

Effects of Inadequate Parenting on Education of Nigerian Northern Children

Hauwa Ajibola Arikewuyo, Kudirat Abimbola Babatunde

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v10-i4/7117>

DOI:10.6007/IJARBSS/v10-i4/7117

Received: 20 February 2020, **Revised:** 20 March 2020, **Accepted:** 26 March 2020

Published Online: 13 April 2020

In-Text Citation: (Arikewuyo & Babatunde, 2020)

To Cite this Article: Arikewuyo, H. A., & Babatunde, K. A. (2020). Effects of Inadequate Parenting on Education of Nigerian Northern Children. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 10(4), 163–171.

Copyright: © 2020 The Author(s)

Published by Human Resource Management Academic Research Society (www.hrmars.com)

This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this license may be seen at: <http://creativecommons.org/licences/by/4.0/legalcode>

Vol. 10, No. 4, 2020, Pg. 163 - 171

<http://hrmars.com/index.php/pages/detail/IJARBSS>

JOURNAL HOMEPAGE

Full Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at
<http://hrmars.com/index.php/pages/detail/publication-ethics>

Effects of Inadequate Parenting on Education of Nigerian Northern Children

Hauwa Ajibola Arikewuyo, Kudirat Abimbola Babatunde

School of Basic and Remedial Studies, Kwara State College of Education, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Email: hauwaajibola@gmail.com, Kudrat2016@gmail.com

Abstract

Education is regarded as a tool for liberation and self-actualization. This is not the case with Northern Nigerian child whose life is that of survival of the fittest. The Northern child is a victim of circumstance who has to source for himself to make the two ends meet. Many of these children roam the streets looking for where to lay their heads in addition to begging for food. A Northern child is compelled by his parents to start a life of his own without adequate guidance or supervision. Adequate parenting requires providing the child with basic needs of life in terms food, clothing, shelter, psychological needs and enrollment of child in school with proper monitoring so as to make the child productive to himself and the society he belongs to. On this note, this paper intends to investigate the attitude of some of the northern parents towards the education of their children and reveal the benefits of education to their wards. It further highlights the importance of adequate parenting as a factor for breeding children who will be responsible to contribute meaningfully to development of the nation, not those who will be misled and be used against the progress of the nation. Recommendations are made to parents, stakeholders and government to come to the aid of the northern children to eradicate insurgency in the country because an idle hand is a temple for evil.

Keyword: Effects, Inadequate Parenting, Education, Northern Children

Introduction

Every child deserves a meaningful life which starts with adequate care by the parents. Basic needs of the child include provision of food, clothes, and shelter and affection of the parents when it comes to solving social and psychological problems. Providing basic needs extend to medical care, guiding the child to be Godly, providing adequate security against any harm. These and many more are the responsibilities of the parents to the child. When the child is of school age, it is the duty of the parents to enroll him/her in school where he will acquire formal education aside from what he learnt from home. Education serves as a tool for life challenges and empowerment to enable the child lives an independent life and be resourceful to the society. Apparently, this is not the case with the Northern child whose life is subjected to loneliness and hardship. He has to fend for himself at the tender age when he knows nothing about himself or life. He was left alone without the

supervision of the parents or any of the family members. Life to him is unclear fragment of illusion full of obsession, uncertainty, worries and wandering. Life remains entirely a new page of survival of the fittest, which may or may not end up well. One of the things the parents failed to realize is that, the child is not matured enough to make any rightful decision on his own as he is underage. A such, he needs the care of those who know how to provide his needs and guide him on what to do and what is right from what is wrong. Also, proper monitoring of the child is important because he is at the curial stage of development. Whatever opinion he forms or the way he behaves and reacts to issues may remain permanent. He may be putting up irrational behaviour which may be hard to control as a result of his careless upbringing. He grows with some obnoxious notions which may be hard to erase, especially the way he is made to perceived life by the people around him. Whatever notion or training he had learned at his early age grows with him and this is the kind of life he may likely live on. The cultural belief of the northerners compels the child to mingle with the society unknown to him and as result of prevailing circumstances of where he finds himself it makes him to be independent regardless of his age. The child goes along the street begging for food, cloth and where to rest his head. As the saying goes, a hungry man is an angry man. Whoever provides source of livelihood, becomes a thin god and on whose authority he must obey whether he likes it or not. He has to submit to the authority of who feeds him compulsorily. Some of the children who might be productive if given proper attention and education are made to waste away on the streets and in different places where they live as refugees. Rafiu (2020) quoting Sanusi "the truth is nobody who is leader in northern Nigeria today can afford to be happy with 87 percent of poverty in Nigeria being in the North. You can't be happy with millions of northern children out of school. You can't be happy with nine states in the North contributing almost 50 percent of the entire malnutrition burden in the country." Similarly, Onwuka (2019) attests that there are about 12 million out of school children roaming the streets in Northern Nigeria, begging as a way of survival. These children grow of up with no skill and no chance of getting any meaningful job expect menial jobs. They are also readily available for recruitment for terrorists. They had been used as weapons of destruction even against their wish, tribe and the nation at large. A typical example is the insurgency in the north. On this note, this paper aims at clarifying some basic concepts such as education and inadequate parenting, highlight the benefits of education to the northern child, view parents' role in child upbringing and implication of inadequate parenting on the society. Summary and recommendations are made to curb the ugly attitudes of inadequate parenting in the northern parts of Nigeria.

