

THE IMPACTS OF BAPTIST EDUCATION ON THE PEOPLE OF
OKUNLAND

A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

The Impact of Baptist Education on the people of Okunland cannot be over-estimated. The products of Baptist Education covers not only the state but nation-wide and in virtually all profession from administration to medical and in all other areas of Engineering.

The study discussed the geography and the people of Okunland, as well as the occupation of the people. Their origin was also traced to Ife. The religious expression of the people was also presented along with their system of government viz chieftaincy system, cultural practices and the socio-political orientation of the people.

The researcher was able to contact many people to confirm secondary source materials and dates were also provided as much as possible. The research upon conclusion gave some recommendation that will be of great usefulness to the convention and the enhancing of Baptist Heritage in Okunland.

Recommendation

It is obvious to state here that since the advent of Christian education in Okunland, it has been able to pursue her objectives vigorously, especially in the areas of mission, evangelisation and education. Notwithstanding, there is need for improvement on Baptist education activities in Okunland. Against this background these recommendations are made, first, the Baptist churches in Okunland should not relent in their efforts to give full financial support to the institutions they have established but taken over by the state government.

Second, educational institutions are of paramount importance in national development. Based on the evidence that those who were trained by missionaries

are influential personalities in Okunland, it is the candid opinion of the researcher thus there is need for the opening of more secondary schools in Okunland by Baptist Churches.

Third, Baptist doctrines which are strictly based on the Bible should still be the cornerstone of all Baptist schools in Okunland. The Nigerian Baptist convention should resist vehemently the teaching of Islamic Religions knowledge in their schools even if the state government may try to justify their position.

Fourth, the visions of some Baptist Churches to establish private nursery and primary schools should be emulated by others. Our children need an atmosphere of tranquility where they are led to know Jesus and to acquire sound doctrines of the Bible.

Fifth, technical education is important for rapid industrialized and technological development therefore it is recommended that Kogi Baptist conference could be in the forefront to establish Baptist technical college. Children who successfully pass through technical school could easily be gainfully employed by government and private companies. They can even start on their own work/enterprise with little support of bank loans. If all these recommendations are adhere to, the Baptist mission in Okunland will grow form strength to strength and future research on it will be easier and deeper than this

Conclusion

This research work has basically examined the impact of the American Baptist Mission and the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Okunland between 1900 and 2002 with particular reference to their educational activities growth and development. From the researchers personal observation, it is strongly believed

that Nigerian Baptist Convention has made a lot of impact in the growth and development of education in Okunland.

The research reveals how the American Baptist Mission and the Nigerian Baptist Convention encouraged local churches established primary schools and secondary schools. The impact of Baptist education has brought civilization and development to the people of Okunland. It is discovered that the introduction of Baptist education in the area brought along with it the transmission of European practices to the people of Okunland. This had its positive influence in the church and the people, the standard of living of the people greatly improved as a result of access to western education and better economic system.

It is surprising to note initially SIM mission was in opposition of Baptist mission establishing primary schools, but with the intervention of American Baptist Missionaries Baptist schools were approved by the Old Northern Government.

On the whole, judging by the immense contributions made by Baptist education to the development of Okunland it can be affirmed that Baptist education has been one of the missions effort for the accelerated development and growth of the people.