



CURBING YOUTH SOCIAL VICES IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION

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Abstract

Our nation has been beclouded with criminal activities and immoral act; as such the nation is losing her moral and social value. The issue of social vices among the youth in Nigeria has become a great concern in recent times. The aim of this paper, therefore, was to identify the causes and discuss how home economics education can help in curbing youth social vices, thereby producing strong, disciplined and responsible youth capable of ensuring societal development. The

Introduction

Youth are seen as the wire of a nation since future development of the country depends on them. This crucial role of the youth are been threatened by the increasing rate of youth involvement in social vices. Youth occupy a prominent place in any society they are one of the greatest assets

following topics were highlighted; causes and effects of social vices. The study further discussed specific social vices prevalent among the youth population in

Keywords: Youth, Social Vices, Home Economics, Curbing, Causes, Effects.

Nigeria, it also discussed the effectiveness of home economics education in addressing them. Among the recommendations made was that social vices should be integrated into home economics education curriculum so that the issues of social vices could be addressed in Nigeria.

any nation can have (Onyekpe, 2017). The National Youth Development Policy (2023) explains that the youths are the foundation of a society. Their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation defined the pattern of development and security of a nation. Anasi (2020) asserts that the youth are a particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, and active and the most productive phase of life as citizens. The youths are also most volatile and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population in terms of social-economic, emotion and other aspect.

The term youth has been variously defined; Ndu (2014) and Yusuf (2017) saw youth as neither adolescents nor children characterized by excessive energy that needs to be exerted, which if not guarded, is channeled into negative tendencies. The National Youth Development Policy (2019) defines youth as people aged between 18 and 35 years. In Nigeria, the people within the age limit of 30 years are considered as youth hence they are allowed to participate in the National Youth Service (N.Y.S.C).

Social vices among youths in Nigeria have become a character or behavioural pattern which has degenerated into issues in recent times. Social vices are decay and profligate in the behaviour or character of the society. It is criminal activities connected with pornography or prostitute. As observed by Igbo and Ikpa (2017), youth social vices portray negative, side of social development. This negative development is rather unfortunate and has become one of the many security challenges facing man in the contemporary society. In many occasions, lives and properties worth millions of naira have been lost or vandalized and some razed down by youth.

Anasi (2020) asserts that young people all over the world are a vital and important segment of the society in which they live. A disciplined, focused, and law abiding youth can create a bright future for any nation. Conversely, a lawless, indulgent and violent youth is a great threat to a nation's peace and security. There has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, such as hostage – taking of prominent citizens and experienced workers; oil bunkering, arms insurgence, cultism, lootings, rape, prostitution among others in most Nigerian states.

The mission of Home Economics in Africa is to facilitate process of individuals, families and communities becoming more responsible for improving their well-being in relation to their economic, social cultural, political and physical

environment. (Home Economics Association for Africa, HEAA 2016). Home Economics Education therefore, play a crucial role in inculcating positive values, attitudes and behaviours in the youth thereby producing strong disciplined and responsible youth capable of ensuring societal development.

Youth Social Vices

Many youth nowadays are involved in criminal activities such as kidnapping, armed robbery, car snatching, illegal fuel sales and importation of arms, killing, looting among others (Chika and Onyene, 2020). Youth social vices involve the combination of actions, conducts and behaviour which constitutes unwholesome, socially unacceptable behaviour exhibited by youth in the society. It is marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities (Elegbeleye, 2015).

Causes of Youth Social Vices in Nigeria

Many factors could be responsible for the causes of youth social vices in any nation. Elegbeleye (2015) identified: lack of proper upbringing by parents, bad association or company, fear of the unknown, broken home, poverty and victimization arising from the economic exploitation as causes of social vices among youth.

Elegbeleye (2015) , identified lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, lack of quality education and genetic factor (for example families that are into drug abuse tend to influence the children) as causes of social vices in youth. In addition, <https://ejournalbumipublikusinusantara.id> identified the following factors responsible for youth social vices in Nigeria;

- Social factor e.g. indecent dressing, examination mal practice, peer groups influence, bad association or company, decadence in the social value of the society, lack of sex education at home and in schools, involvement in cultism, drug abuse, sexual promiscuity and truancy, absence of guidance and counseling, immorality in the society, wrong use of internet, alcoholism etc.
- Economic factor e.g. poverty, unemployment, underemployment, high cost of living rate, corruption etc.

- Parental factor e.g. lack of parental care, lack of counseling, supervision and control, improper up-bringing, broken home, inappropriate elder behaviour etc.
- Psychological factor e.g. to gain recognition and cheap popularity etc.

Adejunmola and Olajubulu (2019) maintained that unemployment has been identified as one of the major causes of social vices. Among other factors responsible for youth unemployment are poor governance, ineffective targeting of the poor resulting in resources being thinly spread among competing projects, overlapping of functions, poor coordination and lack of sustainable measures (Musari, 2019).

