

ROLE OF PARENTS IN VALUE RE-ORIENTATION OF YOUTHS WITHIN FAMILIES IN EHIME MBANO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA IMO STATE

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ABSTRACT: *The study focused on the roles of parents in value re-orientation of youths within families in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. Specifically, the study sought to find out the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing, cultism, prostitution and examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. A descriptive research design was used for the study. The total population of the respondent were 5050 while the sample size was 200. A structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. Data collected were analysed with the use of mean (\bar{x}). The results of the study showed that parents have a role in reducing indecent dressing, cultism, prostitution and examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. It is based on this that the study recommended that parents should be knowledgeable in matters that affect children, and should ensure that their children get the best from home training which will help them in the socio-economic development of the country and it therefore call for sensitisation for parents on their role in the moral upbringing of their wards.*

KEYWORDS: Parents, Values, Re-Orientation, Youths, Families

INTRODUCTION

The future of any country depends on the youths in that country. No meaningful development can take place without youths' active participation. According to Azubuike (2009), the youths are the greatest asset of any nation and should be well molded and nurtured for the future of a nation. Agbaje (2012) stated that youths are not only leaders of tomorrow, but partners of today. As a matter of fact a nation's future can be predicted based on the quality of its youths. According to Kumar (2008) if the youths lose their way or direction, it would become very serious and alarming for a Nation.

According to African Youth Charter (2004), youth means every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years. Ford and Lerner (2013) also stated that youth is a young person who has not yet reached adulthood and refers to the time before you become an adult. According to Azubuike (2013), youth is the time of life when one is young, but often means the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity). Soludo (2013) also defined youthful age as the appearance, freshness, vigour, spirit, etc., characteristic of one who is young. African Youth Charter (2004) further characterised youthful age as a period filled with life and ambition, energy, anxiousness, dynamic and always bubbling in spirit. The surplus energy of the youths when well exploited is vital to national socio-economic development.

The increase of moral decadence in the Nigerian society makes it necessary for a second look at ways in which the right values can be brought back into the society starting with the youths. Youth restiveness has been on the increase in the country (Omede, 2012). The negative image our youths have created in the area of organized crime and other vices have contributed to the bad impression Nigeria has been given among the committee of nations (Ibrahim, 2011). Acts

of moral decadence and indiscipline associated with Nigerian youths accentuates the need for strong moral orientation. In fact, in Nigeria, no one needs to look far and wide to discover the high rate of moral decadence and arrant display of wrong or negative values (Omede, 2012). Manifestations of immorality among youths include; incidences of cultism and truancy which involves examination malpractices, dissolution, self-indulgence, licentiousness among others (Hastings, 2010).

In line with the above, Njoku (2013) opined that youths in Nigeria are characterised with high level of corruption, fraud and international money laundering, scamming, gangsterism, prostitutions, cultism and get-rich-quick syndrom. The whole of the Nigerian society, particularly in the urban areas, have been directly affected by the high incidence of armed robbery, frequent assaults on the streets, abductions and disappearances and the rise of phenomena such as violent campus cults, gangs and vigilantism. Children and youths are both victims and in some cases perpetrators of such criminal activities. In addition they have increasingly become caught up in harmful drugs both as users and as peddlers.

In our institutions of learning, students indulge in secret cult activities. Denga (2011) stated that secret cult activities are causing a lot of concern to the Nigerian populace. Members of this group conduct their secret meetings mainly at night and in odd places. They torment teachers/lecturers, erring members and even non-members. They carry out barbaric activities by assaulting, killing and torturing people indiscriminately. Also, part of their initiation is done by drinking of human blood. The cult members are always bold and ready to strike simply because they go on hard drugs.

