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**THE INFLUENCE OF BAD CHILD UPBRINGING ON THE SOCIETY**

The primary and first form of knowledge a child acquires is from his immediate surrounding which will most definitely be his home. The child learns and keeps on learning until he is old enough to be schooled. This knowledge is what serves as the base foundation in the development of that child. It is what determines the childs character, behaviours and sense of discerning what is right and wrong.

In the Nigerian environment, there are a lot of parents who care very little on what their children pick up from them and their neighbours. As I believe, there is nothing that an individual may do which is not learned either from other individuals, or from the environment at large. In Nigeria, a lot of women take their children with them to their work places. This can be seen especially in market places. With the huge crowd of people and busy market days, there is a lot happening which can be picked up by the child who is left unsupervised and idle. Since the child has nothing to keep him busy, he is able to see even that which the parent and others may not even notice. In the market place, we can see scammers, kidnappers, thieves, and even the jungle justice which is carried out on those thieves. None of these things is a good behaiour which should be learned by a child.

Nowadays, we see a lot of juvenile delinquents roaming the streets of Nigeria and terrorizing the society. Some are drug addicts, smokers, drunkards, prostitutes and cultists. There is never a day in which a party does not go on. They answer to no one and do not care about anything. Adults always seem to blame these behaviours on bad friends while forgetting that the parents are the ones responsible for the child. If the children were not given the resources and opportunity to do as they please, then we would not be having these problems. I have observed that most of these juvenile delinquents come from rich homes with wealthy parents who spoil their children to the bone with money. They let them roam freely doing whatever they want and unsupervised. Even in school, these rich kids are spared of all crimes they commit since their parents can easily bribe the school authorities with money. Such children grow up knowing nothing about consequences and become a huge disaster to the society. We have a lot of kids like that in Nigeria who will bring about the ruin of this beloved nation.

Parents are expected to raise their children to be succesful, patriotic and God fearing citizens of Nigeria. Such is the responsibility of a parent. But when the parents themselves are irresponsible and unpatriotic citizens, you can not expect their children to be different. Children from terrible homes tend to end up wayward. The issues they face in their respective homes affect their daily living. Orphans living on the streets of Nigeria also face difficulties in living as they are not cared for by anyone. They see and experience a lot of things living on the streets from which they learn and apply. I cannot find a possible way to blame the bad behaviour these kids exhibit on them because anyone put in their shoes to experience the hardships and struggles the have faced might even turn out worse than them.

My suggestion in helping to reduce the number of juvenile delinquents as well as to secure the future of Nigeria which rests in the hands of these children is that they should be cared for and raised in the proper way. The government should provide facilities to shelter and provide positive moral education for the homeless children. Parents should also behave responsibly and esure that their children get the best moral upbringing to become responsible individuals in the future. The fate of Nigeria rests in the hands of these young ones but more on the parents who are responsible for carving out the path to fruitfulness. The upbringing of children should be taken more seriously in order to ensure a brighter tomorrow.