

AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ON
ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCES OF PASTORS
IN OGBOMOSO BAPTIST CONFERENCE

A Project Submitted to the Faculty of Theological Studies,
The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary,
Ogbomosho.

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Award of Degree of
Master of Divinity in Theology

JOHN ADEMOLA IGE
12/0102

June 2015

ABSTRACT

The argument on the significance of theological education to the pastoral leadership and church administration is the trend of events among Pastors and Laity today in Christianity. It is obvious that many practicing and none practicing Pastors are agitating for the scrape of theological school but instead advocating for Spiritual discipleship training for the called men and women of God. This work however evaluates the effects of theological education on administrative performances of Pastors' in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference. To present the significances of theological education to the recipients, and the church administrative growth with the aim to convince individuals the essence of quarry experience. Thus seven Associations- Bethel, Chosen, Redeemer's, Shiloh, Iwa Bi Olorun, Zion and Irepodun were selected for the study and one hundred respondents were selected from various churches from: within the selected Associations. Questionnaire was designed to gather information from the respondents on the relationship of theological education and church administration, pastoral work and academic excellent, the place of pastoral training in church administration, church leadership and theological training, pastoral leadership require higher degree to be effective, the efficiency in ministry depend on higher qualification, and the roles of Pastor in the church as administrator. The result of the findings shows that academic excellence aid pastoral relevance. Also that theological training is imperative for the Pastors. The findings also revealed that Higher theological training open higher opportunities for Pastors. It was established from the findings that the role of a Pastor is more than preaching but comprises secular duties. Based on the finding Pastors are encouraged to take theological training with all seriousness because it is all embracing. Also churches should endeavor to assist Pastor for higher theological training and take spiritual ability of the Pastors into consideration. Conference and Convention should also try to sponsor Pastor theological education and upgrade the level of theological schools.

5.2 Conclusion

In evaluating effects of theological education qualification on Pastors' administrative performances made the researcher to know that theological education is a sine qua non for all called men and women of God. The relationship of theological educational programmes to the totality of church ministry cannot be over emphasized. The theology of the classroom must be in line with theology of the pulpit and there must be an established line of responsibility and close co-ordination to make it relevant to the people and community at large.

An effective theological education must have aims. This relate to salvation, Christian or church growth, effective leadership training and Christina service. In carrying out her aims, theological institutions should go-all-out to seize every opportunity and means that opens to them, with essential available resources. Baptist should develop themselves through theological educational training in order for them to be what God wants them and his church to be.

Some educational programmes are already slated down by the church for growth. Therefore, in conjunction with this, pastors should have theological education that is able to interpret all these programmes to foster the effort of the church. Pastors who are carefully brought up in the fear of God with knowledge of theological education will produce a good and healthy spiritually sound living society and all ills found in society will be reduced to the barest minimal. In addition to the above, pastors should see theological training as a means to design programmes to foster the effort of church in evangelism.

Pastors are agent of societal change. This can successfully be done through acquired knowledge. This is because changes involve some rudiment understanding of which aid it implementation hence a change agent need to be master of such rule before teaching others. The result of the findings shows that contemporary events and happenings require the service of a versatile trained Pastor not half baked or untrained individual.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the work, the following recommendations are given to Church Pastors, the Church, Association, Conference and Convention

In Relation to Church Pastors

1. Pastors should realize that theological education is the best legacy or birthright from God to position them to quickly recognize, and wisely guide/preserve their parishioners from every guile, false doctrines/teachings that lead to eternal damnation/destruction.
2. Theological education is also a divine tool to sharpen and activate God's potential in the life of the called ones; such that in quality and virtue, they can be truly ahead and distinguished from the pew.
3. While theological education is indeed such discipline that can be said to be the only hope that reshapes ungodly character in this nation, it should be esteemed much more as an instrument for personal development for the called men and women of God.
4. It is good for all Pastors to know that the implementation of God's agenda towards human race depends on how human being recognize and understand the way God speaks. So, theological education has great thing to contribute to human

race and pastor should know this and apply it so as to enhance individual member of the church and to have green grass for God's sheep.

5. Theological education is also an instrument of excellent ministerial practice that guide and guard Pastors against ministries misconduct and administrative flaws. Many ministries have folded up because of inadequate theological training of the shepherd or lack of training. It is an advantage for the Pastors who are trained theologically; hence, they need to update themselves.

In Relation to the Church

a. A church must be a place where spiritual needs are met. It must be a place where lives are moulded after Christ. The Nigerian Baptist Churches must recognize the importance of theological education and use it appropriately.

b. The Church must realize that the fact for a church pastor to design various programmes that will meet the need of her members require specialized skills available in theological training.

c. The church should also understand that her constitution should spell out the caliber of pastor to be called in term of theological qualification and should be ready to assist their Pastor to acquire higher theological training. Moral, Spiritual and financial assistance should be among welfare packages of the church for the Pastor.

d. Henceforth Baptist churches in Nigeria should minimize the use of lay leaders and Pastors who are not trained in Baptist theological institutions. This is to avoid doctrinal problems and other administrative related catastrophes

In Relation to the Association

- i. Association must see to the spiritual, moral and physical development of her body through the efforts played by spiritual leaders (Pastors). Therefore, the Association must have concern for those that are theologically trained.
- ii. The Association can also encourage and help financially, morally and spiritually in the training of Pastors to enhance the spiritual growth of the Association and her administrative efficiency. More so there should be a separate account as seminary endowment fund to assist the seminary and called men and women of God who are financially incapable. For this will serve as a motivational factor to aid the theological education and quest for further training by the pastors for the good of the denomination.

In Relation to the Conference

- a) Conference on her own part should encourage the teaching and learning of sound theology and practical ministry in all theological institutions, by mobilizing her individual member to come to the aid of seminaries in the area of finance and all other things that can promote theological education in our contemporary time.
- b) There is also the need for the teachers in our theological institutions to be up to date in their area of specializations in theological education. Avenue for in-service training like seminars, workshops, conference and all other things that can promote should be provided. They can upgrade their knowledge by training themselves through paper presentations in local, national, and international levels. Thus Conference should make available required financial resources for teachers in theological institutions.
- c) Conference should not be strict with the required theological qualification to hold a particular office. Though higher theological qualification is a prerequisite

to efficient and effective performances in the office nonetheless it is expedient to listen to God directive.

In Relation to the Convention

- 1) Convention on her part should encourage the moral teachings so as to build up tomorrow church leaders.
- 2) Convention should imitate government by employing enough and competent teachers in all her seminaries and cater for their needs through payment of fat salaries and allowances; these will foster theological education to the point where God want it.
- 3) They should be ready to take action by taken care of lecturers in theological institutions so as to upgrade their knowledge to be imparted to the students, not only that, library and classroom should be renovated for conducive learning .
- 4) Convention as the last pillar has power to determine the expansion of theological institutions, both in quantity of schools and quality of her students. This should not be based on geo-political zones or ethnic group but on the need for it establishment.
- 5) The Convention should also ensure that the curriculum of the theological institutions are patterned towards practical application rather than theoretical acquisition of knowledge; this is to make theological education more relevance and of pragmatic approach to solve human problems and to add value to the church ministry.