

SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS PERCEPTIONS OF RETROGRESSION IN FAMILY VALUES AS SOURCE OF CIVIL UNREST IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper being a descriptive research, examined the Social Studies educators perceptions of retrogression in family values as source of civil unrest in North-central Nigeria. The populations for this study comprised of Social Studies Educators in North-Central Nigeria. 150 Social Studies Educators were randomly sampled in tertiary institutions offering Social Studies education in North-Central, Nigeria. The main instrument used to obtain data in this study was researchers designed questionnaire. Four research questions and two research hypotheses were formulated and collected data were collated and analyzed using frequency and percentage, mean ranking and t-test. Based on the findings of this study, the first three foremost perceived retrogression in family value that predisposed youth to civil unrest in North Central Nigeria are high rates of divorce and single parenthood (Mean score of 3.80), changes in family roles and children exposition to peer group and mass media (Mean score of 3.66) as well as the use of physical force to instill discipline in children (Mean score of 3.63). The study thus recommended that marital disputes that would lead to divorce should be avoided, parent should also have adequate attention for their children despite their involvement in white-collar jobs and moral talks and counseling approaches should be used instead of corporal punishment to enforce discipline.

Key words: *Perceptions, Retrogression, Family values, and Civil unrest*

Introduction

The volumes of bad attitudes, wrong behaviour, and anti-social behaviour, in terms of moral decadence, insecurity, and terrorism keep increasing daily. The needs for continuous search for causes of those ugly events especially the cankerworm of civil unrest in society becomes imperative. The casualties aftermath of civil unrest in Nigeria and its environs equally present the needs for solutions. The family which supposed to be a viable agent to up bring people in line with acceptable norms and value is also declined, weak, and failed in value to meet societal standard nowadays. Smith (2008) opines that family structure and values for sometimes now have altered to a level of reshaping all other social institutions such as politics, economics, education, religion and host of other structures of the society. Adage says, "Charity begins at home". Failure in family units translates to problems in the society; this paper therefore draws attention of people to perceived decline in family values as sources of civil unrest in the North Central Nigeria.

Civil unrest is taking a new dimension face in view of recent development in many parts of Nigeria. Tentacle of civil unrest covers a wider scope of other wrong actions and bad behaviors that makes environment unfit for living. Osaghae (2015) sees civil unrest as a broader term typically used by law enforcement agent to describe disturbances perpetrated by people. Civil unrest is characterized by use of sophisticated ammunitions which makes it more of terrorized act. Civil disturbance could be a form of illegal parade, riots, sabotage and other forms of civil related crimes. The reason for civil unrest is often attached to displeasure of people to major socio-political problems. Hornby Dictionary (2005), describes terrorism as the use of violent means in order to achieve political aim or to force a government to act. The key concept in this definition is violence, which could connote instability, unrest, riot, and host of others.

Balogun (2001) opined that internal security is an holistic concept that is embedded with issues of political instability, economic instability and social instability. Civil unrest could be a form of societal instability. Osaghae (2015) categorizes unrest in Nigeria into religious, communal, political, labour and social. Similarly, Yusuf (2013) opined that frequency of religious and communal clashes, riots, conflicts and violence are examples of civil unrest or terrorist acts which have reached endemic proportion. Johnson (2004) highlighted civil crises that have engulfed many parts of Nigeria to include Kano riot of 1953, census crisis of 1962/63, Action Group crisis of 1962, Federal Election crisis of 1964, western Nigeria crisis of 1965 and its accompanied coup d'état from 1966 to 1993.

Sources of civil unrest could take different perception, however Oche (2014) identified unresolved labour matter, interest to have control over subsurface national resources and ownership of land and clamor for larger share in revenue from utilization of national resource derived from homeland. Adamu (2011) opines that high rate of unemployment with wider social economic gap breeds civil unrest. North-central Nigeria comprises states such as Kwara, Kogi, Benue, Niger Plateau, Nassarawa and Federal Capital Territory. North central Nigeria is known as middle Belt region (<https://www.myguidenigeria.com/regionalinfo/north-central-region>). International Coalition for Responsibility to Protect (2017) opine that between 17th and 20th of January 2010 there was religious based civil unrest in Jos and the event claimed not less than 400 lives and numerous people were displaced. Similarly Local Voices for Peace in Northern Nigeria reported unrest events around Northern hemisphere of the country covering six years and realizes that in February 2016, Agatu Communities in Benue State wrestled with unrest between cattle herders, this event recorded causality in which hundreds of farmers were dead and several houses and valuable properties were destroyed. The Federal Capital Territory Abuja was also destabilized by dastard activities of Boko Haramist in which tolls of death were recorded in bombing attack at motor park, United Nation Building, Police Headquarter and several other places in the area that were affected by a form of unrest and the others (www.peacedirect.org or www.insightonconflict.org).

