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COUNSELLING-PANACEA FOR PROMOTING SOCIAL VALUES, SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION AND SECURITY AS PERCEIVED BY COUNSELLORS IN LAGOS STATE



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Abstract

The study examined counselling as a panacea for promoting social values, social reconstruction and security as perceived by school counsellors in Lagos state. Nigeria as a nation is threatened with high rate of insecurity of lives and properties due to the negligence of the importance of inculcating social values (norms) which guide the behaviour of people in the society. Nigeria needs social reconstruction to revitalize the falling standard of security and peaceful co-existence. The study carried out was a descriptive survey research. One hundred and Ninety counsellors were randomly selected from secondary schools in Lagos state who responded to the researcher constructed questionnaire titled "School Counselling and Promotion of Social values, Social Reconstruction and Security Questionnaire (SCPSVSRSQ). The instrument was validated by three experts in test and measurement and the reliability was obtained using test re-test method by giving twenty copies of the questionnaire to respondents who were not part of the study twice at three weeks interval and the two sets of scores obtained were subjected to Pearson's Product Moment Correlation, the coefficient of 0.71 was obtained. Three hypotheses were formulated to be tested in the study. The data were analysed with chi-square at 0.05 level of significance. All the three hypotheses were not accepted. The findings revealed that the counsellors perceived that counselling can be used to promote social values, social reconstruction and security and gender did not make them differ in their perception. Based on the findings, it was recommended that counsellors should promote social values through counselling. Also social reconstruction and security should also be promoted and through counselling.

Keywords: Counselling, Panacea, Social Value, Social Reconstruction, Security, Counsellors.

Introduction

Social values are the attributes which the society places as importance for peaceful co-existence. They are the norms of the society which guide behaviours and conduct of the individuals in the society. Social reconstruction is a philosophy that is based on promoting peaceful co-existence without using violence to settle or resolve disputes. It is a method of addressing social problems and a quest to create a better society (philosophical Perspective in Education, 2011). Theodore Brand was the founder of

social reconstruction in reaction against the realities of Second World War. He recognized the need to create a beneficial society on the basis of human compassion. The spirit of human compassion can be inculcated in individual through education and counselling.

Social reconstruction should be seen as a continuous reconstruction of experiences in daily school practice. School counsellors should transform secondary school into a place where learners go, not only to acquire knowledge but to carry on a way of life. School should be regarded as an ideal community where learners get practice in cooperation, honesty, love, humility, obedience and application of intelligence to solve problems and difficulties as they arise. The school counsellors should be able to produce learners who have positive moral and social values and aspirations. Bola-Sodipe (2007) stated that school counselling must be a continuous exercise aimed at making the learners appreciate and imbibe positive values and ideals that are essentials for ethical behaviour, integrity of character, good citizenship and commitment to service. Moral decadence and social crimes are repercussions arising from negligence of school counsellors and parental duties (Agubosi 2010). Moral decadence leads people into crimes like armed robbery, drug abuse, kidnapping, terrorism, rape etcetera (Adisa, 2009 & Okafor 2008). Olusakin, Nwolisa and Baba Tope (2010) stated that criminal acts abound in Nigeria. The Nigerian government is spending huge amount of money to fight these crimes. The school, through counselling should initiate programmes that will bring about changes to cope with social vices emanating from social and modern developments (Salami 2001). The School counselling owe it a duty to counsel the child to be self dependent in thought and actions, transmit cultural values and heritage for the peace, continuity and survival of the society where he or she belongs.

Security requires the existence of restraint, control of violence, existence of reciprocity, mutuality, predictability and consistency in social life. These security indicators are yet to be felt in Nigeria. Lives are not safe because of violent acts and killings here and there. The Fulani cattle rearers have become a big threat to people's lives and properties in some states like Benue, Taraba and Plateau states while the battle against Boko Haram members is yet to be won. In addition armed robbery attacks, kidnappings and raping have taken over the scene in the radio and newspaper reports. Example, Albarika radio 89.9 FM newspaper review on the 7th of May 2018 reported that a man in Rivers State killed his wife for not cooking food for him and also reported that a 54- year old man raped a woman of one hundred and ten years old and on the 9th of the same month reported that a man 65 years old and his son 19 years raped a girl of 9 years in Katsina state. Project Alert Survey (2001) in its own report said that Nigeria has a high rate of marital violence. To support this, recently in Lagos state a woman (lawyer) killed her husband and cut off his penis and another man killed his wife. These are just few examples. It is no longer news that armed robbery is on the increase in Nigeria and it is becoming more deadly than before. There was recent armed robbery attack in Offa, Kwara state in the afternoon in April that left about 30 people including police men dead and another case in Ilorin where a woman was dispossessed of her car, ATM card and other belongings to the robbers. The big question is, where is Nigeria going with all these criminal activities that have led to high rate of insecurity?

