THE IMPACT OF RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN THE GROWTH AND SANITIZATION OF THE SOCIETY: A STUDY OF NIGERIA.

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Abstract.

It is unimaginable and absolutely out of place to think of a society devoid of religious education. Education have been taken by some scholars as an act of impacting knowledge in a person that said religion on its own can be taken for a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation. In simple terms, this implies any relationship between man and the super humans. The impact that religion make in the society in terms of the growth, stability, maintenance of peace and order among others cannot be estimated. It go a long way in enhancing at individual level the relationship between individuals and also enhances the relationship of one group and another. This paper tries to discover or uncover the impact that religion and religious groups make in maintaining the stability, and smooth running of the society. The researcher made use of random sampling method in the data collection process not leaving out the use of questionnaires in the process of collecting data. The researcher concluded the work by pointing out the ways that certain religious groups or organization could enhance their relationship with other religious groups thereby enhancing the persistence and continuity of the human society.

INTRODUCTION:

The role of education in the growth of any human society like our nation Nigeria cannot be estimate. The reason is that education is the wheel that turns the tyre of development of any nations tracing the history of developed nations of the world like Britain and the United States of America (USA) It will be discovered that education played and still play prominent roles.

Religious education is an aspect of education which cannot be considered as being whollistic or all encompassing. On the other hand, you cannot imagine a society any longer without proper education. But one thing is certain and which is the fact that we have basically three forms of formal educations of formal, informal and non formal education. Formal education is the form of education that is guided by formalized principles, these principles guide the conduct of its affairs. On the other hand, we have the informal kind or form of education which has to do with the kind of education that occurs at home.

Usually when a new member of a society is given birth to he or she is born into a family or home where he/she receives informal education. On the other hand, non formal education occurs when a person is learning an apprenticeship job like welding, weaving, carpentry etc.

Therefore, the objective of this paper among others would actually include how religious studies or religion would help in sanitizing the society. Be the above as it may, in all, it is paramount to say that a
society without proper religious studies and education would be in habitable and full of chaos.

**DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS/TERMS**

There are certain key concepts embedded in the above question which will be discussed or defined no matter how brief.

**SANITIZING**

This is the act or process of cleaning something to make it free of bacteria or disease causing elements. In accordance with Oxford advanced learner’s dictionary 6th edition, the concept sanitize means to remove the parts of something that could be considered unpleasant while sanity (noun) can be seen as the state of having a normal healthy mind.

Let it be mentioned that the atmosphere in Nigeria is smelling and requires true sanitization to bring it back to life.

**Society:** The society according to the Oxford dictionary is people in general living together in communities, policies that will benefit society as a whole or an organized group of persons association together for religious, benevolent, cultured, scientific, political reasons etc.

**Definition of religion:** A set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe, especially when considered in the creation.

**The concept of education**

Education according to Oxford advanced learners dictionary is the process of teaching training and learning especially in schools or colleges to improve knowledge and develop skill.

**Tracing the history of education: The British oriented approach**

One fact that must be established in this discourse is the fact that the British, colonial masters came into Nigeria with their formal education. But on the other hand, they considered if necessary to make Nigerians learn the formal education displacing the informal education which have been on ground before their invasion.

Its pertinent to say that the British educational system was first introduced in Nigeria between 1822-1882. This led to the intensification of missionary activities and the expansion in the Southern Nigeria.

As at this time, the church missionary society, (CMS) the Roman Catholic Mission (RCM), the limited Presbyterian church society and the basel missionary society strongly stamped their existence in this area up to 1882. In all these things, the colonial government in Nigeria paid little attention to the education needs of the people and the field was basically left to the missions.

The credit to the introduction of book learning should go to the missionaries and equally vocational training in their programmes aimed mainly at the conversion of the people, moral training and education of British ethics in the lives of the people of Nigeria, than the overall development of the Nigerians and the nation at large.

The above was done at Abeokuta, Lokoja and Calabar,
It is on record also that the CMS, to church of Scotland encouraged vocational training in Agriculture, carpentry, brick laying etc.

Paramount, the colonial governments’ indifference to education policy resulted in the absence of an official education policy in lack of:

1. A common syllabus, standard textbooks regular school hours etc.
2. Adequate supervision of schools, buildings, teachings, pupils etc.
3. A central examination system
4. Uniformity in the condition of service of teachers.
5. Adequate financial support and control.

