

NAME: ADEPOJU AISHA ABOLORE

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DEPARTMENT: COMPUTER SCIENCE

COURSE: GST122

TRIBALISM IN NIGERIA

According to Wikipedia, tribalism is a state of being organized by, or advocating for, tribes or tribal lifestyles. Tribalism may also refer to the cultural terms to a way of thinking or behaving in which people are more loyal to their tribe than to their friends, their county, or any social group. In Nigerian context, tribalism is defined as a social phenomenon associated with the identity of members of a competing communal group(s) seeking to protect and advance their interest in a political system.

In Nigeria today, tribalism has been elevated to dominate national discourse, controls how people think and talk, determines what they oppose or support. It is promoted by political elites and is embraced by both the young and old, passed from generation to generation and even based in the constitution.

Tribalism has a huge effect in the development of our country Nigeria. The issue dates back to decades ago and it has grown increasingly worse today. Tribalism like corruption and other social vices has eaten deep into all the sectors of the nation including human relations. In politics for instance, you discover that once an influential person or someone gets into an influential position, he or she begins to put people who come from his tribe, in different positions of authority. Whether the person is skilled for the job or not remains irrelevant, all they are concerned about is bringing their fellow tribes person on board and this in itself is wrong because when such people are brought in, they won't live up to expectations.

In the aspect of relationship, tribalism has ruined several relationships, casual relationships, business relationships and romantic relationships. People say

they cannot marry who is not from his or her tribe or cannot do business with another tribe. These statements come from someone with either bad experiences with people from another tribe or have heard from either their friends or family.

Some impacts of tribalism are;

- Inability to fight corruption
- Employments
- Politics division
- Distrust
- Promotion of mediocrity and suppression of justice

The best way to curb tribalism is to love one another. Don't pass judgement to that man or woman, boy or girl because of what you heard. Get to know them and love them for who they are. Treat people equally.