

THE EXTENT OF MANIFESTATION OF KOHLBERG'S 5TH
STAGE OF MORAL REASONING OF C.R.K. STUDENTS IN
SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN PLATEAU STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out because of the interest and commitment of the researcher in Moral Development of Senior Secondary students, particularly Christian Religious knowledge (CRK) students in Christian schools. The moral decadence of CRK students in senior secondary schools in Plateau State has been a source of concern to the researcher and many concerned citizens. The desire to assess the extent of manifestation of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development (which states that a person at the 5th stage of his Moral Development belongs to a social group, which influence his moral judgment to a large extent) is to establish concrete working relationship between Kohlberg's stages of Moral Development and Christian Religious Knowledge as a Moral Development subject. The major objective of this study is to examine the extent to which the CRK students are manifesting the 5th stage of Kohlberg's Moral Development.

To achieve the objective of the study, 10 Christian schools in Plateau State were selected for the study. The subjects of the research were the CRK students in SS₁ SS₂ and SS₃ and the CRK teachers in the 10 selected schools who were facilitators (teachers) and product (students) of the 5th stage of Kohlberg's Moral Development.

The instrument that was used to gather data for analysis, is questionnaire for CRK teachers and questionnaire for CRK students on the extent of manifestation of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development.

A number of research questions were posed to which appropriate answers were provided based on the data collected. In addition, five hypotheses were tested using t-test, ANOVA and percentage. All of the hypotheses were rejected. The findings of the study revealed that the 4th step in the 5th stage is manifested by the C.R.K. students higher than the other four steps.

There is significant difference between girls and boys in the manifestation of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development. Girls manifest more of steps 4 and 5 than boys. There is significant difference in the perspective of teachers and students of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development. Teachers manifest higher degree of understanding of the 5th stage of Kohlberg's Moral Development than students. There is significant difference in the moral performance of C.R.K. students in oldest schools than new schools. The oldest schools seem to manifest higher performance of morality than new schools. There is significant difference in the moral performance in C.R.K. students in the Catholic Schools than the Protestant Schools. The Catholic Schools seem to manifest higher performance of morality than Protestant Schools.

On the basis of the above findings the following recommendations were made to help in greater manifestation of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development in senior secondary school students. CRK as a base for Moral Education should be effectively taught since it has a complimentary role with Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development. This is because most of the CRK students that manifest Kohlberg's highest stages of moral reasoning are students that are used to CRK as a moral subject. A strong working relationship of CRK and Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development be encouraged for effective Moral Development of students in senior secondary schools in Plateau State. This also is because all of Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning are found in the Bible.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were reached.

1. There are specific steps of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development, which C.R.K. students manifest. They manifest the 4th step first, followed by the 3rd, then by the 5th and lastly, the 1st step.
2. The boys and girls have significant difference in the way they manifest Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development
3. The perception of C.R.K. teachers is significantly different from that of C.R.K. students.
4. The moral performance in oldest schools is highest, the older schools are higher and the least performance is in the newer schools.
5. The Catholic Schools students have higher performance than in Protestant Schools.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of this research study the following recommendations are made.

1. Since CRK is a good stimulant of Kohlberg's 5th stage of Moral Development, the effective teaching of CRK is highly encouraged in senior secondary schools. It is the opinion of the researcher that since the Catholic Schools and the oldest schools had proved that the

teaching of CRK has been rewarded by high moral performance. CRK should be made compulsory in Christian schools.

2. That Protestant Schools be encourage to make CRK not just a class subject but teach it as a moral subject, and make it compulsory for all categories of students (Arts or science) to take it as done in Catholic Schools
3. That boys and girls be recognize as seeing morality differently when it comes to moral performance. This will help the CRK teacher to know how to stimulate each of these sexes as Kohlberg recommends.
4. That CRK teachers be encourage to get expose to Kohlberg's stages of Moral Development theory through staff development or some kind of training.