Conceptual Definitions

Concept of Education

Education is one of the basic tools that a child needs to function properly in the society. In fact, education is the only legacy that parents can give to his or her child that can make him to be self-sustained, self-reliant and self-sufficient. It is an asset to the child from the parents that will make him a better person and a contributing member to the society. Education brings out the good potentials in an individual and trains him to be a good citizen that will be law abiding and ready to defend himself, protect his family, the community he belongs to and the nation at any point in time. These are what education should train the child for as he grows up. The type of education the child receives at home which is informal also have great impacts on his development as it prepares him for further trainings and how to relate, associate, respect, appreciate, help and love those people around

him especially his family members. According to Ocho (2005) cited by Karim (2015) education makes one functional. It is a process through which individual is knowledgeable to be able to actualize his potentiality and be useful to himself and others. It is a process which assists one to accomplish his dreams. Nanyar (2018) states that education is a process that helps develop the three domains namely cognitive, affective and psycho-motor which help to mode the individual to be a better citizen that will have a good mindset for his nation. Education provides the individual with skills that will help him develop mentally, morally, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. Okeke (1996), cited by Obera (2018), views education as a lifelong process which helps to equip every individual to develop his potentiality and actualize his dreams which will make him resourceful and a functional member of the society. Education makes an individual to act in accordance to what is expected of him to give back to the society which has contributed to his upbringing in one way or the other. It is a weapon that determines the worth of the every individual through the different types of training received in school that will help bring about positive changes in his behaviour and how he perceives life.

As laudable as the importance of education is, some of the northern children still lack this basic needs of life that will make them full functioning members of the community. The situation in the north is different from what is applicable in other parts of the country where education of the children is given priority. It is only in the north that out of school children and street children are too many when they are supposed to be in school or receive training as apprentices. The adequate attention that a child needs is not received by many because of the primitive ideology of the parents which compel a child to be on his own without minding the consequences and the dangers that the child may encounter in the process. Education of some northern children do not receive adequate attention like what is applicable in other parts of the country. Some of the children are left on their own to make the two ends meet by themselves. The northern culture does not favour some of these children because of the hardship they are subjected to. Any culture that make the citizens, particularly children, suffer in isolation has nothing to offer. Some of these children meet untimely death and used for ritual because their parents could not take adequate care of them.

Inadequate

Inadequate means not enough, not up to expected standard, lacking some qualities, not sufficient. Wordnik (2019) defines inadequate as not adequate, not equal to requirement, insufficient to effect the end desired, incomplete, disproportionate and defective.

Parenting

The term parenting is a derivation from parent which means those who gave birth to a child which could be biological or otherwise. Parent could be regarded as the mother or father of a child who are the persons who biologically gave birth to the child. They are the first two persons that the child comes in contact with after birth. Parent could be one who take care of the child right from birth who the child can refer to as those who gave birth to him/her. According to Merriam-Webster (2019) parent is one who begets or brings forth an offspring to life. A person who brings up and take care of another person like his own child can be referred to as a foster or surrogate parent. Vocabulary.com Dictionary (2019) defines parent as one who nurtures, fledge, cradle, rear and raises a child. From the above definitions, one will deduce the kind of relationship that should exist between parents and

their children and the kind of strong bond that holds them together because they are the vehicles on which the child was driven to life.