Counselling when giving the proper attention can be used to save Nigeria from this ugly and awful situation. Counselling is a vital tool that can instil attributes of love, peace, contentment, restraint, obedience and patriotism in the lives of people in the Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Nigeria as a nation has social problems that have serious negative consequences on the masses, kidnapping, raping, assault, terrorism abound. Alasa (2011) reported incidence of violence at University of Nigeria Nsukka, when two female students fought violently over character assassination. Violence, vandalisation of properties and killing abound. People's lives are not safe to the extent that in some parts of the country people sleep with one eye opened. Lives are not valued by the criminals, money has become the priority. Human beings are used for money ritual. People's relationship with one another is in jeopardy. One can't even trust his/her family members or his/her friends. Stories are here and there about people using their friends or family members for money rituals or even kidnapping them. There is breakdown of social order and security in Nigeria. This necessitates this study aimed at examining whether counselling can be a panacea for promoting social values, social reconstruction and social security in Lagos State and Nigeria in general.

Hypotheses

Three hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study.

1. There is no significant influence of counselling in the promotion of social values and social reconstruction as perceived by the counsellors in Lagos State.
2. There is no significant influence of counselling in the promotion of security as perceived by the counsellors in Lagos State.
3. There is no significant difference in the perception of male and female counsellors on the influence of counselling in the promotion of social values, social reconstruction and security in Lagos State.

Methodology

The research design employed for the study was descriptive survey. The population for the study consisted of all the school counsellors in Lagos State while the target population was the school counsellors in Education District 1, Agege. One hundred and ninety school counsellors were randomly selected from Lagos State secondary schools in the district as sample, who responded to the researchers constructed questionnaire tagged "School Counselling and Promotion of Social Values, Social Reconstruction and Security Questionnaire"(SCPSVSSRQ). It was on a four point Likert scale of SA=strongly agree, 4 points, A=agree, 3 points, D=disagree, 2 points and SD=strongly disagree, 1 point. The instrument was validated by experts in test and measurement and the reliability coefficient of 0.71 was obtained using test retest method of establishing reliability by administering the instrument twice to twenty counsellors who were not among the sample at two weeks interval after which the two sets of scores obtained were subjected to Pearson's Product Moment Correlation. A Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Hypothesis one: there is no significant influence of counselling in the promotion of social values and social reconstruction as perceived by the counselors

Table 1: Chi-square analysis on the influence of counselling in the promotion of social values and social reconstruction as perceived by the counsellors

Response	Observed	Expected	df	X ² cal	X ² tab	Sig.
SA	107	151.75	3	73.36	7.81	0.05
A	143	151.75				
D	93	151.75				
SD	264	151.75				
Total	1,417					

The calculated value of 73.36 in the table is greater than the critical value of 7.81 given 3 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis is not retained, which means that counselling has significant influence in the promotion of social values and social reconstruction as perceived by the counsellors.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant influence of counselling on the promotion of security as perceived by the counsellors.

Table 2: Chi-square analysis on the influence of Counselling in the promotion of security as perceived by the Counsellors

Response	Observed	Expected	Df	X ² cal	X ² tab	Sig.
SA	143	161.3	3	20.9	7.81	0.05
A	154	161.3				
D	100	161.3				
SD	248	161.3				
Total	645					

Table 2 shows the Chi-square calculated value of 20.9 and the table value of 7.81 at 0.05 level of significance. The hypothesis which says that there is no significant influence of counselling in the promotion of security as perceived by the counsellors is rejected. This means that counselling has influence in the promotion of security as perceived by the counsellors.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference in the perception of male and female counsellors on the influence of counselling in the promotion of social values, social reconstruction and security

Table 3: Chi-square analysis on the perception of male and female counsellors on the influence of counselling in the promotion of social values, social reconstruction and security

Response	Observed	Expected	df	X ² cal.	X ² tab.	Sig.
SA	654	503.25	3	143.29	7.81	0.05
A	624	503.25				
D	166	503.25				
SD	569	503.25				
Total	2013					

As shown in table 3, the calculated value of 143.29 is greater than the table value of 7.81 given 3 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. The hypothesis is therefore rejected, which means that there is no significant difference in the perception of male and female respondents on the influence of counselling in the promotion of social values, social reconstruction and security.