Effects of Youth Social Vices

Youth social vices pose a risk to the Nigerian Society, the consequence of this problem if no major corrective initiatives are taken, could be disastrous for the nation. The negative effects include psychological problems of frustration, depression, hostility, abduction, murder, armed robbery, regrets and pains and all manners of criminal behaviours causing general insecurity of life and property (Ajufo, 2017). Crime has negative effects on the economy; and affects the economy through a number of channels. It increases the cost of doing business for the private sector and providing services. Resources that would otherwise have been invested in increasing output and funding education and health programmes are diverted to crime prevention. Similarly, as a result of increase in crime rates the attraction of foreign investors and foreign direct investment are drastically reduced (Economic Commission for Africa, 2018).

The effects of youth social vices on the Nigeria society are so enormous, some of these are: outburst of violence on society, armed robbery, lack of focus in life, not being useful to the society, stealing, murdering, aggression, sexual harassment and victim of rituals. Furthermore, sexual promiscuity or prostitution is most common with the youth which may lead to loss of social values, unwanted pregnancy, premature death in case of abortion, barrenness, relationship with God becomes soiled etc (Fosu, 2021).

Role of Home Economics Education in Curbing Youth Social Vices

The use of education seems to be a better option than the use of force to fighting social vices. There is need to equip ourselves with numerous skills acquisition in

order to curb social ill in Nigeria. Home economics education has a numerous area of skills that could be used as tool to curb social vices and make individual to be reasonable, productive, and efficient in nation building. Home economics can be defined as a sequence of courses involving all levels of education which is concerned with strengthening family life, through training for effective home and family living. This include educating the individual for better life, improving services and goods used by the families, conducting research to discover the changing needs of individuals and families, and the means of satisfying these needs and furthering community, national and world condition which support effective family life(Fayemi, 2002; Awoyemi, 2005).

The National Policy on Education (2004) grouped home economics into five areas of study. These areas of study if effectively utilized would help in curbing social vices

- ❖ **Clothing and Textile:** It deals with textiles, serving and selection of clothes for dress making. The following job opportunities can be acquired under clothing and textiles: sewing, fashion and design, pattern making, batik, tie and dye, printing, interior design, stylist, entrepreneur in clothing and textiles. If all these skills are acquired they will go a long way to equip the youth thereby giving them focus and they will not think or get involved in any social vices.
- ❖ **Food and Nutrition:** It deals with the study of food and nutrition which include food preparation and services. The cooking and serving of meals which is important to the health and happiness of the family. Careers in food and nutrition: dietitian, nutritionist, health care, chef, food distributor, catering services, hotel manager, extension worker.
- ❖ **Home Management:** This deals with the process of using those things which the family has to obtain living. Careers in home management include house keeper, interior designer, caregiver, purchase and sales of household equipment and utensils.
- ❖ **Family Living:** It deals with how people live in the family and emphasize the maintenance of good relationship in the family. Career in family living: Teaching, counseling, gardening, housekeeper.
- ❖ **Child Development and Care:** This deals with how children grow and develop. It is concerned with bearing and rearing children. Career in child development: Child care, teaching, social worker, running of nursery and primary school, education consultant, school counselor, social services, researcher.

Home economics education in general helps to prepare the young and adults for a happy and efficient life. It has an important role to play in curbing youth social vices. The aforementioned areas of study in home economics are sufficed for possible careers, and if youths could be diligent enough to concentrate, focus and make avail themselves to learn and master these skills, they would be self sufficient and will not have time to involve in any ugly social vices which are not profitable to them and the society at large (Ogbene, 2016).

Conclusion

This paper has placed substantial hope in the power and potential of home economics education to transform the life of the youth. The energy, skills and aspirations of the youth, are invaluable assets that no country can afford to waste. Home economics builds capacity for students to become active and informed members of society who are empowered to design their social future and participate actively in local and national affairs in a manner that eschews violence. Most often youth social vices manifest as a life style which must be changed. Home economics education can help to curb these vices in Nigeria thereby creating secured atmosphere for her citizens. Home economics is an integral component of lifelong learning and an important determinant of income and wealth creation. It empowers the youth with skills to become productive and highly paid workers. It creates opportunities for youth employment (Anasi 2020). Youth who are gainfully employed rarely participate in social vices. Home economics is not just skill acquisition for acquisition sake, it is an acquisition of skills and ideas for the sake of creating employment for oneself and also for others and this helps to reduce the number of idle frustrated youth who roam the streets.

Recommendations

Having established that home economics education has a role to play in curbing youth social vices in our nation, it is therefore recommended that:

- Seminars, workshop and group counseling could be organized for parents occasionally to help them understand effective child rearing practices and characteristics peculiar to adolescents and youths and how best to handle such.
- Talk shows, workshops, and seminars could be organized for youths in schools, youth organizations and youths in religious setting on causes and

effects of social vices on individuals. Youth should involve in aggressive campaign against social vices.

- Home economics education should be introduced at all levels of education. It is an indisputable means of reducing youth unemployment since it is skilled oriented and employment motivated.
- The Government should equip the schools with both human and material resources that will help for effective teaching of home economics courses.
- Home economics teachers in our various schools are to be made to teach all aspects of home economics courses most especially at elementary levels of education.
- Government and able bodies should help in creating ways for trained personnel so that they can become creators of job for others and wealth both for themselves and for others.
- Social vices should be integrated into home economics education curriculum so that the issues of social vices could be addressed in Nigeria.

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