



A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL VICES IN NGURU LOCAL GOVERNMENT, YOBE STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study focuses on a sociological analysis of social vices in Nguru local government. Social vices generally are bad traits, unhealthy and negative behaviors that are against the morality of society and frowned at by members of society. The main objective of the study is to investigate and document the nature of social vices and to identify the factors responsible for social vices to design an avenue in order to ensure an effective and drastically reduction of social vices. Social vices are an all-encompassing fundamental existing and pervasive predicament that engulf almost entire human social life, as well are type of problems that jeopardize the social life of Nigeria, and Nguru local government area in particular. Both primary and secondary methods of data collection were used. Data was analyzed by using qualitative method. The findings of the study reveals that, the main types of social vices in the study area are, girl child rape, stealing of cell phone, drug abuse, displacement of newly born babies, prostitutions and their consequences to the society. The study also revealed the youth unemployment has also been said to be responsible factor increase crime, civil disorder, lack of adequate parental care, poverty and immoral behavior facilitate social vices. Society generally should take care to measure the nature of behavioral aspects in the community; mothers should play a special role by training their offspring good conduct and habit to meet the required expectation of general society. Professional and religious organizations are expected to promote and avenue of peace living conditions via the spirit of their area of specialization.

KEYWORDS : Social Vices, Unemployment, Poverty

Introduction:

Social vices are the general factors that affect and damage a significant number of people in society. In sociological term which often refers to as social problem, which means a social condition that disrupts and damage society such as crime, prostitution, girl child hawking in street and rape. It has been characterized as one of the serious impediment to social progress especially in Nigeria and generates more problems that hindered the development of the country. Nigeria faces a lot of social vices today due to high rate of unemployment, insecurity, poverty, prostitution, arm robbery, kidnapping, rape, cyber-crime, burglary and house breaking, terrorism and drug addiction among other things. Unemployment is the remote cause of various social issues or social problems in this area, it give rise to an increase of social vices in the area such as theft, stealing of handset is predominant, burglary, pick pocking , drug abuse and housebreaking. It led to an increase of divorce, illegal sexual intercourse among both married and unmarried women, and poverty in the area. According to Dan Ekpek "D C O Nigeria Police Force Nguru Division, the most prevalent cases is girl child rape by an older people of about the age of 45 to 70 and stealing of handset among youth".

Merton and Nisbet(1996) distinguished social problems from other problems because of their link with institution and normative context. to them, social problems pertain to human relationships. Problems assume a social dimension when they affect relationship among people and disturb social order. Gusfield(2003),the concept of social problem is a claim that some conditions, set of events, or group of persons constitute a troublesome situation that needs to be changed or ameliorated. Sabran(2003)Opined that a certain behaviors is considered a social problem when substantial parts of society or an influential part of the society think that such behaviors is unhealthy and against the values and norms of society's life. Currently Nigeria is facing serious social problems which have been the bane of the society; it has defied solutions in both the state and local government. With regard to these problems, this study examines the nature and causes of social vices in Nguru Local Government Area Yobe State.

Methodology:

The study relies mainly on qualitative and descriptive methods. The

primary data obtained through participant observation, in-depth interviews, and Focus Group Discussions, by articulation of shared cultural values, tradition, customs, and habits of general populace of study area. While the secondary sources are books, textbooks, journals, Websites, newspaper, a available police records and other written document related to the research. Being an explanatory research, the data was analyzed using viable explanation as observed by the researcher and views of people of study area.

Literature Review:

This study focus on a sociological analysis of social vices that are prevalent in the area of Nguru local government community, based on the review of related literatures. The consequences of social vices comprises girl child hawking in the street, prostitution, stealing cell phones and rape. Briefly, some factors that facilitate social vices such as unemployment and poverty would be address. Social vices generally are bad traits, unhealthy and negative behaviors that are against the morality of society and frowned at by members of society.

