

The Role of Counsellors in the Education of Youths for National Stability and Integration in Jos North Local Government Area

IBUEBUE S. NAMO, GRACE OHUNENE MOMOH
University of Jos, Nigeria

Abstract. This paper was meant to ascertain the role of counsellors in the education of youth for national are integration in Jos North Local Government Area, descriptive survey research was used to collect information from preventative sample and draw conclusions concerning targeted population. The population was all youth in Jos North Local Government Area, four ward were randomly selected at twenty youths per ward, eighty youths were used for the sample. The instrument used were labeled Questionnaire for the role of Counsellors in the Education of Youth for National Stability and Integration (QRCEYSI). It was meant to measure causes of division, place of youth in national integration and the role of counsellors in educating youth from national integration and stability in Jos North Local Government Area. Finding revealed that there is a serious division amongst the youth, youth play a great role in integration. There is a yearning for counsellors in the informal and non formal setting for education of different youth for national integration. The following were recommended: Youth from different tribe, religion, political affiliation and social economic statue should work for integration, counsellors should work in creating awareness that can help them to better cooperate and enhance integration and stability, government should involve counsellors in issues of national importance especially in area of

peace and reconciliation integration and stability, local government and wards should have counselling unite, youth should be brought together for different social event like football match to foster integration.

Keywords: Education of Youths, Integration, National stability and role of Counsellors

1. Introduction

Integration is a basis for national stability and development. To integrate divided communities involves the complex development of trust, justice, reconciliation and forgiveness (UNESCO, thematic study on police integration for youth) 29th October 2003. Nigeria, today, battles with lots of insecurity issues that has threatened our stability as a nation. They includes insurgencies (Boko Haram and Niger Delta Militate), kidnapping, religious clashes, communal clashes and student riots. These various issues are birthed by our ethnic divides, believes, marginalization and socio-economic differences.

A good education on national integration amongst the youth is therefore of great importance if we must grow. According to Edosa 2012 only a united country and people are

in a better position to apply confront its cases of development, nationhood and stability.

Education is a process of facilitating, learning of knowledge, skills, values and belief. Education takes place under the guidance of educators, education affect the way people think, feel or behave. Some young people spend most of their lives in educational settings. Their experiences in schools, colleges and universities shape much of their lives afterwards (Wikipedia 31st July, 2015).

Tony and Mark (1999) opined that education encompasses learning that occur in formal (structured educational learning that is chronologically graded and learning from primary through tertiary), non-formal (non-structured learning that takes place outside the formal education system) and informal (learning that occurs in daily life through daily interaction with family, friends, peers, the media and other influences in a youth life). It means education is not restricted to the classroom.

Since much of youth life occurs outside of formal schooling, promoting integration of youth therefore will involve reaching out to non-school going youth as well as school going youth when they are out of school in their homes, at their places of socials, their communities and other larger social structures such as markets, churches, mosque etc. Education is a commodity with both public and private value (Dan, Nwaubani and Anyawu 2012). It can therefore be used as a deliberate tool to enhance national integration for the stability of any nation.

Youth is the time of life when one is young, a time between childhood and adulthood UN defines youth as a person between the ages of 15 – 24 years. In sub-Saharan Africa the youth is associated with young men and women from ages 15-30 or even 35 years. Federal Republic of Nigeria National Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (NYPSPA) defines youth as any Nigerian between the ages of 18 – 35 years. Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood, a time of independence and

awareness of interdependence as a member of a community (UNESCO, 2015). Population census 1991 put Nigeria youth as 88.9 million and at a growth rate of 2.8% per annum. Youth in Nigeria constitute the active citizens of the nation who are viable in transforming the stability and economy through productive input (Dan, Nwaubani and Anyawu, 2012). This is to say the nation youth are important to the stability of the nation. We must therefore bring them together to foster unity and stability of our nation.

