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Matric no: 19/MHS11/039

Subject code : Gst 122

Cultism In Nigeria

Cultism is a system or practice of a cult. Cult on the other hand is a group of people with a religious philosophical or cultural identity sometimes viewed as a sect, often existing on the margins of society or exploitative towards its members.

Cultism Popularly called in the neighbourhood as Secret Cult can be said to be an organisation of which people come together to pledge their allegiances under an oath and have a social bond of commitment and dedication for the good of the organisation.

This set of people carry out their meetings when people are not aware of, especially during the odd hours (Midnight) and far away from residence (in the bush most often time). This individuals keep their activities secret from non-members and people in the society.

History of cultism in Nigeria

The history of cultism can be traced back to 1952 when the Nobel Laurel Price Winner, Professor Oluwole Akinwande Soyinka and six others formed the 'Pyrate Confraternity' (a.k.a See Dogs).

At that time various school of thought are developed, surrounding the actual aim and objective of founding the cult group. The pioneer and its members said it is a platform for the fight of human right and justice (activism) and it is void of evil.

After some years, various other cult groups emerged such as Black Axe, Jezebel Daughters, Black Eye, Black Beret, Black Bra, Supreme Eiyee, Vikings, Aro Mates, Buccaneers amongst others whose activities suggest nothing but evil in the society.

These cults groups share some features in common which are initiation of new members, ritual practices, oaths taking, inscription of marks on their bodies, use of sign, symbols and colours.

Their activities involves frequent violent clash among different cults groups which always lead to death or end in casualties, constant abuse of drugs, armed robbery, sexual assault, vandalization, forceful intimidation of lecturers, examination malpractices, harassment and bullying of fellow course mate, assassination to mention a few.

Cultism is so rampant in schools all over the world, it is known to be at its peak in tertiary institutions but it is no more news that it has expanded its territories to secondary schools and even primary schools as we speak.

This social vice is really eating up the moral and educational standard of the country. As a matter of fact, innocent students are being lured into the act and all other social vices.

The problems associated with cultism cannot be overemphasised, despite the effort of the government and school authorities to put an end to cultism in the country proved abortive.

Causes Of Cultism In Our Present Day Society

Cultism in Nigeria is caused by different factors and the most common causes are

- * Quest for power or social identity
- * Poor parental training
- * Peer pressure/peer group influence
- * Revenge
- * Emotional instability
- * Wealth
- * Loneliness
- * Use of cultists by politicians
- * Drug abuse
- * poverty
- * Search for protection

The Effect Of Cultism In Nigeria

Nigeria as a nation has greatly suffered the negative effects of cultism. The split-tribal culture made it a 'join us or die' thing. The various groups and their strife for dominance is the big deal. These effects includes:

* Death

The death of young people this days is so alarming due to cultism practices by students and non student (thugs, touts, deviants individuals) Little issues that need settlements end up triggering a lot of calamities in the society. They even go as far as killing themselves over a mere issues like girlfriends and the likes.

* High Increase In Student Dropout

Cultism has propelled high increase on drop out students. In Nigerian the major cause of student drop out is usually link to cultism. Although it not in all cases because there are several reasons for which a student may be expelled or suspended from school.

* Thuggery

Politicians and government officials usually recruits young people that have tendency of been a thug to assist them in their political affairs during elections and campaigns. Even the religious leaders go as far as using them as body guards which in turn make them misbehave in the society basing their life on the survival of the fittest which will definitely increase insanity in the country.

* Theft and Robbery's

Theft and robbery is one of the major effect of cultism because this set of individuals go out as a group to do notorious activities as ordered by their toppers (i.e their Captain, Capon, Don etc) which is mostly in the night. They usually give them assignment to carry out which can either be

robbery, kidnap, assassination, rape, car snatching or bather which need to be carry out within a stipulated period of time.

Suggested Solution To Cultism In Nigeria

Cultism if not tackled, will continue to eat down into every of the society with more effects on individuals, families, schools, religious setting and the society at large. The following are the suggested solution to cultism in the country.

1. Public Campaign Against Cultism

If government, schools, religious gathering, parents and non-governmental organization can organise workshops, lectures, talks, seminars and campaigns on the dangers associated with cultism all over schools without leaving out the primary schools, i think it will help in curbing this social menace faced by everyone in the society

2. Discipline

There is this popular saying that goes "charity begins at home" if parent should enforce discipline in their wards or inculcate the necessary morals and values in their children i think if this menace is not curb totally, it will be reduced to a controllable manner.

Imperatively, Parent should endeavours to visits their children in their respective schools and also monitors who their children associate with in the school environment. Most importantly parent should also be an exemplary features to their wards by desisting from secret organizations and live a life worth emulating.

Also, school authorities should have high standard discipline with stringent punishments for cultist caught in the school premises or outside the four walls of the school.

3. Government standard

If the government can put into law the punishment due for anybody grasp with anything that has to do with cultism or racism, it thinks it will go a long way in curbing this social vices. However, the political leaders supporting them should also be put to judgment because they are damaging the lives of other children to make theirs better, this should not be tolerated if truly we want to curb or eradicate this menace in our society.

It is not only by decreeing it, it will be better for the parliament to also pass it into law through the Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution that anyone guilty of cultism will be sentenced to this particular year of imprisonment without penalty or fines.

With all the solutions listed above, if well adhere to it will surely eradicate cultism to a manageable level instead of the continuous escalation of cultism we are hearing all over our community.