1. UNEMPLOYMENT:

The concept of unemployment like others terminologies in the field of human endeavor have received various definitions and descriptions. Nicholas (2000), defined unemployment as a person is unemployed if he or she is eligible for work but does not have a job. Unemployment is defined as the number of people in the population who are willing and offer themselves for employment but could not be employed because of lack of vacancies (Aguene,1991). According to Rodney (1985) the term unemployed is not apply to everyone who is not employed but only those of legal working and older who are without job and seeking for work. Furthermore,, the Nigerian government also placed an embargo on employment specifically total disengagement from the federal civil survive rose from 2,824 in 1980 to 6,294 in 1984 (Odusola, 2001). The youth unemployment has also been said to be responsible for an increase in crime and civil disorder. In fact it is the young and families of the young that suffer most in term of an economic loss and social deprivation. The rapid growth of youth unemployment has been view with concern by the young and their parents by economist and by politicians. Crime and delinquency are among the most frequently discussed out of employment (Junakar, 1986).

Unemployment is considered as major source of social vices and other related social concerns. Thus, unemployment in Nigeria is very severe and threatening to the citizenry and the economy as a whole (Bello 2003). The unemployment episode has continued to pose many challenges to the survival of the Nigerian nation through fueling social vices. Some of these consequences on the unemployed youth include:

1.1 Unproductive labor force: According to Njoku and Ihugba (2011), the most direct impact on the economy of an unproductive labor force is lost output in terms of goods and services. With no income tax to collect and the loss of receipts from indirect taxes payers. Most of youths that have the requisite skills in entrepreneurship, who even came out from institution of higher learning with wonderful results have no place in the work environment of Nigeria. This ugly scenario has made the labor force to be unproductive.

1.2 Contributes to crime and violence: With the growth of youth unemployment, the gap between the rich and the poor kept growing, resulting in social tensions which could affect the entire sparses of the community, state and the entire country (Niger-Delta militancy, North-East, North-Central insurgents killing, etc).

1.3 Contributes to drug addiction: Due to frustration that results to the inability of engaging in a gainful employment, most people turn to drugs and even go ahead to be addicted to the illicit drugs.

1.4 Psychological effects: Youths, who have spent two or more years in schools and colleges, have dreams and aspirations. These are dreams of securing satisfying jobs following their long years of struggle, meeting basic necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter and healthcare), graduating to a life of comfort and dignity and, eventually, enjoying the luxuries of life. The trauma of seeing their dreams trampled week-after-week, month-after-month, can and does lead to deep psychological scars that is very difficult to face at such a young age. This trauma can impact on individual's self-esteem and can lead to clinical depression.

1.5 Political instability: When unemployment grows in a community, dissatisfaction with the incumbent Government follows. This in turn, leads to frequent changes in Governments or formation of unsteady coalitions. Neither is it healthy for long term stable economic policies nor could this situation lead to a vicious circle of political changes. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt had stated, "Not only our future economic soundness, but the very soundness of our democratic institutions depends on the determination of our government to give employment to idle men". Causes migration: This can be rural-urban drift or from one country to another which creates vacuum in a nation's match to social and economic development. In highlighting the effects of unemployment Okeke J.C remarked that "Unemployment generally is an economic, social and political problem which must be solved at all cost, or whose effect ought to be reduced.

2. POVERTY: The World Bank (2000) utilized inductive approach to uncover dimension of poverty and therefore defined poverty using many indices. One of such definitions is that poverty is "the lack of what is necessary for material well-being especially food, but also housing, land, and other assets. In other word, poverty is lack of multiple resources that leads to hunger and physical deprivation". Nuhu O Yaqub (2002:218) defined poverty as a "privation or want in which a poor individual is incapable of satisfying the minimum basic human needs in such areas as food, housing and clothing, to ensure a decent life or existence".

According to Aliyu (2003:2) poverty is a situation where an individual or group of people can be said to have access to his/her basic needs, but is comparatively poor among persons or the generality of the community. The Central Bank of Nigeria (1999:1) view poverty as "a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his or her basic needs of food, clothing, and

shelter; is unable to meet social and economic obligations; lacks gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem; and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, portable water, and sanitation; and consequently, has limited chance of advantage his or her welfare to the limit of his or her capabilities". Therefore, poverty has been seen as the major cause of social vices which covers every aspect of human social life and has detrimental effect on social development, cultural and educational performance particularly in study area.

3. Types of Social vices: Social vices are an inevitable predicament that have very awful catastrophe upon general populace and bring about public distortion such as inadequate and pure interaction within the social context. Poverty promotes degree of portion of world's conflicts, crimes as well as social vices in many human societies in the universe.

