron Age. People were powerless before their surroundings. They gathered and ate whatever nature offered. They ate roots, insects, wild fruit and nuts. Man's first tools were crude stones and sticks.

The discovery of fire was a significant development because it enabled man to cook food, warm himself, clear and live in cold areas. The crude nature of tools forced people to live and work together. Hadzabe, Tindiga and Sandawe in Tanzania are examples of human societies which are still experiencing communal mode of production. The mode existed until 1000 AD which was after the discovery of Iron.

Characteristics of Primitive Communalism/Communal Mode of Production

- i) *Low Productivity*
Crude tools and low level of skills meant that he could not control his basic needs. So production was done in a cooperative manner. Labour productivity was low, yielding no surplus. In early period man used stone tools and lived by hunting and gathering. In that period he lived parasitically on nature.
- ii) *Equality*
In this type of mode of production there were no exploiters. All the able bodied people worked and shared the products of labour. People had to live together and jointly conduct their economy for survival. There was more or less equal distribution of the products of labour.
- iii) *Communal Ownership*
The means of production such as tools and animals belonged to all the members of the family unit. The Community owned facilities such as water holes and the land. The crude nature of the productive forces and the communal ownership of the means of production, brought about collective relations of production.
- iv) *Subsistence Production*
There is hardly any surplus production or food reserves. This is because of the low level of society and technology development. In such condition, people were always victims to natural calamities such as hunger and droughts.
- v) *Division of Production*
There was only sex based on division of labour or specialization. For instance the men hunted and gathered

food while the women took care of young and sick people at home. Also they look after cattle.

vi) *Absence of classes*

In primitive mode of production there were no classes. People organised themselves in families or clans because of low population.

Since the situation of the life of the people in communal societies wasn't stagnant, there was a change in the production process. So relations of production had also to change. Thus, there was the improvement of productive forces like the use of iron which led to the increase of surplus production. Hence, some people, became rich. The poor had to work for the rich. In this way classes appeared, and communal mode of production gave way to slave mode of production.

SELF CHECK EXERCISE ONE

Section one is over. Now, answer the following question:



1. Define the following items:

(i) Productive force

.....
.....
.....

(ii) Relations of production

.....
.....
.....

(iii) Mode of production

.....
.....
.....

2.1.2 SECTION TWO: THE SLAVE MODE OF PRODUCTION

In section one you saw the definition of various concepts such as productive forces, relations of production and mode of production. You also discussed the primitive mode of production with its characteristics and reasons for its decline. In this section the meaning of slave and feudal mode of production will be given. Also the discussion of their main characteristics and reasons for their changes to new modes will be met.

Slave mode of production was the second mode of production which followed after the communal mode particularly in Europe. But it was the first exploitative mode of production. The transition from communal mode to slave mode was made possible by the development of production and did not allow collective ownership of the means of production; and therefore equal distribution of the products of labour was not possible. The slave mode of production had therefore classes. These classes were slave masters and slaves. The slave also were stripped off their human rights because they were treated like commodities by the slave master. Slavery achieved great economic and cultural development. For instance in ancient Egypt the slaves constructed dams and canals, these facilitated many irrigation schemes there.

Origins of Slavery in Africa

Slavery took place in a few places in Africa. In Egypt slaves were used in the construction of dams, pyramids and in irrigation. Other Muslim areas in Africa also had slaves. This was during the epoch of slavery as was in Europe.

However, in some areas of Africa, there was no slavery as a mode of production. Slaves in those parts were used temporarily as captives of wars but later on these were incorporated into normal families. So slaves could not have the status of slaves on permanent basis.

Uses of slaves under the slave social organization was mainly in productive activities such as: cattle rearing, cultivation of crops and construction.

However, Slavery social organisation should not be confused with the slave trade. They differ in aspects like time:- while slavery emerged in Africa mostly around 1000 AD, slave trade took place after emergence of capitalism in 16th to 19th centuries.

Characteristics of Slave Mode of production

- i) It is a class based mode of production (slave masters and slave).
- ii) It is an exploitative mode of production.
- iii) Slaves were used as an instruments of labour.
- iv) There was brutality and absence of human rights.
- v) The means of production were owned by slave masters.
- vi) Slaves were bound to compulsory labour.
- vii) Slave maintenance was kept to bare minimum level. They were provided with food, clothes and medicines to keep them fit for production.

