

Home Background And Social Value System As Predictors For Social Vices Among The Youths In Ekiti State, Nigeria

ALONGE, Rufus A.

Department of Educational Foundations and Management,
Faculty of Education, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria
e-mail: topeajayi03@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine home background and social value system as predictor for increase in social vices among the youths in Ekiti State, Nigeria. One thousand youths were randomly selected from two senatorial districts, out of the three senatorial districts in the state (south and central) and two hundred and fifty youths were selected from two local government areas from each of the two senatorial districts. The instrument used to collect data was questionnaire and content validity was used to validate the instrument. Also, the reliability co-efficient obtained was 0.78 which was obtained through the test-retest method which was administered on 100 youths outside the four local government areas. Data collected were analysed using regression analysis. Findings of the study showed that home background and social value system can predict effectively the involvement of the youths in social vices. The paper therefore concluded that the involvement of youths in social vices could be curbed if people could change their orientation on the way they celebrate success in the society not minding how the individual came about his/her sudden wealth and riches. It is therefore recommended that parents should be more watchful, monitor, control and counsel their wards rightly and if possible reprimand their children for wrong doings to bring the best out of them.

Keywords: socialisation, parents, societal value system, home background, peer group, social vices

Introduction

One of the major and most stable consistently observed phenomena in the field of education is what is known as the influence of students' home background on their academic performance and attitude. It has been observed that students whose parents have a higher level of education, a more prestigious occupation or greater income tend to get more involved in social ills. This is basically because they failed in their obligation towards the rightful upbringing of such children. Many left such responsibilities and obligations in the hands of housemaids or house-helpers who have less or nothing to offer the children in their care. When such children grow up, they become another thing to the society which affirmed one of the Yoruba saying that 'Ile la ti n ko eso r'ode' meaning that charity begins at home. In such case, whatever behaviour a child exhibits outside is always ascribed to the type of home such child has come from, especially in the south-western states of Nigeria from where this study was carried out.

Socialisation refers to the acquisition of knowledge, skills, motivation and identities as our generic potentials interact with our social environment. It takes place at all stages of the life cycle and in a variety of setting: family, schools, peer group, mass media and occupational groups. Once a child is born into the family, the society, through the family, creates avenues for transmitting the values, norms, aspirations and behavioural pattern of the society to the new born baby from cradle to grave.

It has been observed that parents have a significant influence on their children in the society. A good family value is seen as the symbol of all that is good and decent, and the bedrock on which society rests. Any deviation from this ideal could be responsible for myriad social vices. The value a parent places on certain aspects of life would determine the kind of value the offspring will place on the same as adult (Olaogun, 2012). It is therefore imperative that parents should play a significant role in the process of socialisation of their children. As agents of socialisation, wrong parental value system could culminate to their failure in transmitting the cherished values of the society to their children and this will invariably increase if the parents are themselves deviants in one way or another. This is where the child's home background plays a vital role in determining the child's involvement in social vices.

At home, it is expected that the children would learn about the attitudes and values that match their family's situation in life. At school, they learn a broader perspective that helps prepare them to take a role in world beyond the family (Henshin, Glenday, Duffy and Pulso, 2004). The school provides a basis for the peer group, that is, it exposes children to peer group—individual of roughly the same age who are linked by common interest, for example, friends, clubs, gangs and the children in the neighbourhood. It also consists of people usually of a similar age and of equal social status which are formed largely by accident of association, and members of the same peer group are not necessarily friends (Bryan, 2001). In fact, by teenage years, the peer group may demand behaviour that conflicts sharply with the norms and values of the parental generation. Sutherland (1949) made this clearer in his theory titled 'differential association theory', he believed that one is

likely to learn criminal acts if he is surrounded by persons exhibiting criminal behaviours which may most likely come from parental and home influence. Merton (1968), the proponent of the strain theory, emphasised how social values system produces social vices in the society. He believes that children are born without the premonition of who becomes a doctor, dentist, engineer, teacher, criminal, etc. So to get the most talented people to compete with one another, society tries to motivate everyone to strive for success. The society does this by arousing discontent-making people feel dissatisfied with what they have so that they will try to 'better' themselves. So, most people end up with strong desires to achieve cultural goals such as wealth or high status through the societal institutionalised means—the legitimate ways of achieving that success.

Furthermore, some experiences of frustration may motivate some to take up a socially deviant path which is crime. This is because of the gap between goals and means to achieve them, consequent upon unequal opportunities and the people's awareness of the glory in success; they may sometimes resort to social vices as an illegitimate but available avenue to success (Ayodele, 2005).

According to Ramsey Clark (1966—1969), former USA Attorney General, social vices reflect the character of a people. It exposes their capacity to injure one another to cover and destroy; their ability to control themselves, their cunning, insensitivity and want of love. Crime and society's violence reaction to it are the raw outcroppings of a people's hate, lust, greed, fear, vengefulness, selfishness and sickness.