3.1 Girl Child hawking in the Street: Its one of the major component of the pervasive social vices which is design as acceptable especially in part of northern Nigerian but is attach to various social, physical and cultural problems. Femi Tinuola (2009) defined street hawking as the selling of products along the roads, markets, motor parks and involved movement from one place to another. He further said in Nigeria street hawking is done by young children of both sexes with greater proportion among girls. The girl hawkers come to the urban road or junction in groups and go in various directions to hawk their products. Alabe(2005), observed that street hawking is a business or trade undertaken by both sexes. He added that mostly children join the hawking profession at their early years as a compulsion for their own and families' survival. While Mauro Ali Mu'azu(2000), argued hawking by children has in recent years come under serious attack by a number of concerned people. Children who go around hawking are in constant danger of being kidnapped, rape or knocked down by vehicles. The reasons are centered on social and economic motivates which cut across the girl's child street hawking in Nigeria.

Therefore, the economic reason is a primary cause of girl child participation in street hawking of daily products in towns. The reason behind girl's child to participate in street hawking in urban or rural areas is to generate income to support their wedding expenses, as well as to train them into future economic independence and self-reliance (Junaid 2003).

3.2 PROSTITUTION: According to Davis (1961) prostitution is product as having corresponding poor wages on themselves and are socially devaluated, no matter how function they might be to the society, so far no matter what function a prostitution may performed to the society they are of less value because one person found himself in these types of act categorically is considered as out of laws. Encyclopedias Americana (2001) explain that act of prostitution generally are formed by women for men, but are sometime done by men for men. Person who make a living or supplement their income from prostitution usually are willing to engage in sexual activity with most people who can pay them. Although prostitution sometimes have been known to impose hygienic, age health or racial and ethnic criteria on their acceptance of customer.

R K Merton and R.Nisbet (1961) stated that "prostitution is universal and oldest form of behavior which are found in all human society in the world. Historically, prostitution started right from our forefathers and it aimed at sexual satisfaction based on payment.

Carrel Smart (1989) in her book Women crime and criminology a permanent continuous stated that " prostitution " are women who are interested in sex, who do find satisfaction indiscriminate sexual intercourse and who are operating over sexed and also many people will be shocked to learn that most prostitute deliberately chose prostitution as their source of income. In the definition virtually the act of prostitution has nothing good to development of our society since it does not bring any source or achievement to the

society.

Islam and Christianity of which those religious groups have strongly discourage and punished those involved in prostitution and considered as offence to humanity. A person who engages in an act of prostitution is considered as an outcast and will lose his/her prestige. However, Donna M. and Claire (1999) gave the following consequences of prostitution such as physical health consequences include: Sexually transmitted diseases such as STDs, HIV/AIDs among others, injury (brushes broken bones) etc and unwanted pregnancy and miscarriage, emotional consequences of prostitution include severe trauma, stress, depression, anxiety, drug abuse and eating disorder.

3.3 RAPE: Rape is one of the oldest crimes in human history and also considered as criminal act in all countries of the world, but definition and punishment differ from place to place. It has also been noticed that rape cases are reported more in the western world than many others of the globe. For example, in African and Asia, rape victims usually lack the courage to speak out or report their experiences to the law enforcement agencies due to the negative societal attitude prevalent in such climes. Rape thrives in secrecy and in a culture where victims are blamed for what happens to them, instead of the perpetrators, (Kehinde.A.degbe,ESQ,LLM,BL.) Going by provision of law, rape is defined under section 357 of the criminal code which applies to the southern part of Nigeria as: Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman, by personating her husband is guilty of an offence which is called rape.

4. The New Trend and Dimension of Social Vices in the Study Area:

The phenomenon of social vices has now formed a new trend and dimension which become a threat to the general populace. Police in an attempt to apprehend a group of gangs in Nguru main cows market, who involved in serious drug abuse of codeine syrup, marijuana, and other sort of drugs, two of them jumped into a pool very near to such market and die. These young gangs revolted, rioting and ignited fire burning tires throughout the main streets of the town, and carry along the corpse shouted for compensation even to the emir palace. This riot halted market activities, schools, and put police in deep pressure in that day. According to researcher's interviews with some people who had seen the nature of the riot and the situation with which Nguru people found themselves, they commented that the gangs have now become a problem to the entire town. Because they take action and decision by themselves without government, courts or leaders of town concerns.

