

AN EVALUATION OF ADULT EDUCATION AS A TOOL
FOR EVANGELISM IN OYO WEST BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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ABSTRACT

This study is titled "An Evaluation of Adult Education As a Tool for Evangelism in Oyo West Baptist Conference" and so its main concern is to assess the effectiveness of adult education programmes on evangelism in Oyo West Baptist Conference.

The first chapter contains the introduction which includes purpose, statement of the problem, significance of the study, delimitation and definition of terms. Chapter two focuses on the review of related literature. At this stage works of scholars on issues like literacy education, education for evangelism, the roles of Christianity in literacy efforts were reviewed. It also examines the factors militating against the running of adult education programmes.

Chapter three examines the method used in carrying out the research work such as the research design, population and sample, research instrument, the validity and the reliability of the instrument. A questionnaire designed using a five-point Likert scale was used for this study to collect information on the extent of adult education programmes in a local church.

Chapter four centers on data analysis. The interpretation of the analysis of the data collected was done. The results of the analysis were discussed. The last chapter which was chapter five concluded the work. Here after drawing a conclusion some recommendations for further improvement on the research were offered.

Conclusion

This study sought to establish adult literacy education as a tool for evangelism in Oyo West Baptist Conference. It is seen as a tool to reach the unreáchable for Christ. Through adult literacy programme, some of our local churches have established new preaching stations, especially in the rural areas. Also in predominantly Islamic areas of Ibadan, especially Sabo, Bodija Market and some other indigenous areas of Ibadan some of our churches have opened up the place for the gospel through adult literacy programmes, using the programme to reach the so-called unreachable especially women in pudah. Through involvement, the members have been engaged in social change. From the findings one can, therefore, conclude that adult literacy programme is an important factor in church growth and evangelism. Those that have successfully benefited from various adult literacy programmes have revealed that they had been liberated from ignorance, fear and inferiority complexes. Through literacy, the new literates have become aware that they must continue to fight and defend their rights to share in the good news of Jesus Christ by way of being able to read as a result making it possible for them to read the Bible and sing the hymns.

Recommendations

Based on the findings obtained in this study, it has been proved that adult literacy programme is fundamental and instrumental in nature i. the

sense that illiteracy rate is still very high in our local churches especially in the rural areas. This accounts for churches engaging in various categories of adult literacy programmes for the improvements of church members and non-church members as well.

In view of the potential benefits that could accrue to churches through adult literacy programmes, the following recommendations are offered:

1. That Oyo West Baptist Conference should continue to maintain keen interest in adult literacy programmes
2. That all churches in Oyo West Baptist Conference should have at least a literacy center where at least basic adult literacy education would be taught.
3. That each Association should assist in the training of adult literacy teachers (facilitators). This will further enhance more qualitative adult literacy education.
4. That the present adult literacy committee should embrace educationists who are keenly interested in adult literacy programmes.
5. That each local church should set up specific adult literacy committee.
6. That each Director of Adult Education at the Association level be selected and chosen by the members of the committee themselves.
7. It has been established from the findings that finance is the major obstacle facing adult education programme all over. It is, therefore, recommended that each local church allocate reasonable percentage of the church education budget to literacy education.
8. For church council members to be fully intimated about the progress of adult literacy programmes, it is recommended that each Association Director

of Adult Literacy Education be a member of the executive committee of the church.

9. That while introducing new ideas into the programme, adequate consideration should be given to the social and economic background of the participants. In view of this, adult literacy programme needs to suit the community's conditions with flexibility.

10. That the conference via the local churches be more involved in functional adult literacy programmes where different skills would be taught. This will make the learners more economically viable and thus become more responsible at least to their immediate environment.

Adult literacy is a unique ministry which goes beyond teaching others how to read and write but a God-centered life in action.

Suggestions for Further Research

It has been stated earlier in the course of this study that the focus of this research work was to see the effect of adult literacy education as a tool for evangelism in Oyo West Baptist Conference. Though the Conference has taken giant stride in literacy education, yet there is still much to be done especially in the following areas:

1. A comparative analysis of adult literacy programme in other conferences of the Convention.
2. A comparative analysis of adult literacy programme of the conference with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's).

3. The development and growth of adult literacy education programme in other denominations within the Conference area.