It has been observed in recent times that youths in Ekiti State, Nigeria are more vulnerable to social vices. Many of them engage in vices that ordinarily they should not have engaged in and the gallows keep swallowing them up on daily basis and these are the future leaders of the country. If the trend is allowed to continue unabated, it is going to bring a serious damage to the State that is noted for honourable behaviours and high integrity. The increase in the number of youths involved in social vices in recent times calls for serious attention. If the youths of today are truly the leaders of tomorrow, it then becomes imperative to find a solution to the involvement of the youths in social vices so as not to produce a generation of vipers and corrupt society and for the future of our great nation to be sustained.

In this paper, the researcher is interested in investigating how home background and social value system could predict the involvement of the youths in social vices—political violence, stealing and armed robbery, internet fraud 'yahoo', cult activities, etc. which invariably affect societal peaceful co-existence and harmony.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to find out how home background and social value system could predict the involvement of the youths in social vices.

Research Hypotheses

For the purpose of this study, the following hypotheses were generated:

HO₁: The home background of the youths cannot significantly predict their involvement in social vices.

HO₂: The social value system cannot significantly predict youth involvement in social vices.

Methodology

The research design used for this study is descriptive which employed the survey technique for the data collection. It provided the researcher the opportunity to utilise qualitative approach in collecting and analysing data collected for the purpose of the study.

The population of this study consisted of all the youths within the age bracket of 17—25 years (FGN, 2001) in Ekiti State, Nigeria. One thousand youths were randomly selected for this study. One thousand youths were randomly selected from two senatorial districts, out of the three senatorial districts in the state (south and central) and two hundred and fifty youths were selected from two local government areas from each of the two senatorial districts. The instrument used to collect data was questionnaire and content validity was used to validate the instrument. Also, the reliability co-efficient obtained was 0.78 which was obtained through the test-retest method which was administered on 100 youths outside the four local government areas. Data collected were analysed using regression analysis. A questionnaire was used to elicit information about youths home background and about cherished social values. The questionnaire was divided into three sections. Section I was designed to get information on youths home background; section II was on the cherished societal values that have been compromised by the youth, while section III was designed to assess the involvement of the youth in some listed social vices. The instrument was personally administered by the researcher in order to obtain uniformity of instruction on the questionnaire.

Results

Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: The home background of the youths cannot significantly predict their involvement in social vices.

Table 1: Regression analysis of home background on youth involvement in social vices

Source of Variation	N	Mean	SD	B ₀	B ₁	df	t _c	t _t	Result
Home Background	1000	30.93	0.21	60.04	4.03	998	4.77	1.96	Significant

The result revealed that the t_c is greater than t_t (i.e. t_c4.77>t_t1.96) and the null hypothesis was rejected at 0.05 level of significance. This simply means that youths home background can effectively predict their involvement in social vices in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2: The social value system cannot significantly predict youth involvement in social vices.

Table 2: Regression analysis of social value system on youth youth involvement in social vices

Source of Variation	N	Mean	SD	B ₀	B ₁	df	t _c	t _t	Result
Social value system	1000	25.34	0.35	60.08	2.06	998	4.56	1.96	Significant

From the table 2 above, it was revealed that the t_c is greater than t_t (i.e. t_c4.58>t_t1.96). This means that the null hypothesis was rejected, meaning that social value system can effectively predict the involvement of youths in social vices.

Discussion

The study examined the home background and social value system as predictors for involvement in social vices among the youths in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The results of the study revealed that both the youth home background and the social value system contributed greatly to their involvement in social vices. This result agreed with Olaogun (2012) position about youth home background where he stated that the transmission of negative values at home in the process of socialisation of the children, there is bound to be problem in the society.

In the words of Ayodele (2012) posited that the negligence of some parents in carrying out their responsibilities at home culminated into the involvement of their wards in some social vices in the society. Apart from this, the social value system has been eroded through the western culture and the media houses plus the emergence of social media through the internet system. Children are busy watching violence-related films and many school children are also busy themselves playing computer games majoring on violent acts which contribute to their exhibition of such violence acts in case of little provocation. Kehinde-Awoyele & Jakayinoluwa (2013) posited that due to the lapses in the society as regards acceptable moral values, it has become increasingly difficult for the youth of today to lead a desirable way of life founded on good human relations, honesty, obedience, responsibility, respect and orderliness.

Igbaniho (2011) attributed the decay in societal value system to the historical development in the country in which many Nigerians have thrown aside courtesy, decorum and honour and used all other negative means of becoming rich. He emphasised that rogues, criminal and fraudsters became highly respected with chieftaincy titles and honorary awards without given a second thought to their sudden wealth and riches.

Recommendation

Based on the results of this study, parents should inculcate positive values and exhibit characters that are worthy of emulation. Parents should embrace cherished positive values and be ready to transmit such values into their children; this will surely downplay wrong social vices. Parents should also examine and monitor their wards and the kind of friends they keep.

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