Influence of psychological tripod in ameliorating the soporific effect of youth ignorance on self and national development in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines the influence of a psychological tripod in ameliorating the soporific effect of youth ignorance on self and national development in Nigeria. The psychological tripod as discussed in this study is awareness, readiness and self denial. 430 respondents randomly selected from a senatorial district in Ekiti State constituted the sample for the study. A self designed instrument titled ‘Youth and Development’ was used to collect data for the study. The population consisted of the entire youths in Ekiti State. Two research questions guided the study. T-test statistics, frequency counts and percentages were used in data analysis. Findings from the study indicated that growth in the national development is low in Nigeria. It was also revealed that ignorance among Nigerian Youths could be ameliorated by psychological tripod vis: consciousness, readiness and self denial. It was also revealed that the perception of respondents towards the psychological tripod was not significantly different based on gender and educational qualification. It was recommended that government should embark on campaign for consciousness in transition through media. Also, it was suggested that transition rites should be made priorities across the three senatorial districts in Ekiti state so as to prepare all and sundry towards the inevitable developmental changes and hence the improvement on the postnatal transitional consciousness.

Keywords: Psychological Tripod; Soporific effect; Youth Ignorance.

INTRODUCTION

Ignorance in its broad sense is a state of being uninformed, a state of lack of knowledge. The word ‘ignorant’ is an adjective used in describing a person in the state of being unaware. According to Thomas (2006), ignorance is not just a blank space on a person’s mental map. It is at times interpreted as lack of education or learning. Whenever this act is observed in an individual in an active stage of life, it is termed ‘youth ignorance’. Education is the process of knowledge acquisition, the application of which brings forth solution to mental problems in every similar circumstance (Dickson and Favour, 2002). It was reported by the duo researchers that Nigeria as a country is not yet born technologically, educationally and democratically. It was stressed that Nigerians would have lived a more convenient life if yet the country is still under the colonial masters as it was until 1960. Ilori (2009) corroborated the statement in the claim that Nigerian independent type is a caricature compared to others in the sub-Saharan Africa. According to Ilori, illiteracy predominates every nook and cranny of
Nigeria and possibly the reason behind the skyrocketed increase in the rate of criminality in the country. Illiteracy, in a lay man language implies lack of education. Education may not directly mean the same thing with schooling. It could rather imply compliance of an individual to the norms and values of the particular community one finds oneself.

Indeed, going by the above assertion, recent researches revealed that the sickening and soporific effect of ignorance on Nigeria, a country of about 500 multi cultural communities could be due to bad leadership. More than 98% percent of the opinions sampled summarised the problem as mostly sourced in youth ignorance. This could be because of the fact that the youths occupy the helm of affairs across culture, irrespective of race, norm and values. More than 70% of the top officers in the helm of the governmental and non-governmental affairs are youths.

The youths are individuals between childhood and adulthood stages. Youthfulness would literally be interpreted as the state or quality of being young especially as associated with vigour, freshness or maturity. It is therefore an exaggeration to conclude that the development of a nation in every facet of life depends on the youth, the think-tank of the globe. The extent at which an individual youth could develop himself or herself determines solely the nature of contribution such a youth could make unto his/her community. The level of the contributions of youths to the wellness of a nation is what is referred to as ‘Growth’. If the contribution is positively high from the angle of the youth, it would be also high on the nation and vice-versa. Unfortunately, findings confirmed that the contribution of Nigerian youths to national development is noticeably low and hence the reason behind the low per capital income, poor economy and hindered technological development.

Awareness could play a very good role in reducing youth ignorance. Awareness could be interpreted as knowledge acquired through orientation or enlightenment. It is an act of being intimated about a particular activity or programme. It could be considered as the direct opposite of ignorance. Readiness is termed preparedness. The extent at which an individual is prepared to make use of the opportunity embedded in awareness may likely affect the contribution to the national development. The higher the readiness therefore, the higher the contribution and vice versa.

The third psychological factor as mentioned above is self denial. Some of the youthful activities at the adolescence stage of development seem to be very trivial to encourage good thinking that could promote development. The ostentatious lifestyle of most youths may debar their logical reasoning towards good nation building. There is a need for youths’ self denial if a greater achievement must have to be made. Self denial in this sense implies deviating from the popular exuberances that becloud youths against useful thinking that could assist in the national development. Going by these assertions, the study would consider the effectiveness of the aforementioned psychological tripod in reducing youth ignorance and its soporific effect on national development.

The problem
Nigerian vanguard of September 28, 2013 reported that Nigerian population is currently over 21,000,000 as against the envisaged 17, 553,924 as projected in 2006. Aregbesola (2010) opined that youth in any nation across the world seems to be 70% of the national population. After the 1914 amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates that gave birth to Nigeria, it was a short lived and quite ephemeral transient joy that greeted the faces of all Nigerians. The joy at first sight gave a way to the living regrets that constituted the songs of blames and lamentations of today each time an average Nigerian goes back to the memory lane historically in connection to the pre independence era. The 3rd October 2013 that marked the 53rd birth anniversary of the great country Nigeria was an harvest of ‘had Nigerians known.....’ As history relayed it, under the leadership of chief Obafemi Awolowo, Nnamidi Azikiwe, Tafawa Balewa and some other agile youths, Nigeria clamored for independence, worked for it and achieved it in the year 1960. The 1963 that marked the first republican constitution would remain evergreen in the memory of Nigerians youths of then who contributed their invaluable quota with their youthful skills to ensure that Nigerians were liberated. Whether the experience that accompanies it is profitable or not, with the youths’ contribution to ensure independence coming to stay, one cannot but feel their impact in national development. More than 78 percent of publications on national development within the last two decades seem not to be encouraging. Youths are being reported as the individual in the centre stage, the entity that play the pipe hence the dictator of the tune of the national development. To worsen it all, Kolade and Samson (2012) opined that Nigerian youths lack self development due to ignorance in self being and hence the backwardness in per-capital income, technological advancement and the host of other invaluable aspects of life. Reports appear to be inconclusive on way out of this mess and hence the reason for this research works.