A counsellor is someone you can talk to about what's bothering you. They can suggest ways that you can deal with stuff. Counsellors assist people to identify and define their emotional issues and better understand themselves by explaining and presenting options. Helping them set goals, providing therapy and helping them take positive action in important areas of their lives.

Counsellors duties includes helping people find solution to their problems through different therapies and theories, they facilitate groups for discussion of national burning issues, work with professionals such as medical practitioners, psychologist and social workers. The counsellor can act as intermediaries in conflict resolution and management, help in the rehabilitation of victims of crises, reintegration of military personal with their families, work with youth centres to facilitates youth involvement on national issues. All more placed a counsellor in a position to help in the education of our youth concerning the issue of integration for national stability and development..

“No one is born a good citizen, no nation is born a democracy, rather both are processes that continues to evolve over a life time. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth server its lifeline, it is condemned to bleed to death” (Secretary General, Kofi Annan addressing the world conference of ministers responsible for youth 8th August, 1998). Education including formal, non formal and informal with the counsellor at the centre as a facilitator, he/she can be used to facilitate youth integration for

national stability. The counselling unit in the L.G.A can work with community leaders, ward heads, councilors, church leader and Muslim leader to help bring youth together with a common aim to bring about national stability.

2. Statement of the Problem

According to 1991 census, youth of Nigeria make up half of the population with a growth rate of 2.8% annually. This means that the nation can not do anything of national importance without the youth. The youth of this nation constitute the viable active citizen of the nation (Dan Nwaubani, Anyawu) since youth who are supposed to be the vanguards for peace, unity and progress are being used to the contrary (Mohammed and Babaji) they therefore need to be reach with the necessity for integration and the only tool is through education, which has to be non-formal and informal since not all of them are at the formal school.

The main educator at this point is the counsellor, who is professional trained in youth matters, working with the family, communities, the churches and mosques through the relevant stakeholders, organizing talks, seminars, workshops and other training to help youth appreciate integration for national stability. This is so because the counsellor has much knowledge about factors that characterize high-risk violent amongst youth as well as intervention programmes that can reduce the occurrence of violence (Alan and Anne 2012).

3. Purpose of the study

The study is meant to achieve the following objectives:

Find out

- The cause of the divisions in our nation
- The place of the youth in national integration and stability
- The role of counsellors in educating the youth for national integration and stability
- The role of government in helping the youth through counselling education for national integration

- The place of stakeholders in enhancing national integration of youth through counselling.

4. Research Questions

- What are the bases for division in the society?
- How can youth be involved in national integration and stability
- What are the roles of counsellor in the education of youth for national integration and stability?

5. Methods

5.1 Research Design

The research design used in this study is descriptive survey. It is used to collect information from a representative sample and draw conclusions concerning the opinion of the targeted population (Awotunde & Ugodulunwa, 2004) this study is a survey of the role of counsellors in the Education of youth for national stability and integration in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State.

5.2 Participants

The population for this study was all youth in Jos North L.G.A of Plateau State. Jos North LGA is made up of twenty wards. Four wards were selected randomly from the wards. The youth were selected from the ward at twenty youth per wards. The religious dominance of each ward was also taken into consideration so that two – out of the four wards were predominantly Christian and the other predominately Muslims.

5.3 Instrument

The instrument use were labeled Questionnaire for the Role of Counsellors in the Education of Youth for National Stability and Integration (QRCEYSI) 35 items was used to collect data. It was meant to measure causes of division, place of youth in national integration and the role of counsellors in educating youth for national integration and stability in Jos North L.G.A of

Plateau State. The response demanded are Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD).

The questionnaire was administered to youth within the Christian wards by the researcher while she sought the help of a Muslim friend to help administer it in Muslim areas because of the divide in the areas. The researcher was able to collect back the questionnaire in good shape because of the persons involved.

