

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
AND SYSTEMATIC DETRAUMATIZATION  
IN POST-WAR LIBERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

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**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD**

**OF**

**MASTER OF THEOLOGY  
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*BY*

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## ABSTRACT

This study was designed to find out if there is a relationship between Religious Studies and Systematic detraumatization in post-war Liberian Secondary Schools.

Two teaching assistants were selected from among other teachers in the Religious Education Department of Ricks Institute to administer the questionnaires and to collect them after the required time span of one hour - (1) hour. The data from the questionnaires were analysed to find out if the hypotheses drawn were to be accepted or rejected.

For the first hypothesis which states:

- (i) There is no significant relationship between Religious Studies in Schools and detraumatization, all of the students in the sample said that there is a positive and significant relationship.
- (ii) For the second hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between discipline problem(s) such as fear, aggression, readjustment, conflict and other stress disorder and Religious studies in schools, "the result showed that there is significant relationship. Pearson Product Moment correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) showed that  $r = + 1$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.5732$ .

The third hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between rehabilitation and Religious Studies in schools. The report of this hypothesis also revealed that there is significant relationship between Religious Studies and rehabilitation in secondary schools.

The following recommendations emanate from the conclusion of this study.

1. Schools should endeavour to employ Religious educators and teachers to teach Religious (Bible) knowledge in Liberian Secondary Schools. The Religious Studies

Curriculum should include matters that can easily detraumatize students and prepare them ready for unseen circumstances.

2. Religious Studies matters should also be emphasized in schools solving other discipline problems.

## Conclusion

The study shows that Religious Studies in schools can be used for systematic detraumatization. The analysis of the data show that a high percentage of the respondents who have had Religious Studies (R.S.) Have been detraumatized. On the question of the relationship between Religious Studies and systematic detraumatization there was 100% (33) response from the respondents on the question geared toward the hypothesis.

On the question of discipline problem(s) and Religious Studies in schools a total of 245.46% (81) respondents show that there is a significant relationship between Religious Studies in schools and detraumatization.

About that of rehabilitation the study shows that a total of 175.76% (58) responses indicates that there is significant relationship between rehabilitation and Religious Studies

in schools.

The study show that Religious Studies in schools can be an excellent method of detraumatizing the many youths affected by the seven years crisis (war).

It is not surprising that there is significant relationship between Religious studies and systematic detraumatization since al the respondents have had some form of Religious Studies and are still having it in school. This show that there is need to promote Religious Studies in schools to revive the national values that have been trampled upon during the crisis (war).

In the review of literature Blazer (1974, pp. 24 - 25), and Mwit n.d. p. 66) say the Word of God compasses all activities by which man seeks to relieve and distress is adequate for healing any situation. Mwit also asserted that the presence of the Holy spirit can change any situation and bring regeneration and growth. And that one needs spiritual cure, to have the presence of the Holy spirit, regeneration and growth. This implies that Religious Study is a desperate need for spiritual cure in the Liberian situation. From spiritual cure follows any other cure (Matthew 6:31). Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Hunter (1990, p. 1237) also agrees that the scripture can be used to detraumatize victims and that the scripture restores hope to hopeless situations.

### Implication

There are two major implications that could be drawn from this study.

1. That it does not matter how many years of Religious Studies one has had, the approach is the same. Both Christians and Moslems have the same view toward rehabilitation, fear, aggression, etc. Both see God as the Provider.

2. Muslims blame God for all unfortunate situations, while Christians pray to God for rescue and blame Satan for all evils.

### Recommendation

Two recommendations emanate from this study for better handling of Religious Studies as a subject in schools:

1. Schools should employ Religious Studies educators and teachers to teach Religious (Bible) knowledge in Liberian schools. They could be curriculum studies experts so as to make implementation of the objectives of R.K.(s) realisable.

2. Religious Studies should be used in secondary schools for detraumatization of students for discipline problems.

### For Further Study

This study could be replicated using the same questionnaire/opinionnaire. The study could consider more than one school: public, private and mission schools for better results. Also a pilot study should be carried out early in Liberia or elsewhere e.g. Sierra Leone before the actual study is carried out so as to record a more sophisticated result.