The slavery is the most inhuman social economic mode of production because slaves were owned as instruments of labour; slaves were sold like any other commodities, slaves were not allowed to marry; slaves were given minimum maintenance and highly exploited by slave masters.

Disintegration of Slave Mode of Production

There are many explanations given on the factors for the collapse of slave mode of production. The improvement of productive forces remains a basic reason. The improvement of tools simplified production and thus, the labour of slaves was not as important as before. As a result of the improvement of productive forces the slaves developed their level of thinking; and thus became aware that they were exploited by the slave masters. Hence, the slaves decided to revolt against their masters. Some of the slave masters and those slaves who revolted were able to own land. Thus feudal mode of production emerged and slave mode of production disintergrated or collapsed.

SELF CHECK EXERCISE TWO



Complete the following text by filling in blank spaces with words from the following set.

----- mode of production and it was the first----- mode because it used ----- as means of production. However it was treatment because it disregarded human rights. This mode of production ----- when modern and better tools were invented. Some African chiefs sold ----- of tribal wars in exchange for foreign goods such as beads, mirrors, and cloth, Slave mode of production developed a social relation of between ----- and -----

2.1.2 SECTION THREE: FEUDAL MODE OF PRODUCTION

This was the third mode of production in the order of succession. It was also an exploitative mode. It comprised of two major classes. These were the feudal lord who owned and controlled most of the land and the serfs who were dispossessed of their land. The serfs lived by renting the land of the feudal lords in payment of labour rent in kind and later on rent in money. Through the rent system the serfs were exploited by the feudal lords. These three types of rent system are;

a) **Labour rent**

Labour rent is rent in the form of labour service to the feudal (landlord). A peasant was required to work for say three days for the landlord in a week. He would work on his own plot in the remaining days of the week. This type of rent was most predominant during the early phases of feudalism.

b) **Rent in kind**

The serf was obliged to give to the landlord an agreed amount of the products (crops) of the serf's labour. For example, if the serf had harvested twenty bags of maize, he had to give five bags to the landlord.

c) **Money rent**

The serf was obliged to give to the landlord an agreed sum of money as rent. This type of rent predominated during the last phase of feudalism and it was reached only in Europe.

Characteristics of forms of African Feudalism

- a) It was an exploitative system. The feudal lords exploited the peasant through payment of rent.
- b) The major means of production in Europe and Asia was land, owned privately by the feudal lords. In African kingdoms it was either land or livestock especially cattle and tribute from trade.
- c) The peasant used land or livestock freely but they were obliged to pay this was not practiced in Africa.
- d) The peasants were bonded to the feudal lords by law. A peasant could not abandon his fief (land plot) freely without the consent of the lord (in Europe).
- e) It achieved major progress in the development of productive forces. (in Europe).

Disintegration of Feudalism

The breakdown of feudalism was caused by maximum commodity production which led to exchange and the growth of international markets. International markets were facilitated by the development of reliable navigation and other transport systems.

The ever expanding World market and demand for commodities increased technological inventions. Gradually some petty craft producers became large scale capitalists who employed hired labour. In the rural sector the feudal lords increasingly demanded cast rent. The rich lords started enclosing their land in order to secure it and work on it along capitalist lines. The poor peasants were thrown out of their plots. They formed a large army of labourers in urban and rural sectors. They owned no property but their labour power. The capitalists exploited this cheap labour accumulate more capital. In East Africa the form of feudalism which developed along the coast was known as "*Umwinyi*". In Buganda it was known as "*Nvunjo*" and "*Busulo*": in Haa and "*Nyarubanja* in Karagwe", and in Waha, Ruanda and Burundi it was known as "*Ubugabire*".

Thus, by the middle of the 18th Century in Europe, feudalism started giving way to capitalism.

The Similarities and Differences between Feudalism and Slave Mode of Production.

a) Similarities

- i) They are class based modes of production.
- ii) They have low levels of productive forces (low technology).
- iii) Production is mainly for consumption
- iv) They are inhuman modes of production.
- v) Slaves and serfs are owned as instruments of labour.
- vi) They are exploitative modes of production.

b) Differences

- i) In feudalism the productive forces (serfs) attained a higher level of development as compared to the slave owning system.
- ii) Towards the end of feudalism there developed crafts and artisans which created conditions for the emergence of manufacturing while in slavery there was none.