Discussion

The finding in hypothesis one revealed that the counsellors perceived that counselling is a tool that can be used to promote social values and social reconstruction in Lagos State. This might be because counsellors in Lagos State schools do similar work, under similar environment and also they live in Lagos and know how life in Lagos State is. They perceived that people can be counselled to imbibe positive social values of love, tolerance, obedience, respect, patriotism contentment and shun negative values that are inimical to peaceful co-existence in the society. In support of this finding, Bola Sodipe (2007) submitted that school counselling must be a continuous exercise aimed at making the learners appreciate and imbibe positive values and ideals that are essential for ethical behaviour and integrity of character. Salami (2001) added to this by stating that counselling should be used to encourage the learner (child) to value mutual co-existence and interpersonal relationships both within and outside the school settings through love, affection, tolerance and oneness.

Hypothesis two finding revealed that the counsellors have the perception that counselling can be used to restore security in Nigeria. The finding might be so because the counsellors know that the principles and techniques in counselling can be used to counsel people to love one another, to shun violence and killings among others. Security requires the existence of restraint, reciprocity, mutuality, control of violence, peace, tolerance, love, forgiveness, kindness among others. Kazeem (1992) in support of this finding opined that school should be a place where learners go, not only to acquire knowledge but to carry on way of life. He further stated that school should be regarded as an ideal community where learners get practice in cooperation, love, tolerance, self government and the application of restraint in handling problematic issues through counselling. Added to this is Salami (2001) who stated that school counselling should be used to teach the learners to value peaceful co-existence and interpersonal relationships with others. Corroborating to this finding, Agubosi (2010) stated that moral decadence and insecurity are repercussions arising from negligence of parental duties at home and counsellors' duties at school. Nnorom (2005), supporting this finding also said that the family and school have failed in their basic responsibility of proper socialisation of young ones. Counselling whether in the school or outside school should be an avenue to restore and maintain security by teaching the learners societal values and norms.

Hypothesis three revealed that the counsellors were not divided in their perception on the basis of gender that counselling can be used to promote social values, social reconstruction and security in Nigeria. Both male and female counsellors have the same perception that counselling can be used to promote social values, social reconstruction and security for better Nigeria. The finding was so probably because both male and female counsellors are working in the same school environment with the same kind of job and are also living in the same state where they experience the same life style and are knowledgeable with principles and techniques in counselling that can transform peoples' lives. This finding was not supported by Onwuasoanya (2007) who found out that male and female head teachers differed in their responses on the establishment of counselling

for effective implementation of universal basic education(UBE) in schools in Nsukka Education zone of Enugu State.

Conclusion

The study investigated whether counselling can be used to promote social values, social reconstruction and security. The counsellors who were the respondents, male and female affirmed that counselling can do so. Counselling can be used to inculcate social values to the learners. It can also be used to bring about social reconstruction in Lagos State and Nigeria in general. Security of lives and properties can also be promoted through counselling as found out in the study.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers are recommending the following:

1. Counselling whether in the school or at home should be used to promote the societal social values that are essential for peaceful co-existence. The counsellors (respondents) have perceived that counselling is vital tool to promote social values. Counselling should go beyond career issues and focus also in the inculcation of social values of love, respect, obedience etcetera to the learners.
2. Social reconstruction can be promoted through counselling as perceived by the counsellors. This calls for seriousness to the counsellors to use counselling to improve the social lives of learners and people in general. When this is done high rate of crimes and insecurity will be minimized in Nigerian society. Counsellors can do this outside School setting by organizing seminars and mounting campaigns to counsel people on the need of using non-violent means to settle disputes and to embrace dialogue.
3. Security can be promoted through counselling therefore, counsellors should through counselling educate the learners/people on the need to live in safety to avoid destroying people's lives and properties, to value people's lives and to be ones brother's keeper. People should be counselled to value people's lives instead of money.

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