While on the other hand, parenting a child is all the cares a child needs from an infant to adulthood. According to Wiktionary (2019) it is the ability to support and promote the following needs of the child physical, moral mental, emotional, intellectual, psychological and social that can aid the development of the child from infant to adulthood. Parenting of the child is a purposive process which involves the survival of the child on how to live a meaningful life. It is all the activities that can make the child feel a sense of belonging so as to enable him actualize his capabilities and potentials. Parenting is an activity that directly involves the parents of the child and other family members on how to take care of the child in all aspects. Cambridge (2019) defines parenting as raising of children and all the activities involved in it. Parenting role is a very vital experience which goes beyond just giving birth to the child alone. It requires adequate care of the child. It has to do with how the child is well catered for in terms of providing the basic needs for him at every stage of his life until he is old enough to care for himself.

Objectives of the Study

- 1- To examine the relationship between poverty and attitude of parents towards child upbringing.
- 2- To examine the effect of early marriage on inadequate parenting.
- 3- To examine the implication of having more than one child on adequate parenting.
- 4- To review effect of government policies on attitude of parents towards child upbringing.

Role of Parents in Child Upbringing

Child bearing and caring are the responsibilities of the parents. Upbringing of a child is a major responsibility that needs proper, adequate monitoring and supervision by both the parents and the people around the child. The parents are the first contacts of the child. They are the first set of people the child recognized before his immediate family members and extended community. Whatever training given to him by the parents is what will reflect in his character as either a good or bad. Parents are the mirror through which the child sees the world. They are in the position to nurture the child in a proper way to live a decent and worthy life before he is old enough to decide for himself on vital issues. Pallottine (2017) attests that child upbringing is not an easy task; it takes a collective responsibility of both the father and the mother to raise a child that will be useful to the family and society at large. When the child is a baby, it is their responsibility to provide the child with feeding, clothing, medical care and affection. Nothing is important to the child at this age than adequate care from the parents. As the child grows up, some other responsibilities will be added such as protecting the child against harm or dangers. Collective responsibilities of training and retraining of the child becomes the duty of the extended family which starts from greeting, appreciation and respect for elders. Olusegun and Idowu (2016) are of the opinion that, parents are supposed to provide an environment for their children free of hitches where they develop morally, socially and academically. The parents should provide an enabling atmosphere which will facilitate the growth and development of the child where he cannot be harassed or sexually abused. Bulus (2013) attests the duty of the parents to bring up their children in an atmosphere where there is peace and self-confidence and imbibe moral lessons on how to relate with the family members and the extended community. The child should not be brought up in an environment that is full of, threat, fear and abuse because of

the implications it may have on the child as he grows up. An environment that is full of fear, threat and abuse will rear a child who will become aggressive, and disrespectful.

Sending a child to school is another important aspect of his life because of the knowledge and skills he will receive from school which prepare him for the future. It is in school that he will learn what he wants to be in future. According to Zahid (2015), enrolling the child in a school means bringing the child to an environment where manner, etiquette, approach, kindness, love, how to react to issue and solve personal problems are taught to the child. The school environment, the teachers and peer group have roles to play in reshaping the child to be a better person who will be academically sound. The school environment allows the child to mix with different people that will have impact in his life to become an elite and a respected member of the society. The progress of his performance should be followed by the parents to know where he needs assistance. The additional knowledge he acquires in school apart from what he acquires at home put together makes the child a part of the community because schooling exposes him to additional knowledge which the home cannot provide. According to UNICEF (2012) school is a significant social environment in the life of the child where he learns additional skills and knowledge that prepare the child for future use. It is in the school that he starts to actualize his vision of what he wants to become in future and act in accordance to the rules and regulations of the society as a result of the discipline he receives from school.