Recently Kwara State is also engulfed with civil crisis ensued between several neighboring communities such as Offa-Erinle and Share-Sharagi, Ganna and Ganmo communities (Nairaland Forum, 2016). The aftermaths of these crises always result into loss of life and property. Alike (2016) opines that production of oil in oil producing zone in Nigeria has been incessantly truncated due to civil unrest and thus negatively affecting the net income of oil companies in the area. Therefore the fundamental question now is why civil unrest is a continuous reoccurring decimal phenomenon in the society. Osewa (2017) opines that causes of civil unrest between two communities like that of the Tsaragi and Share communities in Kwara state is due to non-implementation of white paper and court judgment on land dispute. Abolaji (2015) similarly attribute the civil unrest in Tsaragi/Share communities to problem of trespassing into each other communities land to fell trees for economic purpose. The fore goings can be inferred to other disputed communities in the North-central states where civil unrest has affected

This paper neither apportion blame on any communities involved in the civil unrest nor discarding the other sources to political and economic reasons but stepping further to investigate what the decline in family values in the society could likely contribute to the problem of civil unrest.

The roles of family as an agent of socialization in any society cannot be over emphasized. Idowu (2009) observed that family serves as major agent of socialization and custodian of our social norms particularly the traditional and religious values. Oyetade (2009) also considered family as the first social group to which a person belongs and is a very important socialization agent among others in making a person a useful participation member of the society. Therefore, socialization education through family offers children virtues such as respects, humility, honesty, sincerity, hospitality, cooperation and togetherness. It must be noted that civil unrest perpetrators belong to at least a family where they must have received certain values while passing through process of upbringing in their life. The reasonable question from every concerned mind would be where are the influence or impact of family life education and values on the civil unrest rioters. It is disheartening to note that family life value and its socialization education in view of social vices and civil unrest bedeviling Nigerian society are weakened and deteriorated, which call urgent attention to be done:

Iyiola (1981) in Veronica and David (2005) opined that family tends to use physical means of enforcing discipline. Civil unrests in the society from this perception can be homegrown because its perpetrators' dispositions are reproduction of negative modeling they received or experienced as a child. It is a common story on pages of dailies reading about broken home children involvement in armed robbery operation, riots, cultism, and other forms of civil disturbances that have painted Nigeria as unsafe and unhealthy environment. New socio-economic order has created long hours separation between the parents and children, therefore family responsibility of socializing child is left in the hand of other agents like school and peer group.

Olojoba (2009) opined that failure of the family in the socialization process has created a level of permissiveness which has resulted in delinquent act and crimes. Therefore, areas of family or parenthood failure include, spending long hours at work, exposure of children to negative peer group and unpleasant mass media presentation, disintegration in sharing work as a unit and loss of occupation that hinder parental role and authority. Denga (1993) in Ikyo and Asooso (2009) also enumerates increase in the level of divorce, cohabitation, lone parenthood, birth outside marriage and high death rate of spouse due to HIV/AIDS as plausible inducement for weak socialization and problem of civil unrest.

Civil unrest in Nigeria are in forms of religious, communal, political, labour and social formations (Osaghae, 2015). These unrests occur as a result of illegal parade, riots, sit-ins, sabotage and other forms of obstruction movements (Black, 2007) and of course the aftermath of it they are record of death and loss of property. Guardian (2014) reported killing of about 700 people in religious unrest in Jos. Meanwhile perception of people about causes of civil unrest has been anchored on the following reasons: unresolved labour matter (Oche, 2014), rates of unemployment and widened social gap (Adamu, 2011), and lack of justice for years of violence (Bekele, D www.hrw.org). The above perceptions testify to the fact that awareness of civil unrest is already grounded in the society. However not much studies has been undertaken to examine the perceived influence of retrogression in family values as sources of civil unrest in the society though Hartley (2011) observe that decline in family value is researching focus to researchers to investigate effects of separating families and slipping family values on people and society. This thus motivates the researchers' interest to examine the Social Studies educators' perceived retrogression in family values as source of civil unrest in North-central Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What are the perceived retrogression in family values predisposing youth to civil unrest in North central Nigeria?
2. What are the perceptions of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria?
3. What are the differences in perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on gender?
4. What are the differences in perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on years of lecturing?

