

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILD FOR ACHIEVING NIGERIA'S TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

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ABSTRACT

The family in any given society lays the foundation of the child's education. Right from the time the child is born, the family assumes the role of passing on the culture and the community ways of doing things to him. It teaches the child the basic right and obligations, the expected roles he is to play in the society. It further expantiate more on the role of the family in the society. This paper examines different types of family, family in the global context, global instability, problems, of the family and the education of the child roles, of the family in transforming the child to be a better citizen such as: giving the child spiritual, economic, emotional, parental educational, legal and recreational support. Also highlighted in this paper are conclusion and recommendations among which are; the family should be affectionate, loving role models settle disputes, teach religions tolerance, give moral education and teach some Level of entrepreneurial skills to reduce incidence of snuggery, armband its, and all unwanted deviant behaviors

1. INTRODUCTION

The value of the family system to societal well-being and development have been extolled by many researchers. Chukuwuma, (2005) stated that a family is a basic social group united through bonds of kinship or marriage which is present in all societies of the world. Ononuju (2004) referred to family as a unit of people tied together by bonds of marriage, birth or adoption, having in most cases a common residence and sharing economic activities. Olaitan and Akpan (2003) talked on the function of the family, stating that it is primary group in the society to which the state entrusts the care and training of the future citizens.

Nwobi (1992) describes the family as a biosocial group, a network of persons, intimately held together by a bond of social kinship relationship he expressed the family as a social institution involving the society, group members of the community and extended relations. The family being so tightly netted, is therefore the child's first school, is the child's decisions maker at tender age which shape the child's future before he/she grows to decide for his or herself. In this paper, the functional of family is discussed. Other issues like family types, family in the global context, problems of families, family instability and it's effect on the child, family role in transforming the child's life through functional education. Duties of families toward one another as a unit were also discussed. Recommendation of how to improve the life of the child to fit in properly in his/her home as a useful member of his society is highlighted.

2. EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Education means teaching, schooling, tutoring, instruction, eradication, learning, training and tutelage. It also refers to imparting and acquiring knowledge through teaching and learning especially at a school or similar institution (Dictionary.com 2012).

Bunza (2013) states that education as an instrument of self-development and sustainability. According to Abubakar (2013), Education in addition to its economic impact leads to better health and greater civic participation leads to increased ability to master and apply new technologies because of which it should be more about learning outcome and acquisition of skills than just about years of learning.

Transformation means to reform, redesign, regeneration and reposition institution, programmes in the larger and larger term interest of the majority in society Ihonubere (2011) He further sees, transformation as a complete change from one situation to another as well as total departure from old to new one.

Transformation refers to alteration, conversion, revolution, renovation or change. Transformation is complete change usually into something with an improved appearance or usefulness. (Dictionary.com) Agenda therefore, can be said to be a set targeted time. Education is central for actualization of transformation agenda because of its responsible roles in developing individual skills to drive other sectors of economy (Rufai, 2012). No education agenda of any nation today can achieve its desired goal effectively without absolute provision of quality and functional education of its citizenry.

Families in global context: There is diversity of family forms today in different societies across the world, in some areas in Asia, Africa and the Pacific Rim, traditional family systems are little altered.

While in most developing countries wide spread changes occur. The origin of these changes according to Gidden (2009) is mainly from *Western Culture*. When western ideas of romantic love are adopted Christian and Islamic religion were propagated while traditional religion and ways of life were altered. These led to changes which affected the life of the people that means transformation took place.

There is also the development of centralized government in areas previously composed of autonomous smaller societies. People became involved in national political system, while traditional way of life was altered. Some societies saw some aspects of the education as barbaric which came to mislead their children especially in Northern part of Nigeria. Hence Northern people prefer to educate their boys rather than girl child who they marry out early. So gender friendly environment can be created where parents will be sensitized. Problem of population growth especially in China made the state to enforce a one child program per family, Nigerians have started copying them with the use of pills and advocates of minimum of four children. This is a change which affects the population growth and also transforms people's life in Nigeria.

Large scale migration from rural to urban areas: here most men leave the village to the towns and cities thereby leaving their families in their homes in the village which later change their family life style. For instance, a nuclear family may move as a unit to the city. All these weakened traditional family forms and kinship system. Because once he is there he will forget about the extended family in the village. This is a type of transformation.

