

Youths Reckless Abandon on Schooling, Return of Idolatrous Practices among Youths: An Existential Threats to Nigerian Society

Christian Nwakanma *
Department of Business Education
Faculty of Education
Madonna University Nigeria Okija Campus, Anambra State.

Abstract

Education is the pillar for mitigating human positive desires. Education socializes, it inculcates good social values and more which individual could use to uses to succeed with. Education enables an individual to acquire both knowledge and skills. It provides avenues to canter balance human idiosyncratic and syncretic reasoning. It is the process whereby an individual acquires skills and knowledge philosophically, morally, socially, technologically and physiologically to be able to fend for himself, his immediate family and his extended families. It is the way and manner through an individual exercise control, establish relationship, carry out legitimate businesses and discern between evil and good. It is very saddening that majority of youths in this 21st century have abandoned Christianity and ceded to worship of idols. Many youths have died in the process while many are confused and destabilized with severer life truncating sicknesses. It is recommended from this study that religious organizations and education institutions should endeavour to carry out more re-orientation of students on good morals. It is also recommended from this study that curriculum of various educational institutions should be designed to help students acquire some vocational training. This would stop quick money making through fetish means.

Keywords: Condition of Nigeria before 18th Century, Achievements of Nigerians from Christianity in the 18 Century till today, High Quest for Materialism among the Youths of this new Era in Nigeria, Reckless Abandon of Handicrafts skills and Education and Worship of Idols among Nigerian Youths, Education: Panacea for Mitigating Atrocities among Youths in Nigeria, Reawakening of Idolatrous Practices among Youths in Nigeria.

Introduction

Before Christianity was introduced in Nigeria, many atrocities were committed by Nigerian that have not embraced Christianity. Nigerian were regarded as people living in the dark, interior part of the world.

Condition of Nigeria before 18th Century

* Corresponding Author: Christian Nwakanma

Email: christiannwakanma16@gmail.com

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Laws that attract killing with no reservation for social justice were enacted to deal with offenders. Between 17th to 18th century, vast majority of communities, villages and families have Different idols they worship on weekly, monthly and yearly basis in Nigeria. Majority of Nigerians before 18th century were immersed into idolatrous practices that endangered human lives. At that time, many roads that were today made free for pedestrians and motorists were formerly very dangerous for pedestrians and motorists to make use of. In those days, people dreamt about evil, and it tormented them. In those days, majority of people were idiots of the idols because they reasoned very shallow and behave like idols. Vast number of people then, became hirers of the idols and decorated themselves like idols and worship gods that were today known as objects or man-made gods.

Achievements of Nigerians from Christianity in the 18 Century till Today

Introduction of Christianity in Nigeria and its acceptance in 1802 till date was accompanied with fresh hope and optimism. The optimisms for Nigerians that have accepted the gospel are predicated were predicated on people's strong quest for heaven, positive reasoning, hygienic living, rule of law, education, modern medical attention and technological development of Nigerian society. Christianity has repositioned Nigeria forward with backlash on the trajectories that were formerly beholding badly on Nigerians to an endearing sustainable development.

Emergence of Christianity in 1802 brought many back lashes on different idolatry practices, firstly temporary buildings prepared for idols were destroyed in Nigeria, many souls were converted to Christianity, and fetish powers of idols were strangled with heavenly dominance. Many prelates were trained and power to banish demons, evils, gods and goddesses were bestowed on many priests and many powers of the gods and goddesses were crashed.

High Quest for Materialism among the Youths of this new Era in Nigeria

High quest for materialism which has tremendously turned many youths to madness, depression and imprisonment has continued to deal more blows to the youths because of high regard to fetish powers. Because of this misnomers, many youths have been so syncretic in their reasoning. Many youths have met their untimely deaths because of evil they have committed because of their fetish believe in idols (Anizoba & Aande, 2021). In this 21st century, there are unprecedented resurgence of idolatrous practices such as worship of deities, use of amulets and charms. Majority of youths have used these amulets and charms to commit different atrocities and the power of these charms and amulets have failed on them. It is because

of strong quest for dominance, rich, famous, that majority of youths are undergoing trials in the law court, some have started serving jail terms, and some are facing trials in the court, while some have met their untimely deaths. It is very saddening that vast majority of youths that indulge into these obnoxious practices are formerly converted Christians.