Hypotheses

H_{01} There is no significant differences in perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on gender.

H_{02} There is no significant differences in perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on years of lecturing

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey is found suitable for this present study since the intention is not to manipulate any variable of interest. Population for this study comprised all Social Studies Educators in North Central Nigeria. The sample for this study comprised 120 Social Studies Educators from all tertiary educational institutions offering Social Studies in North Central Nigeria. The Tertiary Social Studies Educators were used for purpose of getting qualified and intellectual experienced Social Studies instructors that have had a better understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. All public tertiary educational institutions offering Social Studies courses in the North-Central Nigeria were purposively sampled because of limited number of Social Studies lecturers in each of the institutions. Questionnaire were randomly distributed to Social Studies lecturers through head of department of Social Studies in each of the institutions used. However, out of the 120 questionnaires administered, 98 of them were found usable for the analysis.

A researcher designed questionnaire was used to collect data for this study. This questionnaire contained two sections. Section A addressed the socio-demographic information of the Social Studies Educators while section B of the questionnaire contained 10 items on perceived retrogression in family value as sources of civil unrest in North central Nigeria. These items took on Likert response type ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree in which the respondents are expected to indicate their level of agreement or otherwise to the retrogression in family values. In order to determine the reliability of this instrument, the instrument was pilot tested in some tertiary institutions offering Social Studies in South West Nigeria before its use. Using internal consistency approach, the instrument yielded a Cronbach Alpha of 0.87 when administered on 50 Social Studies Educators in South West Nigeria. This value was considered high enough to the instrument to fit the purpose of the present use. Data collected through questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage, mean ranking, and t-test to answer the research questions and testing of the two formulated research hypotheses.

Results

Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the perceived retrogression in family values predisposing youth to civil unrest in North central Nigeria

Table1: Perceived Retrogression in Family Values Predisposing Youth to Civil Unrest in North Central Nigeria

	Civil unrest is caused because of—	N	Mean	Rank
b1	The use of physical force to enforce discipline at home presents a negative model of socialization to civil unrest perpetrators.	98	3.63	3
b2	High rates of divorce and single parenthood have negative impact in child upbringing and thus influence their attitude towards involvement in civil unrest in their areas.	98	3.80	1
b3	Changes in roles in family and exposition of children to negative peer group and unpleasant mass media presentation have resulted into people tendency to involve in the civil unrest later in life.	98	3.66	2
b4	Extra-marital sexual affair breeds lonely parenthood children who later constitute nuisance to public by involving in civil unrest.	98	3.38	4
b5	Unguided families' level of permissiveness, which results to delinquent act and crimes, propel people involvement in civil unrest later in life.	98	3.38	4
b6	Spirit of companionship, love and security for the children in the family unit are drastically reduced thus translated into rebellion acts on the part of children to involve in civil unrest.	98	2.71	10
b7	The quality of vocational guidance from family to its member has declined and contributes to idleness of children which later pave way for their indulgence in civil unrest.	98	2.82	9
b8	Level of warm and intimate relationship in family is declined which makes the children to feel unsecured and thereby seeking others means of protecting themselves through group of civil unrest perpetrators.	98	2.94	8
b9	The family role to inculcate moral and religious values that enhance discipline is reduced and contributes to negative feelings and discipline which propel youths to partake in civil unrest	98	3.00	7
b10	The concept of "we feeling" that family is known for has been overtaken by concept of "individuality" which spur children to pursue dangerous mission like civil unrest without recourse to think about the family he or she belongs	98	3.01	6

As shown in Table 1 the first three foremost retrogression in family values predisposing youth to civil unrest were: high rates of divorce and single parenthood, changes in roles in family and exposition of children to negative peer group and unpleasant mass media presentation, and the use of physical force to enforce discipline at home with their respective mean values and rank of 3.80 (1st), 3.66 (2nd) and 3.63 (3rd). The least perceived retrogression in family values predisposing youth to civil unrest was drastic reduction in spirit of companionship, love, and security for the children in the family unit with mean value and rank of 2.71 and 10th.

Research Question 2: What are the perceptions of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria?