Employment opportunities in government organization mines, plantation, and industrial firm tends to have disruptive consequence on family system. Once the nuclear family is comfortable there they forget about the larger family world. All these changes can create a wide movement towards breaking of extended family system and household kinship group.

3. PROBLEMS OF THE FAMILY AND CHILD EDUCATION

Many problems confront the child's education growth and development. These problems are against the progressive and aggressive stride of a child in meeting up the changes of education especially the western formal type. They are: economic status of parents; low education, family, interest and child's career choice and lack of good social relationship among family members.

Low Economic Status of Parents

Parents low economic State affects a child greatly for example if a parent do not have a solid economic base and cannot afford to buy uniform, books or feed a child all these will make it practically impossible for the child to attain the level of education he wishes to aspire to except there i helping hand elsewhere. Also mostly, children of poor parents can only afford to attend public school where there is dearth of institutional materials which affect the quality of education of the children while wealthy families can send their children to any level of education.

In Nigeria nowadays politicians send their children abroad while the poor family attend public school. With UBE, the standard of education has been reformed a bit with the present monitoring and evaluation system put in place. So the public schools with assistance of UNICEF, U SAID and others are helping to transform the life of child by providing adequate facilities for public schools.

Low Educational Status of Parents

Some parents with low educational status find it difficult to be abreast of the need and value of education to the development of the child. Many of them are ignorant of the negative consequences that follow the poorly educated children in the society. Instead of educating their children they push them to apprenticeship and other trades. Other end up as house girls or maids, prostitutes, while some are given out in early marriage, hawking, conductor etc. Some of these families or parents at times have economic resources but are not apprehensive of the need to educate their children. The family could organize themselves and sensitize illiterate parents on need for educational life transformation for a brighter future for their children.

Lack of good family planning

This is centered on birth control. In the society today most people give birth to more 'than their income could carry and thus create problem over the development of the child. This lead to a serious problem as their children ends up as school dropouts, hawker, touts, thugs, armed robbers etc. With this, family size is a factor which helps in determining the educational status of a child. Health officers can be invited as a resource person to educate the community more on this issue of child spacing instead of delivering yearly without plan.

Family Interest and Children's Career Choice

People are born with different types of qualities. The qualities may be hereditary or learnt from the influence of the environment. In every home, person destiny is a divine gift from God. The identification and development of one's destiny is a function of the best choice that is personally made in terms of future career. Many parents mislead their children in their choice of career. While these children are trained in these wrong profession they become square peg in round holes as remarked by (Onueyium et al 2006), they may never do work in this career. Hence family or parent should allow their children freedom of choice of career this will make them walk into their destiny and it will ease the path for them. As a parent help children to make their life choice but do not confuse them. Educate the child on team building "an avenue to discuss issue bothering their mind", they can be the mentored well by real counselor on this issue.

Problem of Good Social Relationship of Family Members

Good social relationship is a propeller of social change. A good family relationship goes with joy, peace, happiness, progress, wisdom, vision and mission. A saying that charity begins at home, "The you, you are in your family is the demonstration of the you, you are in the society, "Basically also bad, troublesome, quarrelsome, aggressive; violent parent produce undisciplined children who hardly Stay in school, joined cultism, truant, champion killings of innocent citizens in the society. They are agent of social dislocation social disorganization, anarchy and social crisis. The children end up as thugs. So every Nigeria family should hence forth give care, support, love to their children and train and guide them right to be good ambassador of their family. Serve as good role model to the children so that they can emulate the good example from the family members.

Family Instability and Education

Many sociologists have noticed disturbance trend in the modern family that is the rapid growth in broken homes. In contemporary European and Americas societies, separation and love parental hood have reached alarming proportion. In Britain for example in the late 30s there are 6,000 divorces in a year, 60s the figure stood at 24,000 and by 1967, had rocketed to 43,000 (Well. 1970: 198). In United State the number of divorces per 1.000 existing marriages was 1 .2 in 1860 but 0.3 n 1956 (Berenson et al.. 1964:311) and between 1960 and 1970 the figure had reached four divorces in every ten existing marriages probably the highest in the world. In European countries like German, France and Sweden the picture is not less disheartening because there is evidence that these rates are increasing year by year (Davis, 1950).