Similarly, the issue of examination malpractice has threatened the existence of the school system. This ugly trend has become the order of the day. Some students go into examination halls with their guns to shoot anybody that will question them for cheating. Again, our youths are claiming that hence our politicians cheat to win elections, they should be allowed to cheat and pass their examinations as well. This cankerworm has eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigerian Education system. The consequences of examination malpractice has a devastating effect on our educational systems. Bulus (2008) pointed out that the manpower produced by our schools and universities would be half-baked and unfunctional.

Furthermore, sex related issues also pose a threat to the moral laxity of our youths. There are several cases of unwanted pregnancies, abortion, child abandonment as well as bastard and unwanted children born without identified fathers. Similarly, sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhoea, syphilis and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are posing a threat to our youths. This could be attributed to lack of moral training by our youths.

The other anti-social behaviour that has been posing a threat to our youths is drug abuse. There has been a public outcry about the widespread usage of drugs by our youths. Denga (2011) warned that there are several consequences on the users of drugs. This ranges from delinquent behaviours, unwanted pregnancies, armed robbery and violence. Similarly, cult activities, violence, rapes, armed robbery and road accidents could be attributed to the usage of drugs. There is need to stamp out this menace from our youths and the school system. Several other antisocial behaviours among Nigerian youths include indecent dressing, aggressive behaviour, armed robbery, fighting, stealing and alcoholism (Azubuike, 2013).

The continuation of these social ills and moral laxity could be attributed to parental nonchalant attitude towards their responsibilities. A parent is a caretaker of the offspring in their own

species. In an African setting, parents have the responsibility of nurturing their children. Parents provide the three basic necessities of life to their offspring. According to Essays, (2013), parents are the ones who are supposedly be the closest person to the children. Parents should become the child's idols, best friends, and motivators who can implant moral principles in children thus producing a first-class society with successful adolescences. Thus, there are some arguments from several parties who blame the parents on the moral decay of our youth nowadays when they fail to play their roles well. Workaholic parents, parents who fail to discipline their youngsters as well as parents who give less emotional attention to the children are the causes for rising up spoilt teens. This means that parents have a vital role to play in their wards value reorientation.

Value re-orientation is the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group (Nwele, 2009). Value orientation is the process of inculcating moral values in somebody. As parents play vital role in the socialisation process of their children, as well as, therefore they should be at the epicentre of their children's moral upbringing.

Despite all these, most Nigerian parents have neglected their role of supervising their children. These youths are left alone to do as their wish. Some parents feel that hence we are practicing democracy now; the children should be given a wide range of freedom to operate on their own. To such parents, antisocial behaviours are not punished at all. They prefer to spare the child and save the rod. It is against this background that the study sought to find out the roles of parents in value re-orientation of youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. The problem of this study therefore is what are the roles of parents in value reorientation among youths within families in Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State?

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to find out the roles of parents in value re-orientation of youths within the family in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.

Specifically, the study sought to

1. Find out the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.
2. Ascertain the roles of parents in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.
3. Examine the roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.
4. Find out the roles of parents in reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study

1. What are the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?
2. What are the roles of parents in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?
3. What are the roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?

4. What are the roles of parents in reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?

METHODOLOGY

The research design used in this study was a descriptive survey design in which a group is studied by collecting and analysing data from a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group youths and parents in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. Descriptive Survey research design refers to a process of eliciting data from a target population through questionnaire or interview instruments and subjecting such data to statistical analysis for purpose of drawing conclusion, (Eneje 2012).

The area of the study is Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. Ehime Mbano is a Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Umuezeala Owerre. It has an area of 169 square km and a population of 130,931 at the 2006 census. The postal code of the area is 472. Ehime Mbano Local Government Area Geo Political is in Okigwe senatorial zone that was carved out of the former Mbano L.G.A. in 2009 with its Headquarters Umuezeala, it is made up of five major clans namely Umueze, Agbaja, Umukabia, Akanumuezeala, Nneato Ugwumezi and Nsu with twenty nine Autonomous communities. Ehime Mbano is surrounded in the East by Isiala Mbano, in the West by Ahiazu Mbaise, in the North Okigwe local government and in the South by Ihitte Uboma. The dominant language in the area is Igbo. The people in the area are mainly traders, civil servant and farmers

The population of the study was 4000 youths and 1050 parents within the families derived in Ehime-Mbano local government area of Imo state (those residing in the local government). Therefore the total population of the study is 5050 (National Population Commission Imo state, 2006).