However, murder or manslaughter take place by the hand of individuals who are mostly youth, displacement of new born babies, rapid increased of girl child rape and girl child street hawking that caused prostitution was threatened the future generation of Nguru local government community as whole. This phenomena of various social vices engulfed the study area and need emerged attention of general populace, community leaders, agencies like police, courts, prison waders and voluntary associations established mainly to provide societal development in order to reduce or prevent these social vices. Also social vices affected Nguru community through wide spread of HIV and AIDs among youth and increased mentally ill people via drug abuse which facilitate the level of illiteracy and school dropout. The new trend of social vices in study area was how unusual vices engulfed this community and taken penalty of dangerous criminal act on their hand without police or any authority order. While the dimension was how strongly they devastated religious teachings and threatened entire society, police and even army with phobia of conflict.

5. Results and Discussion: The researcher used the following questions in the Focus Group Discussions: What are the major types, causes and consequences of social vices in study area? How

government and general populace perceived and respond to these vices? While in interviews these questions are applied: what is the nature of social vices in this community? To what extent does it affect or become a threat to this environment? What would be the trend of this community if such social vices continue?

It was observed that, how shared cultural values, tradition, norms, customs as well as beliefs and views of the study area inhabitants on the nature and causes of social vices. As mentioned atelier, the term social vices is a phenomena that had happened in certain different times, places, locations, situations and involved people from various background who differ in sex, age, social status and therefore educational standard within the study area. Social vices have a lot of dimensions in Nguru local government because of the differences in terms of socio-cultural background and nature of environment and location. It was able for researchers to explore that the phenomena of social vices in this community was equal to the secondary data acquired from the police division of Nguru (DCO) Dan Ekperk, who produced documents and admitted that the prevalent social vices in this community are generally involved issues of stealing of cell phones which facilitate increase number of offence and girl child rape perpetuated mostly by aged people of about 45 to 70 years. Rape was viewed to occur as a result of girl child hawking in the street but some rape cases are due to less parental care according to outcomes of focus group discussion with Dan Ekperk and other wards heads. It was observed that rape cases are generally hide in study community area due largely to protect girl chastity and to avoid societal blame, stigma and prejudice upon the victims rather than the perpetrators.

According to Umar Bah, inspector of Nigerian Prison Service Nguru, record and admin officer have vividly explain it as menace to society, he further explain the nature and causes of rape from part of perpetrators and victims of rape. He stated that "causes of rape at Nguru community involved girl child hawking, bad peer group influence, poor socioeconomic background, parental refusal of marrying their daughters at regular time which facilitated pre-marital sex resulted to many illegitimate child, in addition to some causes which arose desire to rape girls by their male counterpart".

Indeed, this give girl child experience of carnal knowledge which according to some belief ignite pornographic desire on girl's life and bring prostitution will. Rape victims are within 7 to 13 years of age. The researcher was able to interview some primary and junior secondary schools head masters and principals concerning the period, and time of the commission of rape, they mentioned that it often happened during breakfast time and period was within term system not on vacation. That is around 9:30 am morning when parents, teachers and other people were engaged in their respective work places. This kind of act mostly happened in urban center as observed it.

Another social vice that affected Nguru local government community was cell phone crime of stealing. On the basis of researcher observation, focus group discussions discover that cell phone stealing has now becoming very wider social vices in study area. It cover both rural settlement and urban centers, and involved people of different skills, literacy and illiteracy, male and female married and unmarried. It therefore, happened at mosques, market place, church, within family house, even in higher institutions, primary and secondary schools among teachers as though as in football playground. Handset theft cases in area were rapidly progressing even into Federal Medical Center, bakery industries, more frequently in videos centers and cinema gathering. Majority of the culprits or thieves are young people who are within adolescence stage. Indeed, it involved older people generally male and even children were engaged in the act, they are exposed to it due to poverty according to pedestrian's views. There was no specific time for the commission of handset stealing, it usually occur in day time, afternoon, evening and night. Especially, in mosque the mentioned time resembles mosque cases of cell phones. As a result, there exist a rapid increase number of thieves as observed based on Focus Group

Discussion with prison personnel on the prevalent cases in their existing record.