5.4 Procedure

6. Results

The total number of respondents were 80. The results are presented in the tables below

Research Question One

Table 1: Causes of Division in the Society

A	Base for our division	Responses		Freq.	%
		Freq.	%		
1.	National integration is possible among the youth	50	62.5	30	37.5
2.	The nation do not need to be united	15	18.75	65	81.25
3.	We are divided along religious line	70	87.5	10	12.5
4.	We are divided along political affiliation	72	90	08	10
5.	We are divided along ethnic group	75	93.75	05	6.25
6.	Nigeria is too big to be united	33	41.25	47	58.75
7.	Our division is of positive values	10	12.5	70	87.5
8.	Our division is of negative values	70	87.5	10	12.5
9.	We do not really need each other to grow as a nation	13	16.25	67	83.75
10.	Trying to integrate us will cause more problem	12	15	68	85
11.	National integration is a political fallacy	39	48.75	41	51.25
12.	Integration will enhance stability and development in our nation	63	78.75	17	21.25
13.	United we stand, divided we fall is not always true	05	6.25	75	93.75
14.	Our culture forbid integration	10	12.5	70	87.5

Table 1 shows that there is a serious division amongst the youth even though a few said there is no division, we can conclude that division is a thing of concern amongst the youth. This goes to show that in Jos North the youth are not really united hence the need for the promotion of nation integration.

Research Question Two

Table 2: Youth can be involved in national integration and stability

B	Placed of youth in national integration	Responses		Freq.	%
		Freq.	%		
1.	What is more important is job creation for youth not integration.	65	81.25	15	18.75
2.	Unemployment should be tackled before integration.	68	85	12	15
3.	Youth are too busy to be thinking of integration	68	85	12	15
4.	Integration is for old people	63	78.75	17	21.25
5.	Youth are a tool for crisis	70	87.5	10	12.5
6.	Youth will benefit more when we are united	60	75	20	25
7.	Unity amongst youth is a necessity to national stability.	45	56.25	35	43.75
8.	Some youth are marginalize, so they should fight for their right.	70	87.5	10	12.5
9.	Integrating the youth will make them look like fools	20	25	60	75
10.	Religion is serious form of divide	71	88.75	9	11.25
11.	We have enough information about integration	40	50	40	50
12.	We have been educated about integration in our wards	40	50	40	50
13.	We heard about integration in school	65	81.25	15	18.75
14.	We do not know what integration means	30	37.5	50	62.5
15.	We want to know more about integration	42	52.5	38	47.5

Table 2: Shows that youths play a very significant role in integration, even though lot of them do not seem to understand the place of integration in national unity. It means that youth in Jos North need a lot of orientation on issue of integration.

Research Question Three

Table 3: Roles of counsellors in the education of youth for national integration and stability

C	The role of the counsellors in educating youths	Responses		Freq.	%
		Freq.	%		
1.	There is need for counselling in your wards	70	87.5	10	12.5
2.	Counsellors should create awareness concerning the importance of national integration and stability.	60	75	20	25
3.	Counsellors should work with community leaders to educate youth on positive lifestyles/.	65	81.25	15	18.75
4.	Counsellors should help to identify the potential of youth within the community for proper placement.	70	87.5	10	12.5
5.	Counsellors should help in the assessment of some issues facing the youth.	60	75	20	25
6.	Counsellors should be involved in rehabilitating youths who had been involved in crises.	60	75	20	25

Table 3 shows that there is a yearning for counsellors in the informal and non-formal setting for education of different youth for national integration. It means that youth in Jos North are in dare need of counsellors to educate them on issues of national integration.

7. Discussion

The place of youth in national integration and stability is really not given much attention in Jos North local government area of Plateau State. Youth are not been educated and therefore they live the way they like and engage in various forms of vices that threaten our unity as a nation. It is important to take a good step towards national integration, we cannot confront the issue of development and stability so long as we are divided (Edosa 2014).