In Africa evidence from a number of countries suggested that marital instability is equally high even in the continent. In Cameroon between 1957 and 1958 out of the 1,159 existing marriages, 66 per cent had ended in divorce or separation (Andener, 1963:36). Also a high incidence of divorced was observed among the Yaks of South Eastern Nigeria. Out of a total sample of 313 women aged from 17 to over 70 years 121 (or 38.6 per cent had been divorced at least once. Recently reports from ministries of social welfare from various states show a rising trends in the number of divorces and separation by law court and welfare agencies) throughout the Federation (i.e in Nigeria) what then are the consequences of this instabilities to children?

4. CONSEQUENCE OF FAMILY INSTABILITY TO CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Most of the time divorce and separation are a personal misfortune to both spouses and at times the children of such parent. Among the consequences are: The children who are victims of these families experienced great disturbances, witnessed bitterness and emotional tension which can leave them with feelings of insecurity which is likely to affect their academic performance in school.

A family in which there is continued marital conflict, or separation is likely to produce children with problems of personal adjustment" in (Nwa-chil, 1991). Also children are receipts of their parents' matrimonial maladjustments. Because when two elephants fight it is often the grass that suffers. In a family where the parents are constantly quarrelling and fighting with each other in extreme case destroying properties, keeping malice, mummy refusing to prepare food. Children in this situation become emotional disturbed, become restive, in fact cannot concentrate in class effectively or do his class work.

Children from fighting parents also develop serious aggressive tendencies and become bully everywhere particularly to their fellow school children which may affect their academic performance. Family instability also leads to withdrawn of attitudes and behavior in school. Having watched several serious fighting at home which result to injuries scared children and finally made them fear fight, refuse to play with peer, find it hard to take jokes and are apprehensive and often on the defensive.

Also family instability leaves, children in great emotional pains. Their loyalty is divided and there is a great anxiety about the uncertainties that divorce and separation may bring to their lives. Children of divorced or separated parents always feel embarrassed because they are different (i.e. they find it difficult to adjust). *This is very damaging to a child self-concept* (Hurlock, 1959: 643). Maternal and paternal deprivation occasioned by either divorce, separation usually have psychological effect on a child emotion and intelligent. This later affect his academic performance in school as the child is always thinking of the problem at home.

Divorce and separation often add economic strains to other adjustment problems. A lone parent because of much work may not be able to maintain the children successfully. The parent may have little or no time for the proper care of the children. It broke the link in adequate socialization: the missing parent can no more serve as adequate role model for the children nor as an added source of authority in enforcing conformity to social rules and norms of his various groups. All these affect the child's personality development and education.

It lead to higher incidence of mental illness, as judged by admissions to mental hospitals, among the divorced and widowed then among any other groups of adult, as a result of the bitterness and emotional tensions preceding divorce (Hurlock, 1959:642). Children left under this condition end up not to concentrate in school or may fall victim of truant or drop out when there is nobody to cater for him.

Majority of children from broken homes are also victims of juvenile delinquency. This often results in the acts of misconduct which is more frequent and serious among children of separated or divorced parents. Most of these children as they grow older with this bad experience can affect their attendance in school as well as their behaviour and academic performance.

5. THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN EDUCATING THE CHILD FOR ACHIEVING NIGERIA TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

The family plays a lot of roles in human society. They perform biological roles as well as social. Below are the functions of the family as highlighted by Nwa-chil (1991) and Onuenyim et. al., (2007).

5.1 Socialization Function

A cardinal function of the family is the socialization of the individual. So a child needs to be socialized into the society by inculcating the norms, beliefs and value systems of the society to him so as to grow up to be a matured member of the society. The family can then help transform the life of the child by reading educative story books to them about past heroes late ancestors and adventure later ask them the character of the heroes they want to emulate and why instead of leaving them idle. Part of transformation is that a child can be disallowed from watching criminal and horror film that will lead him into crimes. Also various youth movements like; young farmers club, Christian and Muslims organization boys and girls scout and guides clubs should be formed where some skills and character transformation will be taught. Once they are engaged all the time it will be difficult to engaged in crimes e.g. political thugs, touts etc. Stakeholders like school based management association and mothers association in the community can help guide children alright so that transformation agenda will be realized. In addition there is need to draw up a social character or contact between government and electorate to ensure that voice of the poor is heard and their concerns are address. If everybody is carried along crimes will be less.