Due to large sample size of the study, a simple random sampling techniques (by balloting) to select 150 youths and 50 parents making a total population of 200 respondents for the study

For the purpose of this study, the instrument used was a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher to deduce information on the research topic: roles of parents on youths value re-orientation in Ehime-Mbano Local Imo State". Twenty items were designed, to elicit needed information from the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: A and B. Part A is concerned about the personal data of the respondents, while part B is mainly the questionnaire items and instructions which guided the respondents.

To ensure that the items in the questionnaire are addressing, the topic of the research, the validity of the instrument was therefore carried out. It was first, validated by the check who made necessary corrections, and referred the work for further validation. Three more copies were sent to three lecturers in Administration and Planning Department for Thoroughness. Spearman's Rank Order was used to determine the reliability of the instrument and reliability coefficient was 0.72, which shows that the instrument was reliable.

The instrument for data collection was administered on the respondents in (10) ten families in Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State by the researcher personally. All the two hundred copies of questionnaires were distributed and collected by the researcher. The

questionnaire items were answered by the respondents and were collected back personally by the researcher on the spot.

The research questions were answered on individual basis using mean and standard deviation. Items that scored 2.50 and above were accepted while items that scored less than 2.50 were rejected as the decision rule.

RESULTS

This chapter presents an analysis of the data collected from the study. All data collected were organized and analyzed based on the four research questions formulated for this work.

Research Question 1: What are the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?

Table 1: the mean score of the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state

Item No	Roles of parent in reducing indecent dressing.	SA	A	D	SD	N	\bar{x}	Decision rule
1	Parents have the role of buying a decent cloth for their children	130	50	15	5	200	3.5	Accepted
2	Parents have the role of advising their wards against fixing of eye lashes	100	60	30	10	200	3.2	Accepted
3	Parents have the role of teaching their wards against wearing bum-shorts	120	70	9	1	200	3.5	Accepted
4	Parents have the roles of teaching their wards on the negative effects of wearing miniskirts	140	30	20	10	200	3.5	Accepted
5	Parents should teach their wards on the effect of nudity	130	60	9	1	200	3.5	Accepted
6	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on sagging	140	30	20	10	200	3.5	Accepted
7	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on the negative effects of wearing transparent clothes	130	60	9	1	200	3.5	Accepted
8	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on effects of wearing cloths that expose the sensitive parts of their body	140	50	10	-	200	3.6	Accepted
9	Parents have the role of teaching their male wards on how indecent it is to wear earrings	150	40	8	2	200	3.6	Accepted
10	Parents have the role of teaching their ward on the effects of applying make-ups							

The table showed the mean scores of the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. The table showed that item 1-10 were with the mean scores of 3.5, 3.2 3.5, 3.5, 3.5 3.5, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.6 which were above 2.5

the mean response for acceptance. The table showed that parents have a vital role to play in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.

Research Question 2: What are the roles of parents in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?

Table 2: the mean scores of roles of parents in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state

Item No	Roles of parents in reducing cultism among youth.	SA	A	D	SD	N	\bar{x}	Decision rule
11	Parents have the role of guiding their wards on the need for virtuous life	100	60	30	10	200	3.2	Accepted
12	Parents have the roles of teaching their wards on the evils of cultism	130	50	15	5	200	3.5	Accepted
13	Parents have role of teaching their wards on the effect of cultism on society	138	50	10	2	200	3.6	Accepted
14	Parents have the role of disciplining their wards when they misbehave	147	40	8	5	200	3.6	Accepted
15	Parents have to engage their wards in beneficial social activities	100	60	30	10	200	3.2	Accepted
16	Parents have the role of knowing the kind of friends their wards keep	140	30	20	10	200	3.5	Accepted
17	Parents have the role in making sure their wards live a decent life	130	60	9	1	200	3.5	Accepted
18	Parents have the role of initiating their wards to cults	10	15	55	120	200	1.5	Rejected
19	Parents have the role of discouraging their wards on the negative effects of cult activities	116	84	72	8	280	3.1	Accepted
20	Parents have the role of teaching their wards the negative effects of cult killings	120	136	20	4	280	3.3	Accepted

