

HOME SCIENCE NOTES

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A house is a shelter that provides:

1. physical protection,
2. psychological protection,
3. emotional protection

NB:- A good house should be able to cater for all the family needs.

TYPES OF HOUSES

1. Traditional houses.
2. Modern houses

The two differ in material used and designs:

NB:- Design and type of house depends on:

1. Building materials available,
2. Money available.



(i) Traditional houses

Traditional houses are constructed using materials such as palm leaves, grass, mud and cow dung, which are not durable. Examples of traditional houses include:

- Manyatta (Maasai hut)
- Kikuyu hut
- Borana/ Somali hut
- Giriama hut

- Luo hut
- A Manyatta

Manyatta Hut (Maasai)

Oblong in shape. Uses poles, sticks, grass leaves which are smeared with a plaster of cow dung and mud on both walls and roof. The house has small openings for ventilation.

Kikuyu hut

Circular in shape. Constructed using poles, sticks and grass. Walls are plastered with mud and then smeared with clay.

Borana/Somali hut

The Borana /Somali people are nomads and as such their houses are constructed in a way that they can easily be dismantled and moved to new locations. Constructed using poles, sticks and grass. Long grass is neatly woven and tied together with strings into portions.

The portions are secured in an overlapping manner onto a supporting frame in both the roof and walls of the house. These portions can easily be rolled up and secured for ventilation.

Giriama hut

Cone shaped with no apparent difference between the wall and the roof.

Made of overlapping long grass tied using strings to a framework of poles and sticks.

Palm leaves and twigs are closely woven together to form a detachable door.

Luo hut

Round in shape. Made of poles, sticks and grass for the roof. Wall and floor are smeared with mud and cow dung and beautifully patterned. There are holes on the wall for ventilation. The floor is smeared with cow dung and mud.





Advantages of a traditional house:-

1. building materials can be found locally are cheap and some are free. E.g mud, wood, cowdung, grass etc.
2. are easy to build,
3. extra houses can easily be provided,

Disadvantages of a traditional house:-

- not durable – affected by weather changes and wear out easily,
- they occupy a large area of land,
- don't provide enough privacy, space and security,
- materials for construction are becoming scarce.

Improved designs of a traditional house:

- most of them have improved shapes e.g rectangular, square / L-shape,
- they are improved to give more room and privacy,
- Traditional materials may be used partly/entirely, but design is changed and improved.

(ii) Modern houses:-

- are an improvement of traditional houses,
- one building is normally divided into different rooms for different purposes,
- materials used include wood, tiles, marble, cement, glass, stones, building limestone, bricks etc.

Types of modern houses:

(a) Bungalow

A house with all rooms on the ground level, suitable for families with young children and elderly because it is less dangerous. If on slopping grounds, rooms can be on a split level.

Advantages of Bungalow:

- saves money because it can be extended,
- saves labour,
- easier to extend,
- more private.

Disadvantages of Bungalow:

- occupies a lot of space,
- not safe if in a lonely place.

(b) Flats/Apartments

- A house with all facilities provided on one floor and may have one more or more blocks above or below it.
- Common in towns because of limited space.

Advantages of a flat/apartment:

- gives sense of community living,
- safe from break-ins.

Disadvantages of a flat / apartment

- fire and pests can easily spread from one house to another,
- has not privacy,
- neighbours could be noisy,
- staircase not safe for children and aged,
- not easy to keep compound neat because it is shared.

(d) Storeyed house/maisonette/town house

- A house with some rooms on the ground floor, others upstairs. E.g sitting room, kitchen, toilet on ground floor, bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs.
- Are attached to other houses in rows of several houses.

Advantages Storeyed house/maisonette/town house:

- save land space,
- safe from break-ins because many houses are together,
- save building materials because they share a common wall,
- provides privacy because each unit may have its own garden.

Disadvantages Storeyed house/maisonette/town house:

- sometimes are too close so no privacy,
- pests and fire can spread from one to another,
- not easy to extend,
- expensive because strong building materials are needed for supporting upper room,

- staircase is dangerous in children, sick and elderly,