According to Fafunwa A. B (1980.82) the British government had no clearly defined policy on education in its African Colonies including Nigeria. The British first statement on the issues of education showed that they had no dearly defined policy on education in 1947 through their privy council’s committee on education when it vaguely referred to the need for securing better conditions of life and development of Africa.

Fafunwa recounts that between 1870 and 1876 the British government in Lagos made some attempts to assist some of the missions in their educational work.

Though the British colonial legacy in education has not changed today.

Ezeala Romanus (2007) in Ikweegbu P.N (Ed) 2007; 138 has it that in 1950 United Nations Educations scientific organization (UNESCO) estimate of illiteracy was about 84.4% by the year 1994 on the other hand. One thing that is certain is the fact that Nigerian’s illiteracy rate as at 1995 was 68%.

Again, between (1997 and 2015) little has charged.

THE IMPACT OF RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN THE GROWTH AND SANITIZATION OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY.

Religion as have been said severally in the course of this work is any relationship which has to do with man and the super humans. The super humans include God, gods, spirits among others.

Another perspectives that we intend to bring to light in the course of this work is that there abound different religions or religious groups, in Nigeria. One thing is certain and which is the fact that these religious groups in their bits have been doing well to ensure that they inculcate proper morals into their young ones and members so to speak.

Among other things, the religious groups socialize their members and appropriately and adequately too go a long way in ensuring peace and persistence of the society example Nigeria.

Religion enhances solidarity, one and one association or person to person relationship ad the spirit of brotherliness into the uneducated and educated people through religion. Though sometimes, the different groups make the solidarity and love to exist. But outside that group, it does not happen that way. But to a reasonable extent, it works the miracle of enhancing unity and solidarity.
The Marxists kick against religion; this is due to the fact that they see religion as a soothing balm. They also hold the belief that religion is a tool of oppression in the hands of the ruling or exploiting class.

That is the reason for people looking up to God or seeking answers to God for certain incidences which occur to them.

One question must be answered and which is that no meaningful development programme or project will be a success in an atmosphere dominated by crisis. The answer is absolute no.

Therefore, it must be established that the impact that religion makes in the society as Nigeria is so huge, immense, and wonderful that it enhances the interpersonal relationships among the members of the state, among important functions that it performs. Education, which I consider as one of the ways of socializations plays important roles in the society as ours. Before I delve into that proper may I start on a sarcastic note. Is there not a different way of behaving between one who attains or acquires education and another one who did not? The answer is yes. There are absolutely differences. The way of relationship or relating one with another among people who are schooled will evidently be different when it is compared with people who are not aware of cultural heritages, the existence of other people, the lifestyles in fact basically all aspects of lives of people of different backgrounds will be know through formal education for example. Education is an eye opener, a brain developer; can one imagine what the society will look like without education? Absolutely education most especially the formal education equips one with basic knowledge or technical knowhow to handle, manage or carry out certain functions or responsibilities. Education is all in all in the human society, it is the blockbuster.

**Summary**

By way of summary, it is imperative to concretize that religion and education are twin sisters that do the magic of turning the society around. While religion teaches morals and imbues the members of the society with the ways of life acceptable in the society, it equally maintains and enhances peace and harmonious relationship among members. On the other hand, religion is passed to the members of the society through education. Education formal information and non formal do the magic of inculcating into the members of the society the ways of life and association and serves as an eye opener to people.

**Conclusion**

Conclusively, it is believed that this work has dealt so extensively on the functions that religion and education perform in the society at large.

Virtually all human and known societies need the two; we cannot live or make it in isolation of religion and education. The two are like bread and butter.

Infact, we need them, require them; want them in our every day life.

**Recommendations**

Having embarked and concluded the above research exercise, I make the following recommendations.

That religious institution embraces the duty or function of appropriately educating their members too.

That education is made free for all and sundry to acquire it.
That true and genuine educational policy be formulated and implemented in Nigeria. It is one thing to make polices and another to implement it.

Religious discriminations are discarded at all quarters and levels.

That education especially the formal one be made compulsory in a nation like ours (Nigeria) it will solve some of our problems.

References


