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PROSTITUTION AND SEX TRAFFICKING AMONG YOUTHS IN
ABUJA AND ITS CHALLENGES TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

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ABSTRACT

Prostitution and sex trafficking is a moral problem which increases daily among contemporary youths in the city of Abuja. It is an exchange of sex for monetary gain and other favours. The outcome of the research interview conducted among the prostitutes, the church leaders and observations of the activities of the prostitutes during the research period suggest the menace has assumed frightening proportions. It is important to note that the level of moral standard among the youths determines the harmony in the society. The growth and future of the society depends on the youth. The youths who fear God are indispensable for the expansion of God's kingdom on earth. However, the prevalence of the menace of prostitution and sex trafficking poses a great challenge to the church, youths, Christian homes and government. Therefore, this study: *Prostitution and Sex Trafficking among Youths in Abuja and Its Challenges to the Christian Faith* examined biblical and contemporary views of prostitution and sex trafficking and encouraged its application to curb the menace in Abuja. The prevalence of the irreparable damage of prostitution and sex trafficking on the youths, society, Christian homes and government in Abuja and other context is the great motivation for this work. Based on the study, certain virtues were drawn for the church and encouraged for use in Abuja to curb prostitution and sex trafficking. The future of the society and nation depends on the youths as the youths are expected to fear God. It was recommended that the church should organize interactive forum for the youths in planning appropriate church programmes to meet their needs. The youths are equally encouraged to be contented with what they possess.

Conclusion

God created man in his own image and His representative on earth. It is unfortunate today that some youths are destroying God's image with prostitution and sex trafficking so many youths migrate to Abuja for prostituting because it is the Federal Capital with different kinds of people. It is believed among the youths that there is high flow of money in Abuja. This makes the prostitutes to be daily increasing in Abuja.

Prostitution and sex trafficking is real in Abuja and its effects cannot-be over-emphasized. This poses great challenge to local churches and Christian Faith in Abuja.

According to the outcome of this work, prostitutes agreed that the menace is risky and morally corrupt but they are in to the business majorly to make money. Some form of addiction and spiritual bondage may not be ruled out. Thus, this work posits that every youth could live his life to fulfill God's purpose of existence. They should promote moral standard for the society. There is no life that is totally free from challenges of life. It is expected of every youth to harness all the available resources around in the fear of God to live a fulfilled life. Christian youths should be exemplary and expand God's kingdom on earth. To achieve all these, the Church has a major role to play and could potentially ignite the fire on the pulpit against immorality especially prostitution and Sex trafficking to positively respond to the menace in collaboration with the government and parents.

As observed by several of the prostitutes responses and the church leaders in the in the interviews conducted, vibrant preaching and other Church programmes need to address more deliberately the moral decadence which is fast eating into the church and he society at large. The discipleship programme of the church and pastoral visitations need be more vibrant and purposeful to help identify true Christians from mere Church goers for appropriate spiritual planning and programming to respond to the menace.

Recommendations

This work has examined the biblical and contemporary views of prostitution and sex trafficking, African concept of youths, cases, causes and effects of prostitution and sex trafficking. The roles of church, Christian homes and Christian leaders to curb the menace of prostitution and sex trafficking in Abuja were also examined. In the light of

this, the following recommendations are provided with the hope that if properly and strictly implemented, prostitution and sex trafficking in Abuja will be minimized if not totally eradicated.

Youth

1. Christian youths should fear God and present their bodies as the temple of God that must not be defiled.
2. Christian youths must see themselves as the light of the world and occupy for the Lord. This will help them to say no to any sexual immorality and sins.
3. Christian youths should learn to be contented with what they have and flee from love of money and worldly passion that can lead to prostitution and sex trafficking.
4. The Christian youths should be careful of movies and films they watch, any sexually oriented magazines and adverts should be discouraged among the youths.
5. The Christian youths should not allow advancement of civilization and technology to take them away from God their creator.

Church

1. The church should teach and place emphasis on the youth's sexual purity to minimize immorality if prostitution and sex trafficking cannot be totally eradicated.
2. The church should provide counselling services for the youths.
3. The church should proactively involve the youths in organizing programmes that will meet their challenges.

4. The church should organize self-reliant and income generating activities for youths to empower them against poverty.
5. The church should be ready to care for the victims of prostitution and sex trafficking.
6. The prayer team of the church should work very closely with the pastor and the counseling committee if in place, to care for the spiritual needs of those who may be spiritually afflicted in this regard by the devil.

Parents

1. Christian parents should pay attention to their children and teach them the way of God.
2. Christian parents should be exemplary to their children in all moral conducts.
3. Christian parents should also provide adequate sex education that is biblically based for their children.
4. Christian parents must be willing to cooperate with the church leadership by informing their wards on moral issues earlier enough to the leadership for appropriate Christian response.

Government

1. Government should provide free education for the youths.
2. Government should provide more job opportunity for the youths to curb prostitution and sex trafficking
3. Government should provide and support self-reliant programmes for the youths.
4. Government should enforce laws that prohibit prostitution and sex trafficking in Abuja as well as monitor the activities of the law enforcement officers to ensure they keep to the ethics of their profession.