**CLASS**: JSS1

**TOPIC**: FAMILY CRISIS

**INTRODUCTION**

A family crisis is a situation that marks a turning point when things cease to go on as usual in the family.

**Types of family crisis**

1. Arrival of a new baby
2. Clashes of personality
3. Financial crisis
4. Change of job/ employment
5. Loss of job/employment
6. Divorce
7. Death of family member.
8. Problem at school
9. **Arrival of a new baby:** the arrival of a new baby to a home is usually a thing of joy but in some cases, it can also be a source of crisis in the family.
10. It means more demand on the mother’s time and energy.
11. The father may feel neglected as mother turns all her attention to the baby.
12. Arrival of a new baby means more pressure on the family resources.
13. Other children may feel neglected and jealous

**Management strategy**

1. The family should plan and prepare properly before a new baby arrives.
2. The father and the older children in the family should not feel jealous or neglected but they should try and accept new responsibilities.
3. **Clashes of personality:** family members differ in the ways they react to situations. It is very important that family members respect each other’s differences and tolerate each other.

**Management strategy**

1. Family members should be acceptable to all members.
2. Family members should try as hard as possible to accommodate each other’s values.
3. **Financial crisis:** this is a situation where the bread winner cannot get money to provide basic needs of the family. This type of crisis may make living difficult and hard for the entire family.

**Management strategy**

1. Parents should be responsible for providing the basic needs of the family. However, they should try and live within their income. This will help them avoid borrowing, credit purchase and extravagant lifestyle.
2. **Change of job/ employment:** a wife or home maker who has been working for some time may get a new job. Such work related changes can also be a source of crisis in the family.

**Management strategy**

1. Family goals will need to be reviewed.
2. Family members may need to take up new responsibilities.
3. **Divorce:** divorce means the break-up of a marriage. This is the most serious crises in any family. It is even more serious when children are involved and parents disagree over custody . custody is the legal responsibility of housing and caring for children.

**Management strategy**

1. Counseling can help.
2. The family members need to find way of adjusting wherever they find themselves.
3. Children should be allowed to communicate with their parents frequently.
4. Parents need to agree on how to help the children.
5. **Problems at school:** some children have different problems in school. School problems such as examination malpractice, failure in examination, truancy, participating in cult activities, suspension and expulsion from school.

**Management strategy**

1. Parents should show understanding towards their children.
2. There should be open communication among parents, children and school.
3. The causes of the problem must be identified and tackled.
4. Solution to the problems must be sought.
5. Death of family member: death is traumatic. It causes shock. The death of a family member may lead to shattering of lives especially when he or she is the breadwinner.

**Management strategy**

1. Each member of the family should participate in the event such as funeral or memorial service.
2. Family members should spend more time together and encourage each other.
3. Each family member should take up new responsibilities.
4. The family may have to change or modify some of the family goals.
5. **Illnesses and** **accidents:** A serious illness or accident can greatly disrupt family life and lead to crisis. Family members are naturally worried and upset to see a loved one suffer in pains. They feel helpless and frustrated when they cannot ease that person’s pain.

**Management strategy**

1. Members should find strength in each other or their religious faith.
2. Family members should share their feeling.
3. They should show love and support to their sick one.

**HOMEWORK**

1. State any other five ways of coping with a family crisis.
2. Write out two crises that have occurred in your family or the family of your friend. write out the management strategies used in each case.