

**EDUCATION MANAGEMENT, GUIDANCE/COUNSELING, NEW TRENDS OF
CRIMINALITY AND INHUMANITY IN IGBO TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS
ENVIRONMENT**

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Abstract

The Igbo environment is one of the geo-political zones in Nigeria. Nigeria is a country currently known with high level of crime and inhuman activities. The problem which this paper laments bitterly against is that in the midst of insecurity challenges facing the country, the act of kidnapping and child trafficking have seemingly become uncontrollable irrespective of the immense forces applied by the anti-kidnapping squad of the Nigeria police Force, especially in Igbo traditional religions environment. The research therefore intends to address this aspect of insecurity menace happening in traditional religious society of the Igbo, where God and the gods are overwhelming

believed to fight crimes and inhuman actions. It is found that the Igbo traditional religious practices are still active in fighting crimes and inhumanity but the younger adherents have not sincerely and obviously dedicated adequate attention and time to the rules and concerns of the Igbo traditional belief system. It is also discovered that experts in educational management, guidance and counseling have not given adequate attention to enforcing, teaching, counseling and formulation of curriculum and policies within and outside educational scenes to address the young people's understanding of the world around them through discipline. It is recommended that traditional religious practitioners should adopt completely the traditional means of fighting crimes without fear or favour, the sacredness of life should be prime against any other thing, educational managers and guidance counselors should try to arouse the attention of the Igbo people towards the future implications of the existing criminality and inhumanity in kidnapping and child trafficking. The paper employs sociological approach. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources. Data collected were analyzed with descriptive style of analyzing data.

Keywords: Inhumanity, Education Management, Guidance/Counseling

Introduction

Criminality and inhuman actions have been a commonplace in human society, but the degree they happen in the contemporary Igbo nation puzzles all and sundry. As a highly recognized traditional religious society, the God and the gods are feared as taken charge on both hidden and unveil human actions in discharging, judging, punishing, rewarding and blessing accordingly, Mr. Chijioke Ugwumkpa (personal communication, 14 April, 2016). What Chijioke says is true because people feared traditional religion in action, because, people historically were serious with the practices, and norms, values, taboos, etc, unlike now. Anything that has to do with inhumanity and bloodshed occupied the attention of the aboriginals.

Today, the latest trends of criminality and inhumanity have been extended to kidnapping of innocent souls and trafficking on innocent children on the bid to accumulate wealth. Victims of these indecent actions in some cases die in the hands of their predators/ preys. Though God and the gods can be agreed to be in charge, but there is essence to instigate the professionalism of educational management and guidance/counselling into more proactive activities at least within the South East. Fayokun and Adedeji (2012:198) aver thus:

The rules and regulations or students discipline made and applied by Federal and State Ministries of Education, School Management Boards, Commission,

Governing Councils and other regulatory agencies have the force of law. They cannot be impeached unless they infringe on the provisions of the constitution or fail the test of reasonableness. It is not uncommon for example for school heads to prescribe certain standards of behaviour in dressing, physical appearances, conduct, with school precincts, restriction of movement, school opening and closing hours, courtesy, examination regulations, vocational and curricula involvements, etc.

Most actors of these criminality and inhuman actions in kidnapping and child trafficking have found themselves in primary, secondary and higher institutions. Education management, guidance and counselling, experts and administrators should be more proactive in school disciplinary measures in accordance with laws guiding school and educational management to get it right from the inception of the young persons' academic growth in order to position the young people's steps for good behaviour that is crime – free.

Guidance and counseling in the words of Salgong et al (2016: 143) entails adopting some approaches to enhance discipline in schools, which include: punishment of the students. The administration of punishment cannot be ruled out in control of discipline of students for offence on those who broke school rules and regulations were enhanced in education act and code of regulation and ethics. With disciplinary approaches used by the guidance counselors in the schools, it will help immensely to shape the behaviour of students in schools, so that when they graduate, they will be beneficial to the society rather than embarking on crimes and inhuman acts.