- iii) In feudalism mode of production methods of smelting and iron working advanced and improved tools while in the slave mode the level remained poor.
- iv) In feudalism there better implements for labour hence serfs able to produce surplus while in the slave mode there were poor implements with low production.
- v) In feudalism the serfs were in possession of means of production and material labour while in the slave mode of production slaves worked under their slave masters.

It is important to remember that feudalism took place in many parts of the world. Some of this features did not take place in Africa. In later stages you will learn about feudalism in greater details.

SELF-CHECK EXERCISE THREE



1. Explain in your own words the following terms:
 - i) Labour rent
 - ii) Rent in kind
 - iii) Money rent

2. Describe how feudalism broke down.
.....
.....

3. What are the similarities and differences between feudal and slave modes of production.
.....
.....
.....
.....

2.1.3 SECTION FOUR: CAPITALISM MODES OF PRODUCTION

In section two, you saw the main characteristics and the reasons for the decline of both slave and feudal modes of production. In this section the discussion will be on the capitalist modes of production.

Capitalist mode of production

Capitalism mode of production is the fourth mode in the order of succession. It is still the dominant economic system today. Capitalism is based on exploitation of labour by capital. Two major classes exist under capitalism. These are capitalist (*bourgeoisie*) and workers (*proletariat*). The capitalist owns the major means of production and exploit the workers. The major means of production under capitalism include land, minerals, industries, financial institution, transport and communication. The workers live by selling their labour power in the capitalist enterprises in payment of wages.

Karl Marx, is the father of scientific socialism forecasted that capitalism would die after workers unite and overthrow the capitalists through a revolution. Lenin, a Marxist follower implemented this in 1917 when Russia (USSR) became the first socialist country in the world. Thus capitalism paved the way for socialist mode of production through the workers revolution.

SELF CHECK EXERCISES FOUR



Choose the most correct answer and write the letter in the box provided

1. The fourth Socio-economic formation is
 - a) Feudalism
 - b) Socialism
 - c) Capitalism
 - d) Slavery
 - e) Communism

2. Karl Marx, Lenin and Frederick Engels were philosophers of
 - a) African socialism
 - b) Scientific socialism
 - c) Utopian socialism
 - d) Fabian Socialism
 - e) Primitive communalism.

3. Which of the following statements is true about socialist mode of production.
 - a) Public ownership of the major means of production
 - b) Classes were visible
 - c) People lived and worked together
 - d) Private ownership of properties.
 - e) Both A and C

4. Which statements explains best the capitalist mode of production?
 - a) A stratified society.
 - b) Public ownership of property.
 - c) Both A and D.
 - d) Maximum exploitation of labour
 - e) Absence of exploitation

5. Which one of the following is NOT a mode of production.
 - a) Communal mode of production
 - b) Slave mode of production
 - c) Feudal mode of production
 - d) Clan organisation
 - e) Capitalist mode of production

2.1.4 SECTION FIVE: SOCIALISM MODE OF PRODUCTION

This is the fifth mode of production according to Marxian categorization. In this system the class of workers is the dominant class it owns and controls the major means of production in the public interest and strives to abolish all exploitative relation. Under socialism the state controlled by the workers.

In socialism there is a central planning by the state which takes into consideration the needs of all the people.

Characteristics of Socialism

- i) People live together.
- ii) There is no exploitation of any government.
- iii) All major means of production are under the control of the state.

Difference between Communalism and Socialism.

In Communalism technology was low, thus production was also low, it is essentially for subsistence only while under socialism production is advanced and development is high and everybody has access to it.

2.1.5 SUMMARY OF THE UNIT



In this unit you have learned the definition of various concepts such as productive forces, human labour, objects of labour, and means of labour. Relations of production is an outcome of people having relation with another. While a mode of production is a combination of productive forces and relations of production.

You have also been exposed to various stages of human development in history. Communal mode of production was the earliest stage whereby people lived and worked together because of difficult environment. As the time went, improvement of tools led to the increase of production and classes appeared. Slave mode of production came into being.

In the course of the improvement of productive forces slave mode of production gave way to feudalism, capitalism and later socialism.