5.2 Protective Function

The family in trying to reform the child, provides protection to its member against external attacks, physical injuries, aggression, molestation, insult etc. In 'deed both the past and present society, traditional and modern industrial societies, the family still plays dominate role in the care and protection of the individual. At the youthful days parents should provide children with the necessities of life like, food, shelter, care, cloth and etc. it is because some family fail to provide and protect their children well that they joined armed robbers, thugs, area boys and girls etc.

Therefore for positive change to be realized in their life, they should be enrolled in vocational school where they will learn some skills provide the essential needs for them, query them when you see them with any new things you did not give them. Enroll them in, Qur'an and bible classes where they will be taught the moral aspect of life... If they are neglected they will end up as smokers, child abuse and lawless citizen. As is said that. "A' child who is not adequately fed will not develop properly both mentally and physically (Nwa-chil 1984:15). So the good things the family gives help the child to succeed in life. To further transform the life of the child positively, community and private sectors must be involved in education of the children. The community should build skills and entrepreneurial development centre for the children where they learn to earn living in future.

5.3 Economic Function

In our traditional or modern societies the family is an economic unit and therefore is self-supporting. It is unit of production and consumption and it provides its members with clothing, medicine, food, shelter and it serves as economic foundation in different families. For instance is observed that children of professionals, educated and rich parents and families that live in urban areas are well represented in formal schooling than children from poor families whose parents have little education or live in rural areas. Parents of high socio-economic status also tend to show concern for their children's educational progress and shown high interest in school affairs. On the part of the children from the poor family they engaged themselves in small contribution (adashi) through petty trade of ground nut, sobo, kunu, pure water just to get money to support their family.

To bring change, the community can encourage skill acquisition where by the boys would be taught carpentry, how to weave brooms, carve calabash etc. girls should be taught how to make soap, pomade, beverages. Others can be taught computer skills while those that married early and are creative can use these skills to support or transform their family positively. Lack of skill acquisition have led to broken home as the man is not economically buoyant and the woman has nothing to contribute because she did not learn any skill. Politicians in the community can also assist economically to purchase books, uniforms etc. to change pupils life. Moreover children should be given physiological, spiritual and economics support needed to excel likewise small and medium-size enterprise need to be promoted to help create jobs for people and to curb migration from rural to urban.

5.4 Emotional Support Function

This is psychological as it demonstrates the common emotional feelings of members. A family, according to (Nwa-chil, 1991) provides the love and tenderness a man needs to maintain his emotional stability. It is a source of emotional support and growth for other member of the society. Its organic structure like a tree in which various parts of the roots, stem and branches form the whole. To transform the life of the children the family role models (Male Female). From the community to use his/her own life history to explain that things at initial stage of life were not always smooth but with patience things will work so they should not resolve to crime at hard time. The head teacher, local government chairman and other stallholders should be invited to talk on the side effect of maladjustment in the society and the repercussion, give loans to parents to stall business, educate them on evil of child trafficking and labour where female children will end up as HIV victim and later be a nuisance. Mothers Association and NYSC clubs can also be mobilized conflict prevention by establishing structures and process that promote a peaceful culture should be encouraged.

5.5 Maintenance Function

The society most of the time design measures to ensure that marriage is sustained through procreation as the father tries to meet the need of the family by giving money for up keeping, shelter or accommodation, pay school fee, hospital, NEPA, water and bills. The mothers on the other hand, cook, sweep the house, care, relate with husband, children, visitors and neighbors). The children help the father, mother, relatives in the homes, do their assignments, read their books for them to be able to fit in effectively in the society. Every member in the family work towards continuity, and members progress, no body want others to fail if the father, mother, and children fail in each of their role they will join bad gang, bring disgrace to the family and the realization of transformation agencies will be difficult. So the family need to give orientation to the children first then involve them in community youth movement where they will be taught sanitary or hygiene work which will help transform their life rather than being militant. To further achieve realistic goal there is a need to give high priority to agriculture and small and medium enterprise. Beside this, offering farmer improved irrigation, machinery access to improved crop varieties and FERMA assistance in road building to market commodities to needed areas should be encouraged. Once the community has something to maintain themselves their lives will be better transformed.