Table 2: Social Studies Educators Perceptions of Retrogression of Family Values as Source of Civil Unrest in North Central Nigeria

Perception	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Insignificant	2	2.0
Significant	96	98.0
Total	98	100.0

As shown in Table 2 the vast majority 96(88.0%) of Social Studies educators perceived retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria while only 2(2.0%) perceived it as insignificant. The implication of this result is that most of the Social Studies educators considered retrogression of family values as major factors predisposing the youth to civil unrest in North Central Nigeria.

Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on gender

Table 3: Gender Difference in Perception of Social Studies Educators on Retrogression of Family Values as Source of Civil Unrest

Sex	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Mean	Error T	df	P
Male	58	32.5345	3.48035	.45699	.746	96	.458
Female	40	32.0250	3.08418	.48765			

Table 3 shows gender difference in the perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria. It can be observed from the table that there was no significant difference in the perception of male Social Studies educators ($M = 32.53$, $SD = 3.48$) and their female counterparts, $M = 32.03$, $SD = 3.08$; $t(96) = 0.746$, $p > .05$. Since the p-value is greater than .05 thresholds, we therefore do not reject the stated null hypothesis. The result concludes that there was no significant difference in the perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria on the basis of

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on years of lecturing

Table 4: Difference in Perception of Social Studies Educators on Retrogression of Family Values as Source of Civil Unrest Based on Educators Years of Lecturing Experience.

Lecturing Experience	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error t Mean	t	df	P
10-16yrs	44	33.6591	2.56944	.38736	3.835	96	.000
17yrs and Above	54	31.2407	3.48005	.47358			

Table 4 shows the difference in the perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria on the basis of years of lecturing experience. It can be observed from the table that there was significant difference in the perception of educators with 10-16 years of experience ($M = 33.65$, $SD = 2.57$) and their counterparts with 17 years and above, $M = 31.24$, $SD = 3.48$; $t(96) = 3.835$, $p < .05$. This result further shows that Social studies educators with 10-16 years of experience had higher mean than those with more 17 years on the lecturing profession. In other word, Social studies educators with 10-16 years of experience perceived retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest more than those with more 17 years on the lecturing profession. Since the p-value is less than .05 thresholds, we therefore reject the stated null hypothesis. The result concludes that there was significant difference in the perception of Social Studies educators on retrogression of family values as source of civil unrest in North Central Nigeria based on years of lecturing experience.

Discussion of findings

From the data analysed and result presented in table in table 1, it is clear that the most perceived retrogression in family values that predispose youth to civil unrest is rates of divorce and single parent-hood which have negative influence on child upbringing (Mean score of 3.80). Of course, this seems to be in line with the submission of Denga (1993) in Ikoyi and Asooso (2009) and Hartley (2011) that increase in the level of divorce, cohabitation, lone parenthood, birth outside marriage and high death rate of spouse due to HIV/AIDS are plausible inducement for weak socialization and problem of civil unrest. Also the result ranked changes in family roles and children

exposure to peer group and unpleasant mass media presentation as second perceived retrogression in family value that predispose youth to civil unrest (Mean score of 3.66). This confirmed by the submission of Ololobou (2009) that new roles of parents in family unit by spending long hours at work have created level of permissiveness for children to involve in delinquent acts and exposure to unpleasant mass media presentation. The third foremost ranked perceived retrogression in family value is the use of physical force to instill discipline in children which hitherto present negative model of socialization to them (Mean score of 3.63). This is in line with the opinion of Iyiola (1981) as cited in Veronica and David (2005), that family tends to use physical means to enforce discipline in children.

Conclusion

Family unit remains a viable unit that must be critically given attention in the society because problems within it permeate easily and constitute bigger social vices of the larger society. Therefore, issue of marital problems, effective socialization, and democratic conducive family environment must be given high priority attention.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, discussion and conclusion of this study, the following recommendation were made

1. Marital disputes between or among couples should be amicably resolved to prevent incidence of divorce which has negative influence on children and bad consequence on the society as a whole.
2. Parent should have adequate attention for their children despite their involvement in new socio-economic activities and what kind of peers and mass media they expose to must be well securitized
3. The use of corporal punishment to correct misbehavior in family unit must be substituted with moral talks and counseling approaches this would go a long way to reduce rebelling and hard-hearted tendency that may be developed by children as a result of incessant use of physical force on them.

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