The problem this research is lamenting against is the problem of increase in kidnapping and child- trafficking in the highly traditional religious motivated Igbo society of the South – East, Nigeria. This paper aims at addressing this aspect of insecurity among the Igbo. It is found that the Igbo traditional religious practices are still efficacious in fighting crimes/ criminals, and inhuman actions, but the younger practitioners have not dedicated adequate attention to the rules of Igbo traditional belief system. It is also discovered that professionals in educational management, guidance and counseling have not given adequate attention on enforcing teaching and counseling curriculum and policies within and outside educational scenes to address the young people's understanding of the world around them through disciplinary measures. The research adopts sociological method of research. Data generated were analyzed with descriptive style of data analysis.

Conceptualization

Educational management has to do with the leadership and administration of education programmes, mainly in schools. Sharma (2019: 1) defines educational management as “a field of study and practice concerned with the operation of educational organizations”. Educational management is concerned with the purposes or aims of education. These purposes or goals provide the crucial sense of direction to underpin the management of educational institutions. In all indication, educational management is the administrative processing unit of any educational setting.

Guidance and counseling has to do with the experienced/expert assisting the less experience for self- realization. Harriman in Education Summary (2022:8) points that: “counseling is the psychotherapeutic relationship in which an individual receives direct help from an adviser or friends an opportunity to release negative teachings and thus clear the way for positive growth in personality”. Guidance and counseling ideals with psychological shaping of individuals thinking through direct assistance from an instructor or counselor to prepare for positive growth in one’s personality.

Crime refers to an act of omission forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment or fine. Crime could also be seen as an act of offence which violates the law of the state and is strongly disapproved by the society. Who is a criminal? Igbo (2007) states that a criminal should be understood as a person who has violated the criminal law of the land and has been found guilty by a court of law and punished accordingly. Another perspective states that anyone who violates the criminal law should be deemed a criminal, regardless of whether or not he or she is apprehended, tried and punished by a court of law. Criminality is used to describe the properties and characteristics of an individual which makes him or her to be suspected of having committed a given felony (Iwarime-Jaja, 2000). Siegel (2007) describes criminality as the process of acting in a manner that contravenes the law of a given state.

Resistance from the law enforcement agents, this makes it a social problem. The Nigerian security systems have been weakened in the face of this confrontations, a little has been done to find the socio – economic and underlining factors precipitating this crime. Abraham (2010) points out that the general state of insecurity in some parts of the country has no doubt reached a stage where virtually everybody is now worried the direction the region is going. The current security challenges in the country is better understood against existing evidences that even government officials and traditional rulers are not spared. Kidnappings are targeted at the executive, legislature and judicial branch of government and also the family members in spite of the tight security at their disposal. Child

trafficking is a public health problem and a serious violation of human rights. However, child trafficking is not a product of modern times, rather it is a phenomena observed across history. Nevertheless, it is not viewed as a social problem because it only affect a limited number of individuals, and these individuals are children. The term “child” has been defined specifically in both the local and international instruments dealing with the rights and welfare of the child.

In Nigeria, there are different types of definitions given to a child depending on which law and for what purpose. A child is statutorily defined as a person under the age of 14 years, while a young person is a child under the age of 17 years. This age ceiling in Nigeria law is lower than the age standard in the relevant international instruments. A child under international instrument is every human being below the age of 18 years. The united nations convention on the rights of the child states that “a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to child, majority is attained earlier”. According to ILO worst forms of child labour convention, 1999 (No. 182). “the term child shall apply to all persons under the age of 18 years” (UNICEF).

A victim of child trafficking is “any person under 18 who is recruited, transported, transferred, harbored, or received for the purpose of exploitation either within or outside the country”. Human trafficking include child trafficking is a momentous problem all over the world. Trafficking and illegal immigration, in the case of both adults and children from poor countries to rich countries is well organized, well oiled multi-million dollar business. Besides human trafficking, child trafficking is also a lucrative trade that maybe undertaken for the following purposes.

1. Sexual Exploitation- Children are sexually exploited by forcing them into prostitution either on the basis of their economic status or through religious sanctuaries forms. There is widespread of exploitation of children both girls and boys in tourist centers. Besides their form of exploitation, children are also abused through pornography, Bride trafficking, massage parlors, hostess clubs, brothels escorts service etc. Exotic| stripping of children is also widespread.
2. Labour- Child labour all over the world from a substantial part of bonded labour. Children are employed as domestic workers in restaurant and hotels, farms construction sites, industries etc. Child labour is perceived to be a major cause of child trafficking where a large number of children are exposed to working in hazardous occupation.
3. Entertainment and sports- A large n number of children work as child artists for long durations with no special provisions for their protection. Many of such children are forced by their parents and commercial bodies to forgo formal studies and work

in the glamour world to earn money. Safeguarding the rights of these children are hardly the prerogative of both the commercial undertakings and the parents of the children as well. Another trend that started of recent is that of reality programmers for children where they are forced to bear with unduly high expectations, underlets competitions and humiliating behaviours of the organizers.