5.6 Sexual Education

The family should be able to perform its reproductive function for the continuity and survival of its member. Schnnefer and Lamn (1997) added for a society to maintain itself, it must replace members so the family contribute to human survival through its reproduction function. For realization of good transformation in the family the couple should live an exemplary life which the society can emulate, conflict should also be resolved amicably. The community can occasionally organize discussion and invite resource persons who are experts on sex and marital topics. Pastor, priest, Imam, taught person on religion, medical expert, and counselors who will counsel couple on marital right and sex education to create awareness in the life of the people and transform their live to good. But if everybody is left

without guidance transformation of life to good will be difficult to realize. Also to transform the life: of the people the health care delivery should be improved on with emphasis on community disease like malaria and other preventable disease like tuberculosis and etc and special care must given to those affected.

5.7 Potential Functions

The family (i.e. parents) have the duty to protect, advice, correct and punish children or other members of the family that misbehave. They rebuke and Project deviant behaviour in the society. They instill discipline in children and also reward them accordingly. The realization of transformation can only be achieved through displaying good character and behaviour in the society life. The School Based Management Committee life and Mother Association can equally help to effect change in the community by sensitizing them on need for more female enrolment, creating gender friendly environment.

5.8 Education Function

From childhood, the child absorbs much of the parent culture like: way of greeting, eating, dancing, singing performing task, domestic duties like fetching fire wood and water, caring for babies etc. They educate children in trading, caring for the handicapped members of the family and learn their parent's trade. The irony is that in Nigeria schools initially western education was emphasized with imposition of their culture, religion, language, and dress on Nigerians. Then 6-5-4 system was succeeded with 6-3-3-4 then with 9 —3-4 with emphasize on vocational and commercial education. But it is disappointing that these practical educations which will make children to be creative are not promoted. If this practical courses are neglected it will be difficult to realize transformation agenda because not every educated person can be employed in white collar job.

To realize transformation every family should help in child enrolment at least up till Juror Secondary School, discourage the ideas of early marriage of female and child drop out of school the government should either get graduates employer or give out loan to them to start petty business on skills learnt to make themselves self reliant. Also after the NYSC service year this youth should go back to their various communities to develop various developmental programmes to bring 'about a meaningful socio-economic transformation. The Education trust fund is playing a leading role in most school to transform the life of the people constructing many new infrastructures to replace the dilapidated ones but the government still need to improve on the structure by encouraging the use of solid local materials to cut the cost. Also scholarship awards and other financial incentives should be given to parents by government, philanthropists and external Donors to finance their children's education others can copy from David Mark (Senate president) 2014 Scholarship scheme given to Benue State student. Kano State governor empowerment initiative and Imo State government free education Schemed from primary to tertiary level are good examples of transformation agenda that the society need.

5.9 Legal Function

The family community gives its members the legal right into the family. A child is automatically a confide partner in his family's business. So there: should be no discrimination in terms of schooling, inheritance, marriage as this use to happen in most culture or states in Nigeria. For the realization of transformation agenda, female sex should not be discriminated against in term of inheritance as is happening in some southern parts of Nigeria. Let them be educated, have choice in marriage and their dowry should not be used to educate the boys. Failing to give children equal treatment most time lead to chaos in the society s for realization of good transformation in Nigeria everybody should be treated equally. Laws and program will be implemented to empower women, children disable and the elderly.

5.10 Recreation Function

The family serves as centre of fun. They always gather together to share fun, delights of local songs, music and other pleasurable homespun activities. It is because this close relationship is missed in today's family that, there is a lot of divorces or separation. To achieve transformation agenda, sporting and games can be organized and other clubs like Protracts, Jersey etc. can be formed as they help to inculcate spirit of patriotisms, sympathy for other and services. The community can also liaise with ministry of youth affair and sport to get financial assistance. Activities to be promoted for realization of transformation agenda include tree planting, community services, and sport week with exhibition. Parents should have less time and social media. If all these are observed transformation agenda will be achieved. Is because children are left idle that they resolve to crime.

