

NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OGBOMOSO

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AN EVALUATION OF CAUSES OF MORAL  
DECADENCE AMONG THE YOUTHS IN NIGERIA:  
A CASE STUDY OF YOUTHS IN WARRI SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AREA OF DELTA STATE

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A RESEARCH WORK PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF  
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR AWARD OF THE DEGREE  
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## ABSTRACT

Having drawn the sketch of the topic: "An Evaluation of Causes of Moral Decadence Among the Youths in Nigeria: A case study of Youth in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State." The long – essay attempted to identify the causes of moral decadence among the youth. It also attempted to see ways to help the youths out of the social crises entangling them. Suggestions were given on how they could be helped to overcome them and progress on their ladder of success. It attempted to alert Christian youths to keep themselves pure from the sins of the world, thereby using their moral virtues to deliver their mates or peers from these corruptions.

The study was embarked upon considering the lamentable state of morals among the Youths this day. The writer felt the need to carried out an evaluation of the level of moral decadence in the society , what is responsible and what could be done to arrest this monster called moral decadence ravaging the youths today.

The use of questionnaire and oral interviews was adopted for data collection. The whole studies are divided into five Chapters. This includes, the introduction, the literature review, research methodology, the presentation of Analysis and interpretation of Data and conclusion and recommendation respectively.

The result of the evaluation reveals that the moral decay among the youths in Warri and it environs is on the alarming rate. Both male and female virtually with almost the same percentage are involved. This portends a serious danger to the society and the nation at large. The future of these youth seems to be bleak. The fear

of what kind of Character the emerging leader will bear is palpable. Currently what is being noticed around tell who cares that there is need for urgent attention to be given to remedies to be adopted. The Government and other agencies that are stakeholder in this matter are urged to re –activate those moral programmes that will restore the human dignity to our youth.

## CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This essay has been appraising the causes of moral decadence among the Youths in Nigeria with a focus on the Youths of Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State. It could be gathered from the responses of the respondents that there is an unprecedented rise in moral depravity among the youth of Warri South Local government Area of Delta State of Nigeria though this is not peculiar to the place alone, it could be noticed at both the societal and national levels. It is a global phenomenon.

Some of the observable vices highlighted by the respondents include; sexual immorality, drug addiction, smoking, armed robbery, murder and paid assassination, to mention a few. From the data collected it was discovered that the vices were more pronounced within the early adolescence age brackets of 15–26 years, therefore it calls for a very urgent and cogent measure to be put in place for redirection of these young ones. This age bracket is a very crucial decision time in the life of a teenager. If appropriate measures are not put in place to stem the trend and give proper direction for their lives, the future of the nation is in jeopardy.

From the respondents, the causative factors pointed to among which are; lack of parental or guidance care, hunger, poverty, unemployment, peer group influence and lack of education. All these have left a tale of woe in the family, the community and the nation at large. It was also discovered that

agencies such as the home, church, school, government and media that are responsible for inculcating the virtue and good morals into the youths have failed woefully in this regard. These agencies failure therefore exposes youth of Warri South L.G.A and Nigeria at large to numerous vices which are capable of destroying their future. Finding revealed that the youth are the block building of this country. Hence, successes and failure of this nation to a large extent depend on the kind of youths that are being raised by the society.

In conclusion, when our youths are given true sense of direction with all the necessary tools to work and with the divine guidance of God upon their lives we will have better youths for today tomorrow and the future. All agencies responsible for the nurturing of all the youths should sit up.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the summation of the information's above as gathered from data analyzed from the respondents, the writer will like to offer the following recommendations for the agencies responsible for the moral upbringing of the youth. These agencies are; the home, school, church, and government.

### Home

The home is the first point of the child formal and informal training. The home as the first training point for the child should be secured, a place where the child can feel loved and confident at all times. Therefore,

- The home should provide the first platform for moral instruction.

- Parents should be of good example to the child .The reason being that, children learnt first by what they see their parents and siblings do.
- Deliberate effort should be made for the training of the child, covering the physical, social, spiritual and moral aspects (Prov.22: 6).
- Discipline must be properly employed in nurturing of the child. Don't overlook issues that required immediate rebuke or correction in a-child. (Prov.22: 15; 29:15,17).
- Home environment should be made conducive for the child to feel satisfaction and acceptable.
- Parents should be aware of the company their wards keep and give proper censor.

## The School

The school of course is the next place of the child informal and formal training.

- The school should provide moral education in the school syllabus
- Teachers should be good models in conduct, and in their dressing to the children.
- The school should discourage examination malpractices; rather hard work should be encouraged. Illegal collections should stop because this leads to introducing children to corruption at an early stage in life, which is bad.
- The educational system should be overhauled, that is, let unnecessary give way for the most important.

- The admission system should be improved upon at all levels.
- Games and sports in schools should be reintroduced into the curriculum. The school and the government should equip these extra curricula activities in schools.

### The Government

- The government should provide necessary amenities for the people, like good roads, functional educational system, and functional health care system.
- Good school environment that will enhance study and promote good psychological orientation for the youth.
- Government should endeavor to provide ample job opportunities for youth, so as to get them occupied lest there is little or no time for things that enhance moral decay.
- Should promote all that takes to empower youth for self reliance or employment.
- Government at all levels i.e. federal, state and local should create institution, recreation and programmes for youth moral instructions.
- The government should censor the media on the promotion of sex all over the place through advertisements and all the likes.
- Media should be effectively used to educate the youth on morality.

## The Church:

The church is one of the formidable agents of reformation. The writer would like to give the following recommendations.

- As children, and youth are the future hope of the church and the society at large, concerted effort should be made by the church for spiritual nurturing of the youths.
- Church leaders should provide godly and good models for the younger ones to emulate. They should lead by example.
- Church, being in the proper position to teach morality should put in place all programmes of instruction that will instill morality and goodly character in the youth.
- Discipline should be employed appropriately in the church on the erring youth to serve as deterrent for others.
- Counseling, vocational training and career talk should be frequent in the church programmes for the youth.
- Above all the children and youths in the church should be equipped with the word of God and effective prayer life.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDY

Having gone through the evaluation of the causes of moral decadence among the youth and coming out with prominent place of the agencies responsible for inculcating virtue and morals into the youth that is, the home, church, school and government. The writer will like to propose for



