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**INDISCIPLINE IN NIGERIAN SCHOOLS**

Jim Rohn said “Discipline is the foundation upon which all success is built. Lack of discipline to inevitably leads to failure.” Discipline is the quality of being able to behave and work in a controlled way which involves obeying particular rules or standards. The lack of indiscipline in Nigerian schools has increased over the years.

Although some blame the parents for indiscipline amongst students in the present day, teachers are more at fault because students spend more of their active hours in school than at home. This doesn’t discard the fact that there are other factors responsible for indiscipline in Nigerian schools. Indiscipline are in several forms.

It’s an undeniable fact that indiscipline which exists in Nigerian schools are variable, after an overlook at the disrespectful situations in schools nowadays, there are mainly three forms of indiscipline in schools. Disobedience to school authority is one of them, whereby students disregard and condemn instructions given by non-teachers and teachers and also the assault of school prefects. Another one of the cases is the collective misbehaviour of students in groups – students tend to join bad groups and cliques so they can be feared or be seen as powerful in the eyes of both the students and the teachers, they also engage themselves in activities like cultism and vandalism. Lastly, cases relating to poor habits could be seen as indiscipline, some of these habits include lateness and absenteeism from school, examination malpractice, fighting and ignorance to dress code policy. These undisciplined acts can be as a result of inactions and actions of teachers.

Indiscipline has always been existent in schools due to several reasons. Firstly, lack of well-defined conduct- A code of conduct in every school and family that clearly states the rules and regulations of the school are poorly communicated to students to create awareness and a reminder of what to do also, not what to do. Secondly, it is also seen that a defect in the supervision of students by teachers creates an environment for students to do whatever they wish when they are poorly supervised.

According to L.R Knost “Discipline is helping a child solve a problem. Punishment is making a child suffer for having a problem. To raise problem solvers, focus on solutions not retributions.” This explains that the lack of motivation from teachers provides an atmosphere for indiscipline to kick in while doing assigned work because when they are not motivated to do well but rather scolded.

Indiscipline has its own consequences on both the undisciplined individual and also the school. It was also found that the effects of indiscipline on individual affects the academic which includes ; students' inability to concentrate in class- students will lack the urge to study or engage in academic activities when they have divided attention in school. Loss of materials taught due to absenteeism- In cases where students are absent during classes they would miss out on lecture therefore leading to poor grades and reduced academic performance. Finally, increase in rate of school drop-out- there would be an increase in the rate of school drop outs when students cannot meet up in the academic standards of the school and will leave school on that note. These acts of indiscipline and its consequences have remedies to it.

In order to solve the problems of indiscipline there are variable measures to adopt. First of all, there should be a reduction in the class size in order to provide efficient supervision of students in the classroom and allow teachers to attend to students according to their level of understanding. Another measure is to curb indiscipline in Nigerian schools is the awarding of well-behaved students and good academic performance so that it provides a motivation to perform well in school and behave so they look forward to an award and work hard to achieve their goals. Additionally, the student involvement in the implementation of conduct policies is advised so students help to practice the policies and help to make rules that can easily be obeyed.

In the final analysis, Parents, the society and the individual are also responsible for indiscipline which exists in Nigerian schools but teachers are more responsible for it than the parents or the society. Indiscipline in its different forms have its own causes and effects as well as solutions to the problems of indiscipline. Therefore both teachers and parents should play their roles in supervision of their children and students.