

Ambrose Ositadimma Agwu. PhD

Topic: Norms and Values (Chapter 8)

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## INTRODUCTION OF NORMS AND VALUES:

Norms and values are the informal, often undeclared rules, regulations, guides and standards of behaviour which people in that society follow with great attention. Okobia, et al (2016) affirms that norms and values are generally adopted during the process of socialization in the society. However, norms and values may have consequences when they are violated by the citizens and non-citizens of the community. Nevertheless, there is no distinguishable formal authority who will enforce compliance to norms and values in our communities and the communal sanction for violation of norms can be swift and harsh based on the law of the land. These norms and values are followed and fulfilled in general because failure to do so encourages feelings of guilt or shame, gossip, shunning, ostracism, and at times violence. While compliance to norms and values brings with it tangible and intangible rewards such as increased esteem, trust and, most importantly, cooperation while non-compliance brings with it a disparaging glance or expression of disapproval or disgust, often as a prelude to s

hunning, ostracism etc. The feeling of guilt or shame may make the external enforcement of adopted norms unnecessary. Norms, cannot be classified as good nor bad, but rather become benefit or burden in so far as they facilitate or constrain behaviour guided by moral values, practical reasons or instrumental ends. (Ubrurhe, 2018)

Values are the most general component of social action. Values are found in every culture, they are necessary for the fostering of group existence, harmony and the promotion of group welfare. Omofehinse (2011) posits that, values may be ideas that propel man's daily actions. In other words, they are the standard which members of the community adhere to in their personal and communal interaction towards the achievement of the goals. It is a mutually agreed fact that our behaviour is guided by the norms and values of the society we live in and we like to do the things which we think and believe that other people will approve of. Similarly, we try to avoid those behaviours which we think and believe that other people will disapprove of.

#### DEFINITION OF NORMS AND VALUES

Norms may be defined as rules or regulations guiding the general shared standards of behaviour. Individuals in the society are constantly involved in social interaction through what is known as social action. When social action is put in place, there are required behavioral patterns which must take into cognizance the expectations of others with whom we are acting. Through the existence of norms, we are able to predict the response of others. A rewarding or appreciative behaviour towards another is likely to attract a positive reciprocal response. Similarly, a negative or hostile behaviour towards another with whom we are

e interacting is likely to attract a negative response. In their discussion of ideal norms, Otite and Ogionwo (1979) believed that norms involve the performance of prescribed behaviour in a certain situation and the imposition of sanction on omission of such behaviour (Onwubiko, 1998). Values are the most general component of social action which states in general terms the desirable end which acts as a guide to human endeavors and are found in every culture.

According to Appadora (1985) Norms are defined in simple terms as shared ideas about the proper way to behave furthermore is regarded as a standard or a rule that is accepted by members of the group as applying to themselves and other group members, prescribing appropriate thought and behaviour within and outside the group. Critto (2019) affirms social norms as ways of thinking, feeling, desiring, deciding and acting which are observable in regularly repeated behaviours and are adopted because they are assumed to solve problems. Values help us to make decisions about right and wrong, important and less important, etc. Values can be made of our likes, dislikes, perspectives, prejudices, and judgment. They have the ability to shape a person's behaviour. Therefore, they provide a basic foundation for understanding a person's personality, behaviour, attitudes, and perceptions.

## TYPES OF NORMS

We have just read up a few important definitions of norms and realized that these are something highly crucial and integral part of our life which influence almost each and every domain of our conduct as the backbone of our social life. You might be wondering here that how many types of norms are there. Let's us have a look at the four major types of norms from the sociological point of vi

ew. (Onwubiko 1998)

1 Folkways: Folkways are customs that we follow but are often not written down. We learn them through intuition as we grow up.

2 Mores: Mores are moral norms. If you break them, you would be seen as not just in poor taste, but immoral. They're often linked to social and religious rules

3 Taboos: Taboos are 'negative norms' – things that people find offensive and socially inappropriate if you are caught doing them.