It is of no doubt that the anger of God is on youths that practice those evil that were put off by men of God. This is why many youths have cried because, they do not know how it will end on them (Nwadiolor & Nwokeocha 2023). Resurgence of idolatry practices are existential threats to Nigeria because it has been a scourge and could land many homes where those youths comes from to sudden destruction if necessary care are not taken. High browed men of God who stood as God's witnesses' from England, Portugal, island and Rome visited Nigeria and discovered that the condition of Nigerians toward practice of idols would make Nigerians wallow into extinction. On that note, bad conditions of Nigerian were rescued and their idols rendered powerless. Some idols that kills human beings frequently were strangled by heavily power and the state of Nigerians land then were filled with Holy Spirit. It is badly revealing today that, many youths have turned themselves to Ezewanwoke, Ezewanyi. Many rivers and four crossed roads in Nigeria have become a place where most Nigerian youths do sacrifices to wake water spirits. Entrances of many rivers and turbulent flowing waters in Nigeria are coloured with white and red cloths. Earthen pots, plastic plates, woods wrapped together, fowls and goats were killed to wake gods and goddesses into action. It was told from time of old. It is still believed today that the riches obtained from the hands of the gods may be attractive at the beginning but the person that is involved into this money making mays not go scot free. He or she must be tormented by the gods thereafter. However, many parents whom their children have indulged into the wake of those gods have heard how the richies of their children began and refused to disclaim those bad richness. The aftermath of the whole scenario have turned to sudden deaths to parents of those children. Carful watch of some families reveals many deaths of parents whom their ages are between 50 to 70 years. Many religious organizations have seen how many youths have gave backlash to education, career learning and trading. The back push to education and poor engagement of youths to different handicrafts angered the one of the renowned Anglican diocese in Awka to lament how millions of youths have been converted to idolatry practice as medium for fast money making.

Because of these infernos, the head of the Anglican prelate in Awka Diocese have organized many conferences, symposiums for the sake of Nigerian youths that are frequently lured to worship of fetish idols. The recent synod conducted in Awka Diocese in which the present

governor of Anambra state government was in attendance has helped to redress the high rush to idolatry practices in Anambra state. However, Anambra state is the first state to kick against these obnoxious practices Synod report of Awka Diocese (2022 / 2023). It is observed that Imo state has joined hands to kick against inferno in their state.

Reckless Abandon of Handicrafts skills and Education and Worship of Idols among Nigerian Youths

Education in Nigerian has been jettisoned, those that went to school are taunted, regarded as objects of ridiculed because they have no jobs and no reasonable money flows around them. In the same vein, Christianity and education have been taunted as scam. Majority of youths that are without jobs after their graduation have sought for open doors from the hands of gods and goddesses. Vast majority of youths have committed themselves in the hands of the gods and goddesses. It is of no doubt that majority of youths are defrauded and confused to go back to square one after riggours of expenditures and risk taken to make quick money in the hands of gods and goddesses which some youths have failed to see or have. However, despite these setbacks among some youths, Ezewanyi and Ezedibia have continued to give flimsy excuses why lucks have failed on those youths that did not succeed. Many youths that relied heavily on the daily and weekly promises by fake cultic men and women have landed themselves into more agonizing poverty, some youths have also been enrolled as witchcrafts and suit Sayers (Ngangah, 2020). Lots of these idolatrous practices are regaining their foothold in Nigeria as many felt it uneasy to reject the resources that comes out of it because it has deeply swung action into the fabrics of so many youths. Many families that are poor have not refused to accept the so called wealth of this kind because, their sons and daughters are deeply involved in this fetish and syncretic ideologies. This ideology is permeating in the lives of the youths on daily basis and it has continued to raise many dusts on the future of many youths in the developing countries of the world where education and Christianity were subordinated and idolatrous practices pursued with vigor. In this era, up surge on idolatry practices is on the high side (Chukwudebelu, (2021). The upsurge of idols worship in different geopolitical zones of Nigerian have compressed and suppressed Christian worshippers. On daily basis, some young youths have routinely converged in different shrines of the gods and goddesses seeking for quick money, powers to subdue and become giants or wealthy in their businesses.

Worship of idols have ruined the lives of majority of youths,. Majority of youths have suffered depression due to long awaited time to be rich, why many that refused to provide the resources

demanded by the gods have continued to suffer for mental illness and inordinate lifestyles Eleweke (2023), the increase in high pursuit of material things of this life as observed in the lives of some youths have accelerated gangsters, cultism, dubiousness and kidnapping.

To whom much is given, much is expected. It behoves on the government, religious organizations, to address these unexpected behaviours before it rears great entropies to Nigerian society. Parents should continue to give their children advises that will aid a good youthful living. Churches in Africa, especially the Roman Catholic Church should speak against these infernos. These would enable youths to get refined and come out of several traps on them and their families.