Right of the Child

The child Right of 2003 section 277 clarifies who a child is and how he should be treated. A child is regarded as underage or less than eighteen years of age. A young individual who is not ripe enough or mature. A child is an inexperienced, an adolescent, immature, and youthful in age. Wikipedia (2019) defines a child as human being between the period of birth and age of puberty. The child can also be referred to as a minor, otherwise known as a person younger than the age of maturity. Duhaime.org (2019) views a child as a minor individual who is not an adult or who has not reached the age of majority. Invariably, the child is a person who will need the guidance of an elderly person to make any decision on his own. Since the child has not attained the recommended age of maturity, his guidance and supervision should be under the control of an elderly person particularly, the parents. Whatever he does he should be checked and corrected. By so doing, it is a way of leading him through the road of life. The right of the child must be respected and put into consideration, any society that does not respect the child's rights is an abuse on the part of the child. UNICEF (2013) among others, recognized the following child's rights:

- It is the right of the child to be educated. Education should be free at primary school and made compulsory for every child irrespective of where the child lives.
- The child should be given maximum protection by the parents
- Protection of the child against any form of abuse, neglect, maltreatment and mutilation child.
- Providing the child with adequate health facilities when needs be.

Inadequate Parenting of the Northern Child

Attitude of some parents in the Northern Nigeria towards upbringing of their children call for urgent attention because of the danger that most of the children encounter. Both male and female children are victims of circumstance. While the males are left out on the street to fend for themselves,

the females are victims of early marriage. Humanium(2019) attests that, the street children are found taking refuge under the bridges, in marketplaces, and in buildings under construction. Most of these children are exposed to dangers of assault, accident, ritual, rape, abduction, diseases and human trafficking because they do not receive adequate care from their parents who are supposed to be in charge of their welfare. Some of these children join robbery gangs and secret cults to become hardened and notorious criminals because they were abandoned when they should be under the parents' guide and training to become better persons to themselves, their families and the society. Most of them when interviewed attributed their misfortunes to the kind of lives they were exposed to by their parents. BBC NEWS (2019) visited one of the 'torture houses' where some of the children are mutilated, chained, starved and sexually assaulted at the tender age of five years where they are supposed to be given Islamic education. One of the children even claimed that he was chained for three months and any attempt to escape attracted severe punishment. When the police rescued them and called on their parents, some of the parents claimed that, they were not aware of the kind of torture their children were subjected to. The nonchalant attitude of the parents affects and damage the lives of these children. Some of the miscreants meet untimely death in the process of looking for ends to meet. On the other hand, the females are given out in marriage at a very tender age to take up marital responsibility. According to Girls Not Bride (2017) child marriage is most common in the northern Nigeria. Girls who were married before the age of 18years is 44%. Women between the age of 20-49 got married before they are 18years bringing the percentage to 68 and 57 respectively and most of them are from the Hausa ethnic group. The Hausa ethnic group is not the only ethnic group in Nigeria. There are other ethnic groups that value and take good care of their children despite the economic situation of the families. They strive hard to see that their children are educated or get trained in any of the apprentices. Leaving a child on the street to wonder about exposes such children to many of dangers and psychological trauma of living a lonely life. Most of the children do not enjoy maternal care because they were deprived from staying with their parents. They tend to become stone- hearted because they do not have feeling for anything.

Implications of Inadequate Parenting on the Society

There are many dangers attached to when children are left alone to themselves. The dangers do not limit to the children alone, it extends to the community and the society at large. Some of these children had met untimely death as a result of negligence by their parents who are supposed to take adequate care of them. Majority of them become hardened criminals against their wishes. They could not betray the hand that fed them so, they are compelled to obey their masters' wishes. It also has psychological effects on their emotion because it is kind of treatment they received that they will live by. Those who grew up to be criminals, will definitely not value lives as killing means nothing to them. According to Greensprings (2016) adequate parenting of child is very important because it predicts how the child performs and how it affects the child's domains for social competence, psychosocial development and academic performance.

Conclusion

The Children are the leaders of tomorrow and they can only be good leaders when they have what it takes to paddle the affairs of their home, community and the nation at large. The development of any nation rests on good quality of education of the children. Where education of the children is

nothing to write home about, the development is in jeopardy. The children need love and care from their parents, leaving a child on the street to fend for himself at a stage when he needs the care of the parents do not portray the parents as good persons. Procreation has to do with been conscious of responsibilities of giving birth and no religion imposes on anyone to give birth to number of children that he cannot cater for. The pride of every parent is to give birth to a well-educated and responsible child who will be the pride of the family and society at large. It is high time some of the northern parents desist from the kind of lives to which they subject their children in order to eradicate using them as tools for destruction.

The importance of adequate parenting on the overall development of the child cannot be over emphasized. Therefore, the contribution of this paper is on effects of inadequate parenting on education of Nigerian northern children. The implications of inadequate parenting on the lives of the children and society at large.