4 Laws: Laws are norms that are actually defined as being legal or illegal. The government has decided these norms are so important that you could get in trouble for breaking them

However, Norms can also be classified based on the way society looks at the activities:

(1) Group norms vs. social norms: Group norms may be institutionally and locally defined, and hence may be quite independent and distinct from social norms that exist at the levels of communities and societies (Appadora (1985)

(2) Explicit vs. implicit norms: This is an explicitly stated rules of behaviour and usually cover the written constitutions and laws. A general example is "No parking" or "No Horn" designated areas, and while traveling in public transport, it is explicitly prohibited to carry weapons, explosives or the things which may be dangerous to the health and life of others.

(3) Injunctive norms vs. descriptive norms: These are norms concerned about

what others think we should do or should not do in a given situation in order to either get others approval or to avoid their disapproval, it is regarded as injunctive norms or also as subjective norms.

(4) Consensus norms vs. critical norms: According to Appadora (1985) the distinction between consensus norms and critical norms while studying the impact of group norms on the quality of decisions taken by them. In consensus norms, ascribed devotion of groups to initial decisions, while critical norm group members, adopting critical thought, invested their energy in the critical examination of decision alternatives before reaching a consensus.

(5) Reciprocity norms vs. social-responsibility norms: Myers (2000) discussed about the above two types of norms: The reciprocity norm, as the name suggests, guides us to return help to those who have helped us at the appropriate time, that is when they also need help. And, the social-responsibility norm makes us help the needy, who deserve help even if they have never helped us when we were in need of some type of help.

(6) Situational Norms: They are norms that are situation dependent. For example, when you are in a library, you either remain silent or do not speak in loud voice. Instead, you whisper. Similarly, whenever a Hindu devotee goes to temple, he/she removes the shoes to enter the temple. He/she takes care that temple is a sacred place and does everything, expected of him/her to maintain its sanctity (Myers, 2000)

Importance of Norms and Values

The norms and values also known as social norms perform important functions and serve our specific purposes, even our being unaware of these most of the time, which highlight their need and importance in our daily life. Various experimental studies have revealed that norms and values can influence and determine one's perception, evaluation and behaviour (Priebe, 2019). Critto (2019) also remarked that social norms function as shared ways of thought and action due to which we may expect some predictable courses of action when we observe them appropriately in a given specific situation. Norms are also important for as they facilitate and foster interaction between and among the group members. It is because of these social norms that we see the predictable similarities in the behaviour of group members. At the same time, it is these group norms which make the groups different from each other because they follow different norms, values and traditions. The effect of these norms on one's behaviour is not necessarily dependent on his/her being in the group. Rather, these norms affect the behaviour even when he/she is not a part of a group and remains alone. If one's behaviour is in conformity with the group norms, he/she may get the acceptance and praise. On the contrary, if there is non-conformity or breaking of social norms, the non-conformist or violator person may have to face criticism or be subjected to punishment as decided by the particular group.

However, the norms are to be framed by the society in order for its members to have a better life in the society in a positive direction. The society by formulating the norms encourages its members to follow the norms for their own benefit and the benefit of the society in which they live.

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF NORMS

The behaviour of humans is guided by the prevailing social norms which interact with human environment and societal factors and affect the social well-being of people in the society. These norms have certain features unique to them which are as follows:

(1) Serve as guiding principle: The norms, show the group members ways to behave in a socially appropriate manner which all the other members approve of.

(2) Develop as a result of interaction and communication: Norms are designed as a result of human interactions and communication in the society. Hence, due to the vast size of a society and interaction as well as communication being a complex process, norms are not formed so easily and quickly.

(3) Culture – specificity: Norms are culture specific seems to be obvious by the occurrence of the same phenomenon at two places differently. According to Zaman (2018) some norms are not accepted by all but are practiced by some group of people, thus, it appears that the culture decides the norms in a society and thus norms are culture specific.

(4) Keep control over violators: Social norms help keep control over the behaviour in direct as well as indirect fashion. Each society has its own measures to punish the violators (direct control and indirect control).

(5) Social norms are dynamic: Social norms are an essential part of social system



ems like gender disparities. If the society and groups strive for changing the social norms, such existing inequalities would be greatly reduced to improve the human well-being and raise the quality of life of all ( Mugny, 2014)

(6) Norms teach two-way cooperation: There are studies which indicate the existence of a norm of conditional cooperation in social settings. For example, if other group members cooperate with us in any endeavour, the norms also require us to cooperate in return (GyeKye, 1996).