Education: Panacea for Mitigating Atrocities among Youths in Nigeria

Education encompasses not only school experiences but, provides avenues whereby solutions to incidental happenings will be solved. Education equips its recipients with skills, attitudes, and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to human positive change. Education inculcates to the citizenry, the stimulus for continuous search for improvement and excellence. According to Anyaogu (2021) Education is the eye and the way by which persons can use to see the positivity's the future have for them (Anyaogu 2021). Education chastises an individual. It enables an individual to exploit his or her potentials, enjoins the good and forbid the evil. Education enables those that have acquired it to manage the macro societies where new generations will be socialized (Ogunu, 2000). Education provides the gate ways for human survival and ensure subordination of obnoxious human activities that annuls human existence on earth. The old and new conventions in education entails that new generations of children of school ages should be managed to avoid deviating from the norms and mores of the society (Nosiri (2007).

Reawakening of Idolatrous Practices among Youths in Nigeria.

Christianity has reigned supreme in Nigeria. The awakening of idolatrous practices in Nigeria has continued to be a threat to Christianity. Majority of youths have now become preys to idols and their chief priests. Christians have lamented bitterly how their youths are converted to evil practices. From the look of things, evil will continue to be exposed (Nwadiolor & Nwkocho 2023). It cannot be over emphasized that, majority of people in Nigeria have total dislike to idols. When issues of this nature crops up, the whole church denominations will be against it, because, many Nigerians are adherent of Christianit (Awka Diocese Synod Report 2022& 2023). However, orthodox churches are not in support of youths defection to idolatrous

practices. These have also, created heightened tensions between the youths and the Roman Catholic Church. Part of the homilies preached in the Roman Catholic churches, captivated on resurgence of idolatrous practices among youths in Nigerian. Civil society organizations had as well, kicked against this back drops (Nnatuanya 2023 & Okoro 2018).

Statement of the Problem

Since 1804 when Christianity was introduced in Nigeria, many people who believed the gospel. People that believed the gospel outnumbered those that are waiting to be converted. It is saddening that some youths in Nigeria have abandoned their Christian faith and pursued several ways to make wealth. Little wonder, many youths in Nigeria have become chief priests to idols. Those chief priests have lured people to use of so many rituals, charms and amulets. It is evident that majority of youths have lost their lives because of speedy move to make money, some are trapped in police nets while some are today suffering from unexpected sicknesses. Some youths that have involved themselves into these nefarious living have raised accusing fingers on bad economy of Nigeria. The rate of these atrocities have aggravated the Christian religious denominations into different actions to unravel these misnomers through public enlightenment campaigns, orientation of students at school, and raising up homilies in churches to curb these infractions but still, to no avail.

Theoretical Framework

This paper was glued from Environmental conflict theory of Thomas Homer-Dixon of (1994) Thomas Home Dixon propounded environmental conflict theory in (1994). According to Thomas homer, environmental conflict theory is understood as emergence of social conflicts due to environmental issues. Thomas highlighted that environmental conflict theory can be conflict over access and control of environmental resources. Thomas Homer explained further that increase in population growth, scarcity of renewable resources has led to depletion and unprecedented scrambles for human sustenance, natural and material resources in which the resultant effects could result to conflicts or anarchy. The relevance of this theory to this study include: high quest for material things due to scarcity of resources and man's inability to remain steadfast in managing his the resources from his handicrafts, to enable him stay un-deterred in Christian faith and approved standard way of living.

Recommendations:

1. Education is routed in socialization of both adults and young persons in the society, this implies that classroom teaching should incorporate moral instructions that helps an individual to different between good from evil.
2. When it seems that what Christianity teaches are not receptive by people in the society, Christians should put more effort to overcome the actions of evil ruling the Godly.
3. Education should not be jettisoned to allow evil practices to reign supreme.

Conclusion

Date back to 17th century of spiritual revival in Europe coupled with the visit of white Christian Missionaries to Nigerian land, many idolatrous practices were disengaged, burnt and sold away. Many that believed God out- numbered those that did not believe the gospel. In this new age, idolatrous practices in Nigeria is taking different dimensions in Igbo land, Yoruba and Hausa Land. Many youths have abandoned their daily businesses, educational pursuits for pursuits of quick money and other material things of life just to be famous in wealth and power. The attendant increase in worship of Idols have cursed series of upheavals among youths ranging from unexpected deaths, dubiousness, avarices and total disregard to Christianity. It is observed that some youths have refused to put to extension, the worship of idols. Some parents have taken their children to different homes of idol worshippers to seek for protection. Pastors of various denominations have refused to hit the nail on the head, because their members are involved. Vast majority of youths have lost their lives from quick money making, some have become mad, some are suffering from one ailment or the other.

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