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**COURSE; COMMUNICATION IN ENGISH**

**TOPIC; TRIBALISM CAUSES AND ITS EFFECTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY**

Tribalism is a serious threat to any country. Unfortunately, Nigeria is not entirely free from this issue either. Tribalism is defined as the state when people are organized by tribes and their lifestyles. The tribe means either the clan or extended kin group which shares a common ancestor, or, according to a more modern definition, it is a group of people who share common lifestyles, habits, and interests. The problem of tribalism is that people of different tribes are separated from each other. The tribe members usually identify with their tribe very strongly and they feel truly connected and devoted to people who share their own beliefs over those who don’t. They often have set stereotypes about the other tribes, which prevent them from broadening their mind, learning more about different cultures and befriending people who do not belong to their own tribe. Those who practise tribalism tend to often boast about their own tribe never acknowledging the bad in their tribes. Tribalism leads to the resentment of other tribal groups and this kind of mentality is not good for a nationalist nation as Nigeria’s development. Below are the causes and effects of tribalism in Nigeria.

Tribalism can be caused by so many Factors. Tribalism can be interpreted as superiority complex among specific ethnic group, which makes them prejudiced towards their neighbours. The existence of tribalism traces back to the era of slavery. However, in the modern days of Nigeria, this issue still exists and prevents so many people from getting along and uniting to defeat more pressing issues, which concern all of the Nigerian people. Tribalism influences many spheres of social life – for instance, quite often competent workers are overlooked because of their tribal identity. There are a lot of causes which contribute to the unfortunate tendency of tribalism in Nigeria. Here, we will list some primary ones. Firstly we have the merging of northern and southern protectorates in 1914 which is widely considered to be a mistake. These neighbours are culturally incompatible. These differences have always been the main reason for social and political disagreements. Both northern and southern region have some religious and ethnic minorities, which see the main ethnic groups as oppressors. Since Nigeria is formed of so many ethnic groups, the nation is divided, and the country lacks real unity. Another is the issue of resource control in the country. Nigeria’s resource control is a real issue, which has been relevant because of the country’s environmental downfall, and the lack of development in Niger Delta which is essential for the nation’s economy. Marginalization – this term means underestimating the importance of a particular ethnic group. Since there are so many ethnic communities in Nigeria, there is a high chance that some of them will be unseen and unheard, and their opinion, in the long run, will be made unimportant. Even though the government is searching for a proper solution to this problem, it has a long way to go before it is finally solved. Constitutional reform – since the 1999 constitution is often viewed as a military-centered document, many people are demanding the new one, which will clearly define the rights of citizens and their privileges by the place where they currently reside, and not the place of their origin. Also, the toxic influence of religion on the political life should be dealt with. There are a lot of problems with it, and the government is working on the way to compromise, but it still causes ethnic conflicts among people. Religious intolerance – one of the critical issues in Nigeria is the conflict between Muslims and Christians. There is a strong hostility between these two groups, both religious and ethnic. The religious bigotry has already caused a lot of deaths. A lot of nationalists strongly believe that there is no country like Nigeria, only a territory and that it was a colossal mistake to unite the northern and southern parts. The Islamist organization “Boko Haram” is also a significant problem, because they regularly terrorize and kill people who support the western ideals and traditions, both Christians and Muslims. They are trying to impose the radical Muslim faith and Sharia law on people. However, Nigeria is a multi-religious country, and everyone should be allowed to express their own beliefs freely. Lack of vision – since the country is formed out of different nationalities which all have their own views and traditions, there is no such thing as patriotism when it comes to Nigeria. It is hard to inspire the patriotic feeling in the citizens. Even though Nigeria has a national anthem, flag and other symbols of national identity, not many people attach any deep meaning to them.

Tribalism has had a huge effect on the in the development of Nigeria. Tribalism just like other social vices has eaten deep into all the sectors of our economy; from try to elect a president to hiring a cleaner. It is terrible. One would rather employ his brother who can’t even read for the job of a chief executive to the outsider with a master’s degree thus hindering proper management. Tribalism affects all aspects of our life; from whom we are allowed to marry to where we are permitted to school or live and work. In the aspect of relationship, tribalism has ruined several relationships, casual relationships business relationships and romantic relationships. I have personally heard people say,’ I cannot marry someone who is not from my tribe’, ‘ I cannot do business with this person because he/she is not from my tribe’, the most common is, ‘ My parents will not allow me to marry someone from another tribe’. These statements come from persons who either have had bad experiences with people from another tribe or experiences heard from their friends, family or other people’s stories. Yes it is sad to have bad experiences but it is not good to generalize, draw up conclusions and begin to behave in a certain way towards people who do not belong to your tribe. In the aspect of marriage we see that when one is introducing his or her love interest to the family first question is what tribe are they or from what part of the state are they from when the tribe is not acceptable they then treat the child like an outsider for bringing a witch to the family. This leads to so many issues of people getting married to the wrong person just because they are of the same tribal grouping leading to failed marriages and broken homes.

Another way this problem has affected the development of our country is in the electing of leaders. In the political sector 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. Now, 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. Tribalism has its root roots in selfishness. Tribalism thinks highly of itself more that the next person. We chose to vote for our own no matter how incompetent the person maybe like in the case of our present President. He is sick and not educated but since he is Hausa people voted for him to bring the thing home. Another is the fact that one tribal group does not want to see the success of another so they would rather go in the opposite direction even if it leads to a pit than to agree. We see an example in the gubernatorial election in plateau state where the two most prominent candidates were a berom man and a man from shandam. The berom man was more competent but did not win just because most of the other tribes did not like the idea of a berom man leading. And now they are stuck with a very lazy and self-centred governor who is a puppet in the hands of the federal government.

And finally, in the office setting, the same thing that happens in politics happens there. People are promoted in their places of work, not because they merit it but because they belong to the same tribe with the person in charge of promoting staff. This is what has caused many companies not to outlive their owners.

In other to curb the spread of this evil, an individual, if you got hurt by an individual, tackle that issue with the individual. Do not say, this is how people of this tribe behave. People that belong to a particular tribe don’t all have the same upbringing. Having this in mind, it will make you know that differences should be treated objectively. The best way to cub 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. Be someone of integrity. Treat people equally. Don’t withhold love to someone who desperately needs it because the person is not of your tribe. Instead, love the person even more. Promote that person in the office that you know deserves it. When we do this, we will not only shape our immediate environment but we will shape our world