Table 2 showed the roles of parents in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. From the table, it was indicated that items 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 20 were with the mean scores of 3.2, 3.5,

3.6, 3.6, 3.2, 3.5, 3.5, 3.1 and 3.3 respectively which above 2.5 the mean score for acceptance. On the hand the respondents rejected item 19. This is evidently shown in the mean score of the item which is below 2.5 the benchmark for acceptance. The table therefore indicated that parents have a vital role to play in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.

Research Question 3: What are the roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state?

Table 3: the mean score of the roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state

Item No	Roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youth.	SA	A	D	SD	N	\bar{x}	Decision rule
21	Parents have the role of teaching the female wards the evils in prostitution	19	50	15	6	200	3.5	Accepted
22	parents have the role of discouraging the female wards the evils in infidelity	99	60	30	11	200	3.2	Accepted
23	parents have the role of helping their wards on the need for moral lives	118	70	9	3	200	3.5	Accepted
24	parents have the role of encouraging their female wards the need for descent dressing	139	30	20	11	200	3.5	Accepted
25	Parents have the role of teaching their wards ways of avoiding sexual harassment	128	60	9	3	200	3.5	Accepted
26	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on the need for keeping good friends	118	70	9	3	200	3.5	Accepted
27	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on peer influence	139	30	20	11	200	3.5	Accepted
28	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on the negative effects of premarital sex	117	7	9	3	200	3.5	Accepted
29	Parents have the role of teaching their wards on the negative effects of abortions	139	30	20	11	200	3.5	Accepted

Table 3 showed the mean scores of the roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state. From the table, items 11-12 were with the mean scores of 3.5, 3.2, 3.5, 3.5 and 3.5 respectively which were above 2.5 the benchmark for acceptance. The table therefore showed that parents have a vital role to play in the reduction of prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state

Research Question 4: What are the roles of parents in reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state?

Table: 4: The mean score of roles of parents in reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state

Item No	The roles of parent in reducing examination malpractices	SA	A	D	SD	N	\bar{x}	Decision rule
29	parents have the role of buying adequate textbooks for their wards	130	50	15	5	200	3.5	Accepted
30	parents have the role of helping in cultivating a good reading habit	100	60	30	10	200	3.2	Accepted
31	parents have the role of teaching their wards on the evils in examination malpractice	130	50	15	5	200	3.5	Accepted

32	Parents have the role of encouraging their wards to fail honourable than to pass by all means	140	50	10	-	200	3.6	Accepted
33	Parents have the role of helping school teachers in teaching at homes	150	40	8	2	200	3.6	Accepted
34	Parents have the role of educating their wards	118	70	9	3	200	3.5	Accepted
35	Parents have the role of helping to teach their wards	139	30	20	11	200	3.5	Accepted
36	Parents have the role of helping their wards in doing assignment	128	60	9	3	200	3.5	Accepted

Table 4 showed the mean scores of the roles of parents in reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. From the table, it was indicated that items 29-36 were with the mean scores of 3.5, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.6 respectively which were above 2.5 the benchmark for acceptance. Hence the table showed that parents have a vital role to play in the reduction of the rate examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state

Summary of the Findings

Based on the data collected analysed, the following were the findings of the study;

1. It was discovered that parents have a role to play in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.
2. It was discovered that parents have a role in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state
3. It was discovered that parents plays a vital role in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.
4. It was discovered that parents have a role in reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state.