- (4) Adoption \ laundering- children are trafficked \ laundered and abused through adoptions and marriages. The term ‘child laundering’ expresses the claim that the current inter-country adoptan system frequently takes children illegally from birth parent and then uses official processes of the adoption and legal systems to ‘launder’ them as ‘legally’ Adopted children (Smolin, 2005). Women are forced to give up their children for adoption due to their socio- economic status, some children are sometimes taken from orphanages by scouts who claim to purchase them for unalterable or childless families. These children are then laundered by falsifying documents (Smolin, 2005).
- (5) Surrogacy- Surrogacy is becoming another lucrative trade in which girls and young women from developing and under developed countries are paid\ kidnapped\ held to ransom to bear children year after year to and sold to infertile or childless couples in developed or rich countries. Under the grab of altruism , surrogacy is thriving in different counties of the world , children as young trafficked inside the country and across borders (Smerdon, 2008) ,
- (6) Child Solders- children used in combat are a contemporary manifestation of slavery and a form of human \ child trafficking. Child soldiering is listed as “one of the worst forms of child labour” in the Ilo worst forms of child labour convention 182 (Tiefonbron, 2007). Children who are on the more because they are displaced by war or and unrest are particularly vulnerable for abduction and forced child labour. In the year 2000, about 13 million children were displaced as a result of warring conflicts. A very large number of children in 11-15 years of age have been serving as child solders in 50 countries like Afghanistan, Chad , Sudan, Somalia and the like (Tiefenbrun, 2007).
- (7) Sundry Activities – children are being pushed into a number of other sundry activities which make them venerable to exploitation. These activities include Begging, Organ trade, Drug peddling and Smuggling and as Camel jockeys. There are organized criminal gangs that traffic children into these activities and exploit them.

In human treatments refer to situations where people are treated badly, tortured and harmed for truth and harmed for the repurpose extracting information from the person by scanty agents. Inhuman treatments are perceived to be a degrading treatment or punishment which is cruel and inhumane. A wide range of ill treatments are used on individuals such as beatings, nails and teeth extraction, denial of food and family supports, etc. Many innocent citizens are exposed to torture of all sorts of as a way to getting a thorough investigation into some allegations by the police and military personnel, thereby violating human right status of those individuals. Nigeria is currently caught in the web and crime dilemma, manifesting in the convulsive upsurge, notable in this regard are the rising incident of kidnapping, child trafficking and armed robbery which are now ravaging the polity like a tsunami and spreading like wild-fire amidst fears and anxieties about public safety.

Causes, Effects of Criminality and Inhumanity Nigeria: The Need for Guidance/Counselling and Education Management/Administration

The upsurge of crime has been ongoing as Nigeria has been on the global crime map since 1908s. These crimes are traceable to poverty, poor parental upbringing and greed among the youth, get rich quick mentality, unemployment and inadequate crime control model of national securities. Osawe (2015) state that the widespread of crime portrays the inability of the government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives and properties. Osawe (2015) state that it has been observed that a factor which motivates criminality is the availability of arms in the hands of illegal users, particularly civilians.

People still wonder therefore, that given carrying is common among cultists and political thugs, addict population, and during and after elections. Some of their unlawful activities are unrestrained due to their apparent regard in the system and attachment to those who use them to manipulate the system and have their ways into political positions. The state security forces, both the military and the paramilitary, seems helpless but they are not left out of the blame for their obvious failure. This proliferation of arms have given rise to general insecurity which makes the crime of kidnapping, child trafficking and armed robbery a less-risky behaviour and all-comers affairs, with law-abiding citizens bearing the brunt of it all. Several factors are responsible for the proliferation of the new trends of criminality, child trafficking and kidnapping in Nigeria. Generally, factors that give rise to the above crimes are, among others; Social, Political, psychological, religious, cultural, revolutionary and economic.