Research questions
The following are the research questions answered in this study
1. What is the level of growth in national development of Nigeria?
Table 1. Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Showing the perception of respondents toward psychological tripod.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not true</td>
<td>4598</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True (Positive)</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What is the perception of respondents towards psychological tripod as a panacea to youth ignorance?

**Research hypotheses**

1. There is no significant difference in the perception of the respondents based on gender
2. There will be no significant difference in the perception of respondents based on educational qualification.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

This research work falls to the category of descriptive survey research type. The study involved the stakeholders in national development as well as other professionals in related field in Ekiti state. The population of the study consisted of the entire youths in Ekiti state out of the population figure of 3,104,101.

The research study was carried out using a senatorial district in Ekiti state. 430 respondents constituted the sample for the study using multi stage sampling technique. Simple random sampling (balloting) was used to select Ekiti central from the 3 senatorial districts in Ekiti state. The same simple random sampling technique was used to select 430 respondents while stratified random sampling was used to re group respondents based on gender and educational qualification.

The major instrument used in gathering data for this study was a self designed questionnaire titled "youth and development (YD)" The instrument was divided to two sections ‘A’ and ‘B’. Section A sought information on the biodata of the respondent while the section B contained 20 items that measure the perception of the respondents towards the effectiveness of the major variables. Face and content validities of the instrument were ascertained by presenting it to experts in test and measurement. cronbach alpha formula was adopted in testing the reliability of the instrument with “r” yielding 0.75 which was considered high enough for the instrument to be used for the study. Both the descriptive and inferential statistical tools were employed in the analysis of data collected. Frequency count and percentages were used to answer the two research questions while the 2 hypotheses were tested using t-test statistics.

**RESULTS**

Research question 1: What is the level of growth in national development of Nigeria as a nation?

From Table 1 above, it is clear that 332 (77%) of the respondents indicated that national development is low in Nigeria only 98 (23%) out of the 430 (100%)

Respondents therefore were generally of the opinion that the development is low.

Research question 2. What is the perception of respondents toward psychological tripod as a panacea to youth ignorance?

Table 2 shows that 89% of the respondents agreed to the efficacy of the psychological tripod (consciousness, readiness and self denial) in ameliorating youth ignorance in Nigeria. Only 11% of the respondent had a contrary view. The perception is positive.

**Research hypotheses**

Ho1: There Is No Significant Difference in the Perception of the Respondents Based on Gender.
Table 3. T-test analysis showing the difference in the perception of respondents based on gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception toward psychological tripod</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>t-Cal</th>
<th>t-critical</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male respondents</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>31.30</td>
<td>541</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Ho1, Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female respondents</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>21.91</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 has shown a t-cal of 1.94 which is lesser than the t-critical 1.96. The null hypothesis is accepted. This implies that there is no significant difference between the male and female respondents in their perception towards the efficacy of psychological tripod in ameliorating youth ignorance.

Ho2 There Will Be No Significant Difference in the Perception of Respondents Based on Educational Qualification.

As indicated in table 4 above, t-calculated (1.16) lower than the t-critical (1.96). This implies that the hypothesis is accepted. There is a significant difference in the perception of respondents towards the effectiveness of the psychological tripod in reducing youth ignorance.

DISCUSSION

The result of the findings revealed that the level of growth in Nigeria as a country is low. This assertion agrees with Ilori (2009) in the claim that Nigeria is developmentally deficient and technologically backward.

Also, it has shown in the result that respondents had a positive perception towards psychological tripod as a panacea to youth ignorance. The finding is in line with Orebiyi (2008) in the submission that ignorance is the major problem in the youth in Nigeria experience. The researcher suggested consciousness, readiness and self denial as solution to ignorance. Finally, the result of the research study revealed that the gender and educational qualification had no significant influence on the perception of the respondents towards the efficiency of tripod stand in reducing youth ignorance. This submission disagrees with Poland and Johnson (2001) in the opinion that education should influence perception and that the lower the educational qualification of an individual, the lower the healthy thinking level.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study revealed that psychological tripod can ameliorate youth ignorance as well as boost self growth and hence increase national development. Some demographic variables like gender and educational qualification may not influence the perception of respondents towards the effectiveness of consciousness, readiness and self denial to ameliorate ignorance. Based on this conclusion, it is recommended that government and private bodies should embark on marathon and immediate campaign for consciousness in developmental transitions through media. The need for transition rites should also be made a priority in each of the towns across the three senatorial zones of Ekiti state particularly at the preadolescence/pre pubescence postnatal developmental stage.

REFERENCES