5.11 Social Unity Function

A child, in the society needs to be cheerful not isolated happy, jovial, for him to fit into the society. He should learn to speak politely to other people, use good language, relate with other members well for him to be accepted or transformed well. If all these social affairs are missing the realization of transformation agenda will be difficult, for instance the genesis of civil crisis in most community or family this day is the absent of unity, trust, love and affection. Greediness, by leader also causes social disorder in the family and society. For family to live in harmony they should create a special day a year where family will be allowed to give testimonies about their life history, symposium of family life, suggest advice on how to move the community family and youth forward.

Good advices which will transform the life of the society and family. While bad advices which will mislead the community should be dropped. For 'realization of transformation the family should be united because united we stand, divided we fall. Haralambos and Heal (20) 1) maintained that the family provides members with psychological training and support necessary to meet the requirement of the social system. No matter how, it is more specialized than before and is still important as society still depend more exclusively on it for performance of some vital things.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Having analyzed the problems in the family and consequence of family instability the aforementioned points are the recommendations raised. As the family is the first primary group with which the child come in contact with right from birth, the family should then assumes the role of passing on the right culture and community ways of life to the child. To achieve real transformation in the society and community the government, family, parent and other stakeholder in Nigerian transformation agenda should liaise together to:

- Mobilize community and private sector involvement in education.
- Work together to promote and encourage the success of vocational and technological education in the school and society.
- Continue to spend more on electricity as it will help small scale business to expand.
- Develop public and private partnership to provide essential amenities for the community
- The health care delivery should be improved by providing necessary drug to cure some illness or disease
- Priority should be given to agriculture and small and medium- size enterprise to create jobs for rural people and equally curb migration from rural to urban.
- Government should promote vocational, technological and entrepreneur courses in school as this will make children to be economically empowered as to meet the goals of transformation agenda.
- Society to give girl child education a preference the family should provide security; give the individual the affection and interest which are needed to sustain the wellbeing of the child.

Also the family should lay a solid foundation for the child education. The parents, should be honest, dress modestly, hardworking, sincere devoted, patient and etc. this is because if the foundation is weak the school and other agencies will have little or nothing to build on. In term of occupation:

- Socialization, the parents should guide but not imposed a profession on a child. They can act as conscious role - model but very often must perform their functions unconsciously, transmitting behaviors, and values for playing some economic roles.
- Religious tolerance should be preached by the family and should be exemplified by them because this will create the fear of God in the mind of the child and make children to lead a humble life.
- The family should also promote the welfare of youth at home, schools, religious places and community. Different youth organization should be formed where different trades, skills will, be acquired. School Based Management and Mother Associations and NYSC corps members should sensitize the youth in the community in different entrepreneur skill which can help them to be self- reliant to transform their life positively so as not to fall victim of deviant behaviour.
- In addition the family could liaise with local government chairman and other politicians to provide necessary facilities for the community welfare give community land to build school on, buy uniform, books for their children and feed them well.

The family should not discriminate between children sex's boys and girls should be given equal treatment. To given chance to inherit their parents, girls to be given freedom of choice in marriage like men. The family should endeavor to teach the children how to communicate respectively with the society because this is what nowadays children lack: They should be given responsibility like elders to give them sense of belonging. Donors like UNICEF, USAID, UNESCO and others should

help provide facilities and personnel for the schools in the community to be able to help them achieve positive change.

7. CONCLUSION

The family in this paper is seen to be the sole foundation builder in the life of the child. The family as discussed in the body of the paper played dominant role in the care, protection, security, shelter, education, feeding, choice of career, educating them in the school, instilling the fear of God to the child's mind, supporting them when disturb psychologically, help in the choice of partner and giving them love and support and other essential need .to sustain life. The family as highlighted in the paper hence play prominent role of handling the culture, values, attitudes, and behaviour patterns of the society to the individual so that the society reforms and transforms the child.

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