Most Nigerians especially the youth population are under intense and prolonged social strains and untold hardships. In specific terms, common among the predictors of these social problems are unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. These are structurally induced as systemic problems and challenge that lead to alienation and frustration, disenchantment and aggression set in. People then become morally entrapped, trying to pattern ways of escape and survival. The alternative means of livelihood or escape routes, according to Nnam (2014), Nnam &out (2015), in Osawe is to choose between evil and good means of success. Unfortunately, the former is often preferred to the latter in most cases, and this speaks volume about the increasing incidence of kidnapping, child trafficking and criminal tendencies in Nigeria. Eso (2009) states that child trafficking, kidnapping and all sorts of animal tendencies have their roots in the inequality, breakdown of the educational system in Nigeria, these above mentioned crime are perceived to be lucrative because our society today is apparently faulty, as a result of bad governance, tax legislation and weak law enforcement. these weak law enforcement agents makes kidnapping, child trafficking and armed robbery easy and possible to be carried out where there is hunger in the land, unemployment is soaring like the eagle and no concrete plans are made to address the problem. With dangerous weapons at hand these crimes become solution to poverty and a venue to escape hunger. For this reason the availability of arms and other weapons influence some individual into child trafficking, kidnapping and animosity. Inyang and Ubong (2013) assert that there are uncountable able-bodied men and woman in Nigeria roaming the street I search of none existing jobs. Out of frustration, coupled with mounting responsibilities, many idle young Nigerians have ventured into these crimes as an avenue for eradication of poverty.

Presently, the prevalence, patterns or trends of child trafficking, kidnapping and criminality is in the increase and it has become a source of nightmare to many Nigerians and foreigners residing in the country. These crimes are pervasive in virtually all parts of Nigeria, as Perdberg (2019) reveals that Nigeria in 2013 was ranked third among the notorious kidnapping countries in the world, with Mexico and India occupying the first and second positions respectively. In 2016 ranking, Nigeria was ranked 5th alongside Syria and Afghanistan as the most dangerous countries in the world in terms of kidnapping. Criminality, kidnapping and child trafficking has put everyone, rich, poor, young, old, male & female at a constant risk of being a primary, secondary or vicarious victim. Today, these crimes take place at any time or place – at homes, schools, streets, markets, business premises, places of worship, relaxation points, highways, morning, afternoon and nights. Sometimes these crimes which are perpetrated by people are seen as a form of social reaction to the harsh and frustration – ridden social structure and political economy in Nigeria, as well as a problem to weak security systems and porous

intra and inter State borders. For instance, the situation of Academic Staff Universities Union (ASUU) who has been on strike for the past 5 months, the government are much more concerned for the upcoming elections and how to use these under-graduates as their thugs to realize their political ambition. On the side of the students who waste away their time at home, may want to engage themselves in whether good or bad activities to earn money for themselves, this is because frustration on how the government is going about the educational system has engulfed them, if not guided, they might follow the band wagon that utilize arms and ammunition for living.

Among all these crimes in Nigeria, child trafficking is perceived to be the most cruel. This is because under aged children who are novice and knew nothing are being transferred and transported to other unknown country for the purpose of exploitation of all sorts. The menace of child trafficking has reached an alarming level which requires every effort to stamp it out. Nigeria is a transit, source and destination country for child trafficking and menace have deviated from the conventional form of child trafficking, where children are being trafficked for forced labour, prostitution and other forms of exploitation to a more complicated and dangerous form of trafficking called “baby harvesting”. Baby harvesting is a situation whereby children from baby factory are given out to childless couple or religion or orphanages. Baby harvesting and organ harvesting could be perceived to be the new trends of child trafficking in Nigeria.

