

THE IMPACT OF MEN'S MISSIONARY UNION EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMES ON THE MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF
SENIOR ADULTS IN NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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ABSTRACT

This study is titled "The Impact of Men's Missionary Union Educational Programmes on the Moral Development of Senior Adults in the Nigerian Baptist Convention." It is aimed at evaluating the existing educational programmes of the Men's Missionary Union and how effective they are in helping senior adults in taking moral decisions. The purpose is to meet the moral needs of senior adults. Two Null-hypotheses were confirmed as correct and none was rejected.

The sample population used was one hundred senior adults from twenty local Baptist churches within Ejigbo Baptist Association. The pilot study was done to validate the reliability of the instrument and was found reliable at all times. By means of analysis of the questionnaire, the researcher found out that men's attendance and commitment to Men's Missionary educational programmes did contribute to their moral development.

Based on these findings, the researcher recommends that local Baptist churches should intensify their efforts to include men in Men's Missionary Union educational programmes. Also, home, school, church and society should play their own role(s) accordingly to enhance effectiveness of each level that is the home, school, church and society.

Conclusion

The researcher's findings revealed that senior adults, regardless of their social class, agreed that their attendance in Men's Missionary Union educational programmes and their commitment to the activities have great influence on them in moral decision making. The findings on attendance revealed that there are some of the educational programmes that were well attended while attendance at some were scanty. Attendance at Men's Missionary Union's weekly Bible study, prayer meetings, lectures, seminars, etc. was high while attendance at campings, retreats and special project was very low. Those who indicated that they were absent at campings, retreats

and special projects were 43 in number. But, in the overall, Men's Missionary Union educational programmes were moderately attended. In other words, there is still room for Improvement.

The researcher equally found out that men who were committed to the educational activities indicated that their commitment helped them during moral decision making. The high committant had the percentage of 93.75% while the low committant had the percentage of 18.7% which showed a wide range between the high group and the low group. The finding showed that those who were highly committed were also very high in their moral behaviour. In general, high attendance and commitment results in high moral behaviour while low attendance and commitment results in low moral behaviour.

In all, the effort of the Nigerian Baptist Convention Men and Boys Work Department at leading their members to the Kingdom of God is not futile. As the findings have shown, men who attended the educational programmes designed for them and were committed to their activities were morally sound while those who did not were having moral problems.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the researcher recommends that:

- Proper and adequate training be given to Men's Missionary Union chairpersons at church, association and conference level at all time.

- Churches should be sensitized to the importance of Men's Missionary Union educational programmes.
- Moral issues should be included more than before in the materials used because of the trend of events in the current society.

Recommendations for Further Study

The following areas could be studied in future:

- Counselling senior adults with moral laxity.
- A curriculum for counseling and discipleship of senior adults to include Bible study, witnessing and stewardship.
- Developing a devotional guide for senior adults in the Nigerian Baptist Convention.