Recommendations

- Government should empower some of the parents in the northern parts particularly in the rural areas where high level of poverty is recorded so that they will be able to send their children to school.
- Government should endeavor to see that children are sent to school regardless of where they live.
- There should be total eradication of early marriage of the girls in the north in order to give room to the girls to be educated and have means of livelihood before they marry.
- There should be enlightenment Campaign on family planning and the importance of giving birth to number of children that one can cater for.
- Parents should be enlightened on the importance of educating their wards.
- Government should visit some of the Islamic schools to inspect how the children are treated.
- There should be training centers where these children can learn different apprentices so that they can be independent.
- Government should provide medical facilities for some these children who have health challenges as a result of hardship they are subjected to.
- The northern government should provide rehabilitation center for the affected children.

References

- BBC News. (2019). Nigerian' torture house': Kaduna school was like hellfire. (Online) Available: [https://www.bbc.com/news > Nigerian-t](https://www.bbc.com/news/Nigerian-t) (July 11, 2019)
- Bulus, M. (2013). Role of parents in child upbringing. Daily Trust {Online} Available: [https://www.dailytrust.com.ng> roles-of](https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/roles-of) (June 20, 2016)
- Cambridge English Dictionary. (2019). Parenting. {Online} Available: [https:// dictionary .cambridge.org>parent...](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/parent...)(October 22, 2019)
- Duhaime.org. (2019).Definition of child {Online} Available: [www.duhaime.org >Legal Dictionary](http://www.duhaime.org) (December 12, 2019)
- Girls Not Brides. (2017). Nigeria-child marriage around the World. Girls not Brides {Online} Available: [https://www.girlsnotbrides.org>Nigeria](https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/Nigeria) (October 22, 2017)

- Humanium. (2019). Children of Nigeria. {Online} Available: <https://www.humanium.org> > Nigeria. (July 17, 2019)
- Karim, O. R. (2015). Girl-child education in Nigeria: The role of academia. *South West Journal of Women in Colleges of Education*, 2, 1-15
- Marriam-Webster (2019). Definition of parent.{Online} Available: <https://www.merriam-webster.com>>parent. (September 22, 2019)
- Nanyar, L. (2018). Girl-child education as a veritable tool for achieving economic diversification in Nigeria. *Journal of National Association of Women in Colleges of Education*, 22(2), 50-57
- Obera, J. A. (2018). The role mother in the education of their Girl child: A catalyst for revamping the economy in Igala land of Kogi state , *Journal of National Association of Women in Colleges of Education*, 2(2), 337-342
- Olusegun, O. O., and Idowu, A. A. (2016). Child Abuse in Nigeria: Dimension, reason for Its persistence and probable, *Child and Family Law Journal*, 4(1), 1-25
- Onwuka, A. (2019).North-south education imbalance: threat to Nigerian development-Punch. {Online} Available: <https://punchng.com>>north-south-educa....(April 11, 2020)
- Pallottine, (2012). The role of parents in children upbringing. {Online} Available: pallottine.org.ng/the role-of –parent –in... (May 14, 2019)
- UNICEF (2012). Child friendly Schools: Life skills, UNICEF. {Online} Available: <https://www.unicef.org>>index_7260.(December 31,2019)
- Rafiu, A. (2020).The dethronement of Sanusi Lamido Sanusi opinion-the Guardian. {Online} Available: <https://m.guardian.ng>>opinion>the-det...(April 11, 2020)
- UNICEF. (2013). Summary of the convention of the rights of the child. {Online} Available: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk>>uni.. (December312019,)
- UNICEF. (2019). Education Nigeria Retrieved 22/10/2019 from <https://www.unicef.org>>Nigeria >edut...
- Vocabulary.com. (2019). What does parenting means? Retrieved 22/10/2019 from <https://definitions.net> > -definition
- Wikipedia. (2019). Definition of the child. Retrieved 31/12/2019 from <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>>wiki>Child.
- Wiktionary. (2019). Parenting. Retrieved 22/10/2019 from <https://en.m.wiktionary.org>>wiki>pare...
- Workdnik. (2019). Inadequate definition and meaning. Retrieved 21/11/2019 from <https://www.wordnik.com>> words >inad...
- Zahid, A. (2015). What is the responsibility of parents towards the education of their child. Retrieved 21/06/2019 from <https://www.quora.com> >What –is –the-res...