Drug abuse has form an unusual dimension of vices that mainly affected youth in study area. Drug abuse such as codeine syrup help in changing the habit of both male and female, even married women are now been exposed to drug abuse. It was observed, there are many pharmaceutical medicine stores that used to sell codeine syrup not as a form of medicine but rather a kind of drug, which lead to stupor condition.

Drug abuse caused many problems such as pickpocket, in the main market just to have a means of getting stupor condition, burglary around the new sites called "Nayinawa" and "Power House" where some homeless people find opportunity to build their own houses and also reside with their family. Many culprits of such vices are found to be unemployed and make it necessary to take syrup at any means, so, they decided to join such offenses. Within Central part of Nguru local government, many indicators has shown how rapidly youth involved in sodomy and lesbianism based on the data collected through interviews with some of group of elders in this community. According to Sale Ahmed Jibo, who work at Bala Isa special Bread Company stated that "In this community sodomy and lesbianism has been the most problematic phenomena that put youth into astray". while Sadi Suleiman Garba who work as health attendant at Federal Medical Center Nguru main laboratory stated that "As result of social vices many people are found With HIV and AIDs especially during their matrimonial blood test" this prevent several marriage in this community and course societal shock.

On analysis the causes of sodomy and lesbianism was perpetuated by a young people of about 18 years to 35 years in study are was unemployment, poor living conditions and intense desire for material and luxurious life style. While for lesbians it was caused largely as a result of systematic cell phones use by young ladies, also they developed interest over pornographic lust learned from Western sexual videos. The consequences of this were that, it led to the dismissal of some girl students in senior secondary schools particularly boarding schools, separation of marriage couples.

The phenomena of displacing newly born babies has now been experienced in this community, very recently found in Hausari ward inside the porch of someone house near main market stall, another was found also in Ngilewa ward in the dawn rut street and third one was found dead inside the General Hospital drainage at Bulabulin ward. These phenomena perplexed the general populace and at the same time provide tension to all families towards their female's daughter's behavior. Police and other agencies had apprehended a group of youth which comprises both males and females in the night at cemetery doing sexual act that has never been experienced before. The entire town of Nguru local government cries out that they deserved dead penalty due to the nature of the act, it's contrary to the values of all community.

6. Conclusion:

Based on the findings of the study, concluded that, social vices is inevitable phenomena in all human society, so that is not generally prevalent in the study area. The main factors responsible for the phenomena of social vices are unemployment and poverty. The most prevalent social vices was girl child hawking in the street, prostitution, girl child rape, stealing of cell phone among youth, middle-aged and older people which involve both male and female in this act. The study also revealed that, the new trend of social vices in study area was how unusual vices engulfed this community and taken penalty of dangerous criminal act on their hand without police or any authority order. While the dimension was how strongly they devastated religious teachings and threatened entire society, police and even army with phobia of conflict.

The fundamental effort was made by the security agents to prevent or drastically reduce the existence of social vices, in order to provide smooth running of social affairs and development of all aspect of

social life. However, some portion of vices become a threat and challenge to this community. Even though some advancement has been succeed to the issue of social vices in this community area.

7. Recommendations:

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been made:

First, society generally should take care to measure the nature of behavioral aspects of their immediate community in order to tackle the problems affected entire populace. Therefore, gradual solutions should be achieved to control all vices in society or have reduced the vices. Parents and policy makers should bear in mind that social vices is largely inevitable in society but they have to develop more efforts to overcome this issue and provide standard living conditions in the community. Mothers have to lay a special role by training their offspring's good conduct and habit to meet the required expectation of general society.

Secondly, respondents had stated their views over the nature and causes of social vices and how it affected the community in various ways. In this regard many of them stated that unemployment and poverty has to be reduced in society and engage many unemployed ones into some activities, through providing financial assistance, initiating some programmes and support the rest of society. Thirdly, there should be public counseling by professionals and religious organizations on how to avoid social vices, on the basis of their area of specialization such as doctors through medical guide upon how health is essential to human life, psychologists/sociologists to give a scientific solution, and to predict a positive behavioral change.

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