The Need for the Services of Guidance/ Counseling and Educational Management/Administrators

Cases of insecurity in Nigeria and beyond have been emphasized, but there has been a consistent belief that insecurity issues relating to kidnapping and child-trafficking will hardly happen in Igbo land because of the role believed to be playing by God/gods of the land, but the level of kidnapping and child-trafficking that happen in Igbo society is becoming highly alarming and unbecoming to an extent than the clergy are also kidnapped steadily. It is on this basis that the relevance of guidance and counseling, and educational management has become pivotal to reduce these calamities from the upbringing of the young people at school ages. It has been virtually clear that most kidnapping deals that take place in the South – East have been identified to the Fulani guys residing around wild bushes as the perpetrators. On this backdrop, educational administrators and counselors can help to develop special education policies for these cattle/herders or rearers whereby schools can be established for them in these wild bushes to teach them morals and long term implications of criminal and inhuman actions. Mr. Ezeja Aloysus (personal communication, 2 June, 2022) states that lack of Western education contributes to the Fulani herders’ involvement in crimes and inhumanity. It is

also pertinent to emphasize that these Fulani herders/perpetrators would have indigenous members of the communities in Igbo land that aid the actions of those Fulani visitor. This is why traditional religious education should be encouraged by educational administrator and counselors to expose more of the implications of what the collaborating aboriginals are doing to themselves and their immediate society. Mr. Amobi Ani (personal communication, 11 June, 2022) points that it is the domestic criminal that directs the foreign counterpart on best way for fruitful and safe operations. Therefore, the similar education plan and counseling should be extended to immediate environments' dwellers. World Health Organization (2022: 5) points thus:

Simply providing education and organized activities for children can help to prevent violence: schools and education systems can help by encouraging parents and children to enroll and attend. Having quality education can increase the likelihood of children finding paid work in adulthood... Schools can also be ideal places for activities aimed at preventing violence. They can involve many young people at one time influencing them early in life. Skilled teachers can deliver violence prevention programmes and act as significant role models outside of family or community life. Schools can reach parents, improving parenting practices that maybe harmful to children.

UNODC (2017: 1) instructs thus:

The integration of crime prevention and criminal justice into all levels of education is essential in building long- term approaches to countering crime and violence. It is also critical in ensuring that rule of law is respected from early age in order to build safe and prosperous societies for all recognizing this, the Doha Declaration adopted at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The educational administrators in educational management and the guidance counselors are needed to provide for the Igbo States in Nigeria organized educational activities for children where parents will be encouraged to attend and enroll their children. This will make the children learn the culture and value of lawfulness with such children becoming adults the society will be sanctified from crimes and inhumanity.

Recommendations

1. Igbo traditional religious adherents should adopt the traditional means of fighting crime and inhumanity.
2. Educational management and administrators should dedicate adequate attention in

enforcing disciplinary measures in schools.

3. Guidance counselors collaborate with education management or administrators have to plan curriculum and policies that will concentrate on forming students' conscience for crime-free society and condemnation of inhuman act in their lives.
4. Seminars should be consistently done for communities and villages in intervals to campaign against kidnapping and child-trafficking.
5. Homes, families and schools should encourage skillful development of individuals on vocations and professions to get every adult engaged in a reasonable resource base because an idle man is the devils workshop.

Conclusion

Every human society is liable to change. But it is always the wish of any focused society to have citizens who are positively minded for a laudable growth and development. In the traditional religious Igbo society, there had been peace and sanity where criminal and inhuman actions are rarely heard. Today, there are new trends of criminality and inhuman actions among which this paper has been organized to emphasize more on are insecurity arising from kidnapping and child trafficking.

The God/gods were believed to be responsible for sanitizing the environment. But these acts of insecurity in kidnapping and child trafficking remain on their increase especially in this 21 century. Particularly, the act of kidnapping has been attributed to be embarked on by mostly the Fulani herders. It is also agreeable that the aboriginals of the Igbo communities aid the criminal acts. The problem has made this research work to advocate for the need of the experts in educational management, guidance and counseling to be proactive in developing children with good manners to enable the society to subdue this menace in no distant time, as these young lads and lasses become adults. This offers to the Igbo nation a future crime and inhuman free society.

The new trends of criminality, inhumanity, kidnapping and child trafficking which are experienced in Nigeria do nobody good rather the country is seen as degenerating, disappointing and a cause to be abandoned as a people move out in drives as a result of insecurity which people face each day. The state of Nigeria today has made the citizens to be fed up with insecurity, corruption, poverty, unemployment and lack of economic opportunities, unless this changes the levels of criminality, kidnapping and child trafficking will continue to deepen and constitute more havoc to the government and citizens of Nigeria.

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