2.1.7 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT



Answer the following questions in the work book provided and then send it to your Tutor for Marking and Comments

1. Mention four characteristics of communal mode of production.
[20 Marks]
2. What are the main classes in the slave mode of production?
[20 Marks]
3. Outline three kinds of payments to the landlord during the feudal mode production.
[20 Marks]
4. Identify the main classes in capitalism mode of production.
[20 Marks]
5. Show the major characteristics of socialist mode of production.
[20 Marks]

2.1.8 KEY ANSWERS FOR SELF CHECK EXERCISES



Exercise One

- i) Productive force is energy and instruments or things involved in production process such as labour power, object of labour and means of labour.
- ii) Relation of production is the process of participation in production and sharing the productive forces.
- iii) Mode of production is the combination of the productive forces and the relation of production.

Exercise Two

Slavery was the second
Exploitative
Slaves
Emerged
Captives
Slave master
Slave

Exercise Three

1.
 - i) Labour rent : Rent in form of labour service to the feudal lord.
 - ii) Rent in kind: Rent in form of Products (crops).
 - iii) Money rent: Rent in form of money.
2. Feudal broke down due to :
 - Maximum commodity production
 - Development of navigation and other reliable transport system.
 - Advancement of Technology invention.
3. Similarities between Feudal and Slave Mode of Production.
 - i) They are class based modes of production.
 - ii) They have low levels of productive forces (low Technology).
 - iii) Production was mainly for consumption.
 - iv) They are inhuman modes of production.
 - v) Serfs and slaves are owned as instrument.
 - vi) They are exploitative modes of production.

Differences:

1. In feudalism the productive forces (serfs) attained a higher level of development as compared to slave owning systems.
2. Towards the end of feudalism there developed crafts and artisans which created conditions for the emergence of manufacturing while in slavery there was none.

Exercise Four

1. E
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. D

UNIT 2.2
DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS

CONTENTS

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2.2.0.1 INTRODUCTION

In this unit you will learn the development of social and political systems in Africa. You will be able to categories various political systems in Africa and explain the characteristics of the organisation of kinship, clan and ntemi system.

2.2.0.2 OBJECTIVES



At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Explain the meaning of Kinship.
- Define clan.
- Show Organization of Ntemi System.

2.2.1 SECTION ONE: THE BASIC UNIT OF ORGANISATION

The basic and simplest unit of social organisation in agricultural societies was the family. This was made up of the husband, wife and children. The family was also the basic unit of production. Several related families formed a clan. In some areas the instruments of labour (such as tools) and the objects of labour (such as land) were communally owned by the members of a clan. However, effective control of the major means of production was entrusted to the clan heads. It was these heads, for example, who were responsible for the search of the fertile land and apportioned land in agricultural communities. Their experience in life was crucial in providing guidance in the process of production. They also settled disputes, married-off the young, chose spouses for the young men, and presided over religious ceremonies. This type of social organisation was possible in permanently settled communities.

2.2.2 SECTION TWO: THE ORGANISATION OF KINSHIP AND CLAN SYSTEM

Meaning of Kinship Organisation

Kinship in the simplest meaning is the immediate social organisation which was formed by a combination of families which are blood related. However, kinship in African societies was not practised by all societies. It was common among the shifting cultivators such as Nyamwezi, Makonde, Mwera, Sukuma and Kimbu of present Tanzania, Bemba in Zambia.

Organisation of Kinships

Kinship organisations in African societies were organised in a communal basis. Every member of the kin had his social position defined in terms of relatives on his mother's side (mater lineal) and his/her or father's side (partineal).

Meaning of Clan

- What is a clan?

Clan is the combination of several related families and kins. Clans flourished in the advanced shifting cultivation societies whose means of production were becoming more advanced.

Organisation of Clan

Clan organisations were under the clan heads. Some clans were organised in extensive areas which covered hundreds of miles or kilometers. The clan head had the following duties:

- Controlling the major means of production on behalf of whole clan.
- Supervised the distribution of land.
- Controlled customs and traditions of the clan.
- Settled disputes.
- Chose spouse for the young men and women.
- Married off the young.
- Presided over religious ceremonies.