Integration of divided communities involves the complex development of trust, justice, reconciliation and forgiveness (UNESCO 2015), to build this trust, forgiveness and reconciliation there is a need for a public awareness and orientation on the importance of integration, counsellors as people with wealth of knowledge in different areas and trained professionals in youth matters should be able to carry out this awareness programmes in the different wards. Akinade 2012 states that there are many kinds of information which an individual need to enable

him make a realistic choice. Since the counsellor is a disseminator of information, he is therefore needed to help in working with this youth so as to work towards national integration.

In relation to the role of counsellors, he or she should be given the chance to work directly and indirectly with the youth in the communities, he or she should not be restricted to school alone, since its not all youth that are in school. Despite our line of divided, proper education by way of relevant information will go a long way to help counsellors should be given the opportunity to help these youth on matters of integration so that our nation can be a developed and stable nation.

8. Recommendations

With the research on the role of counsellors in the education of youth for national stability and integration in Jos North L.G.A of Plateau State, the following recommendation is been made:

- Youth from different tribe, religion, political affiliations and social economic statue should do the best to work for integration (unity).
- Counsellors should work in creating awareness giving relevant information that can help youth to better co-operate and enhance integration and stability
- The government should involve counsellors in issues of nation

importance especially in the area of peace and reconciliation, integration and stability etc.

- The government and other stakeholders should work with youth through the counsellor to educate them on the importance of national integration.
- Local government areas and different ward offices should have counselling unite that takes care of your matter.
- Youth should be brought together from different tribes, religion and socio-economic background to form different social events like football match to foster integration.

9. Conclusion

Integration is a very important ingredient in national stability. The youths are very important in the growth and development of any nation. Counsellors are rained personal that are needed in the key areas in the society especially amongst youths. The working together of all he above will definitely lead to an integrated society and helps our economies grow and be very stable.

References

- Akinade, E. A. (2012). *Introduction to Modern Guidance and Counselling (A Basic Test for Tertiary Institutions)*. Brightway Apata: Ibadan estherim graphic prints.
- Awotunde, P. O. & Ugodulunwa, C. A. (2004). *Research method in education*. Jos: Fab Anieh (Nig) Ltd.
- Dan, J. Mazieobi, Nwaubani, O. Anyawu J. (2012). Youth restiveness implication for achieving sustainable nation building in Nigeria. *International Journal of Educational Science and Research (IJESE)*, 2(2), 310-42.
- Edosa, Enaruna (2014). National Integration, Citizenship, Political, Participation and Democratic Stability in Nigeria. *An International Journal of Art and Humanities*, 3(3), 61-62.
- Oladele, J. O. (2014). *Human Motivation and Emotion: Fundamentals of Educational Psychology Handbook for Education Students and teachers* (pp 101-111). Akoko, Yaba, Johns-Lad publishers.
- Lannap, A. L. (2012). *Behaviour modification: Basic issues in guidance and counselling*. (pp 54-61). Jos: Mono expression ltd.
- Momoh, G. O. & Laisis, J. O. (2014). Assessment of the effectiveness of Guidance Service in Senior Secondary Schools in Jos North L.G.A. *Journal of education Foundations*. 4(1), 119-128.
- Obiunu J. J. & Ebinu, O. R. (2013). Counselling for national secondary and nation building. *Research Journal in Organization Psychology and Education Studies (RJPED)*, 2(2), 43-48.
- Oladele, J. O. (2004). *Fundamentals of Educational Psychology Handbook for Education Students and Teacher*. (pp. 101-111). Akoko Yaba, Johns-Lad Publishers.
- Tony, J. & Mark, K. S. (1999). The problem of “youth” for youth work’. *Youth and Policy*, 62: 45-66. Retrieved from: <http://www.infed.org/archive/youth.htm>. <http://www.unesco-org/new/en/social-and-human-science/themes/youth/youth-defintion/>. Accessed 7/08/15 2.46am
- <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/youth>. Accessed on 7/08/15 at 1.12am