DISCUSSION

Table 1 showed the mean response of the respondents on the roles of parents in reducing indecent dressing among youths in Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo state. From the table, it was indicated that parents have the role of buying a decent cloth for their children, parents have the role of advising their wards against fixing of eye lashes, parents have the role of teaching their wards against wearing bum-shorts, parents have the roles of teaching their wards on the negative effects of wearing miniskirts and that parents should teach their wards on the effect of nudity/sagging. The result of the study were in line with Agbaje, (2012) who noted that most youths dress indecently because of what their parents often buy for them. Also Oluyeba, and Daramola, (2013) noted that it is the primary functions of parents to make sure that their wards dress decently.

Table 2 showed the mean response of the roles of parents in reducing cultism among youths in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo state. From the table, it was indicated that the respondents agreed that Parents have the role of guiding their wards on the need for virtuous

life, parents have the roles of teaching their wards on the evils of cultism, parents have role of teaching their wards on the effect of cultism on society, the parents have the role of disciplining their wards they misbehave and that parents have the role of engaging their wards in beneficial social activities. The result of the study were in line with Bulus (2008) who noted that parents have the primary role of guiding their wards on the evils of cultism especially among undergraduate universities of tertiary institutions.

Table 3 showed the mean responses of the respondents on the roles of parents in reducing prostitution among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state. From the table, it was indicated that the respondents agreed that the parents have the role of teaching the female wards the evils in prostitution, the parents have the role of discouraging the female wards the evils in infidelity, parents have the role of helping their wards on the need for moral lives, parents have the role of encouraging their female wards the need for descent dressing and that parents have the role of teaching their wards ways of avoiding sexual harassment. The results of the study were in line with Ikupa, (2007) who noted that parents should always advice the negative effects of prostitution.

Finally, table 4 showed the mean response of the respondents on the roles of parents reducing examination malpractices among youths in Ehime Mbanjo local government area of Imo state. From the table, it was indicated that the respondents agreed that parents have the role of buying adequate textbooks for their wards, parents have the role of helping in cultivating a good reading habit to their wards, parents have the role of teaching their wards on the evils in examination malpractice, parents have the role of encouraging their wards to fail honourable than to pass by all means and that parents have the role of helping school teachers in teaching at homes. The result of the study were in line with Nwele, (2009) who stated that parents play vital roles in continuous increase of examination malpractices in our educational institutions.

CONCLUSION

The rate of social deviances these days can be attributed the high rate of parental negligence to their responsibilities. A child being a product of a family therefore represents the values, morals and ethics of that family. The level of development a child manifests in later life, reflects to the type of home background, experiences, exposure and training, a child gets in early years. Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”- Proverbs 22:6. This passage in the Holy Book, the Bible, is arguably the most recommendable for children’s upbringing – both for Christian and non-Christian parents. It therefore places on the parents the ultimate right and responsibility for raising better children, therefore, making up a healthier society. This advice also ties most, if not all, of the culpability of a child’s undesirable character and choice of direction to its parent(s). While it’s highly commendable for parents to teach their children (wards) the times of life they live in, it’s equally pertinent that these parents train them in the way they should go.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Parents should be knowledgeable in the matters that affect children.
2. Parents should ensure that their children get the best from home training which will help their ward in the socio-economic development of the country.

3. There is need for sensitisation for parents on their role in the moral upbringing of their wards
4. There is need that parents should know the kind of friend their wards keep
5. Parents should teach their wards on the negative effects of social deviancies.

Educational implications

This study has much educational implication. It has an implication to the parents. This is because there is an urgent need that parents take up their responsibilities seriously. This will help them nurture the youths who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

The results of the study also have much implication to the youths who are the leaders of tomorrow. This will help them to know the benefits of leaving a good life in a multi-ethnic society like Nigeria. It will also help them to be patriotic rather than sabotaging the efforts made by national authorities in fostering peace development in the country.

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