2.2.3 SECTION THREE: ORGANISATION OF THE NTEMI SYSTEM IN THE 19TH CENTRY

- **Meaning of Ntemi**
“*Ntemi*” is the Bantu word which has been derived from Sukuma words “*batemi*” and Nyamwezi word “*kutema*”. These words mean “to cut down trees/clearing the bushes”, “division of the land and solving disputes”. It was commonly practised in some parts of central and western part of present day Tanzania especially among the Sukuma Nyamwezi, Gogo, Kimbu and Iramba societies.
- **Organisation of Ntemi**
Politically, the early “*Batemi*” were more than small villages or neighbourhood. But as time went on, those small villages formed larger political units known as “*Mabutemi*” (singular-*Batemi*), uniting a number of neighbouring clan communities that formed chieftains.

The organisation of “*Batemi*” was headed by a “*Mtemi*” (chief) who was assisted by a group of state elders known as “*Banang’oma*” or “*Banikulu*” at the central level and by headmen known as “*Banangwa*” (singular *Ng’wanang’wa*) at the local level. The Ntemi from that time became the ruler of the bigger society or community instead of small clan. Each state (*Butemi*) was self-governed despite its size.

Socially, the chiefs did not become rich because they shared the products of labour with their subjects. The absence of social classes and private ownership of property reduced conflict among the ruler and ruled class. The natural increase of population was due to improvements in agriculture, trade, fishing and immigration.

Economically, people in Ntemi regions were forced by environmental and climatic conditions to do different economic activities such as cultivating grains (sorghum, millet, finger millet and maize), pastoralism, fishing, hunting, gathering honey and engaging in trade by 1800.

Organisation of trade: By 1800 the Sukuma and Nyamwezi developed caravan trading among themselves and between them and distant areas such as North-Western Tanzania, Northern Zambia, the Katanga region in southern Congo (DRC) and the Mrima (Indian Ocean) coast. Such activities made the Batemi and their assistants to live a little more comfortably than their subjects.

2.2.4 SUMMARY OF THE UNIT



In this unit we have discussed the development of social and political systems in Africa in terms of meaning and organisational pattern. However, you should bear in mind that the environment was a chief determinant factor of social, political and economic organisation in the kinship, clan and Ntemi or chieftain systems in the areas where each one existed.

SELF CHECK EXERCISE



Please do the following exercise

1. Define the following terms:-
 - i) Kinship
 - ii) Clan
 - iii) Ntemiship

2. Write short notes on:-
 - i) The role of clan head
 - ii) Mtemiship organisation

2.2.5 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT



Now answer the following questions in the Work Book provided and then send it to your tutor for marking and comments

1. Compare and contrast between communalism and socialism.
[20 Marks]
2. How does clan organisation differ from Kinship?
[20 Marks]
3. Clearly, explain the major roles of the clan head in society.
[20 Marks]
4. Identify the differences between capitalist and socialist modes of production.
[20 Marks]
5. Show the organization of the Ntemi system in the 19th century.
[20 Marks]

NOTE:

After completing answering the questions make sure that you have written:-

1. The name of the course (History stage1) on the work book;
2. Your full name and address.
3. Your student number.
4. The member of the mode and unit you have worked on.

After checking that you have answered all questions, post the work book to your coordinator.

2.2.6 GLOSSARY

- i. A class Is a group of people differing in the production process according to the position they occupy for example in slave mode of production, main classes were slave master (exploiter) and a slaves (the exploited).
- ii. Appropriate Is to acquire, own something for one's benefit.
- iii. Compare and contrast Look at similarities and differences.
- iv. Overthrow Is an act of changing the system of rule (power) usually by using force either from the few to many or otherwise.
- v. Scientific socialism Was the type of socialism practised in Russia and Eastern European countries. It was believed in using force to change the system by using workers dictatorship.

2.2.7 KEY ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISE



1.
 - i) Kinship is the immediate social organization which was formed by a combination of families which are blood related.
 - ii) Clan is the combination of several related families and kins.
 - iii) Ntemiship was a political system more than small village or neighborhood.
2.
 - i)
 - Controlling the major means of production
 - Settle disputes.
 - Choose spouse for the young men and women.
 - Controlled customs and tradition of the clan.
 - Supervised the distribution of land.
 - ii)
 - Mtemi
 - Banikulu/Banang'oma
 - Banang'wa/Ng'wanawangwa

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