(7) Norm is not a single entity: Norms also encompass prevailing traditions, folkways, mores, fashion, religion, and laws which are dominant and in use in the society. Laws are a binding force on the people to accept and follow the legal requirement, and fashion also is an exception but other types/forms of norms are more or less conservative in nature and require enormous efforts for change

### Basic Nigerian Norms and Values

The Nigerian norms and values are not human invention or product of society but the fruit of religion. They exist as a result of the sanctions and demands of God; divinities or deities and the Nigerian values are essential components of our sociocultural system. Nigeria is experiencing moral decadence as a result of negligence of religious education and Nigerian norms and values, which made society secured and safe. The precolonial Nigeria life was heavily influenced by religion because man is naturally a religious being. Almost every aspect of life was seen and interpreted in the supernatural. The belief that God, the ancestors and deities played prominent roles in the maintenance of morality in t

he community hardly dies. However, it is true that modernity or civilization altered the belief and values of the Nigerians significantly, there is need to reactivate the Nigerian values such as the sacredness of human life, communal living, good human relations, hospitality, religion and the sacred and respect for constituted authority and elders will bring sanity to the nation. Ubrurhe (2015) posits that, all concerned Nigerians are crying because of the present state of insecurity in the nation. Kidnapping, arm robbery, killing and destruction of property which have made many Nigerians to lose their property and lives.

### Types of Nigeria Norms and Values

According to Ademilokum (2019) norms and values are attributes of the cultural system. Both are part and parcel of the non-material culture of the society. Though values are more abstract and general in nature than norms, both complement one another. In other words where there are identified values, there must also be rules or regulations (norms) guiding their realization. Norms are usually divided into two. This is based on the strength of sanction it carries. The obligatory norms usually have harsh sanctions for their violations. They are referred to as mores. The mores are the "must do" of the society. All members of the society must conform to them or face disapproval and sanctions. Mores are regarded as essentially good for the group survival. Taking another man's life and incestuous relationship are prohibited in Nigerian society. The second category of norms is referred to as folkways. Folkways do not carry harsh or strong sanctions for their violations. Violations are generally overlooked. Folkways are practices conventionally accepted and deemed appropriate but violations or deviations are not sanctioned or punished. Some values and norms are

subject to socioeconomic and political changes in the society. According to Igbojah and Okumagba (2000), conformity and sanctions are very important to the discussion of norms and values. Though there are always conflicts and consensus in the society, people tend to agree rather than disagree most of the time. To conform means to agree to societal norms and values. If one does fail to conform, he is termed a social deviant. Sometimes nonconformists are always labeled as rebels. Most people tend to conform to the societal norms and values because of group pressure and prestige, existence of sanctions and group identification. A sanction is a societal tool of social control. Social sanctions are important societal tools for the regulation of modes of behaviour. Sanction takes the form of a reaction of a considerable number of members of the group towards another member's behaviour which is either approved or disapproved. We have both negative and positive sanctions. Negative sanction shows disapproval while positive sanction indicates approval.

Sogolo (1993, 2000) avails that Nigerian values may be taken to mean a set of institutionalized ideals which guide and direct the patterns of life of Nigerians. Nigerian values therefore are goal-oriented because they point to an anticipated goal, which actions are geared towards and upon which the expectation of every individual and community is hinged (Igboin, 2011).

## CITIZENSHIP IN NIGERIA

### PATTERNS OF CITIZENSHIP ACQUISITION IN NIGERIA

The issue of citizenship, in Nigeria falls under fundamental human rights and the fundamental duties under the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 (as amended)

and under any law enacted in force in Nigeria. Every country has the right to decide who will be its citizen, thus, Chapter three of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) provides extensively for citizenship in Nigeria. A person shall become a Nigeria citizen by one of these three ways: (1) By Birth (2) Registration, (3) Naturalization.

#### CITIZENSHIP BY BIRTH:

This is provided for under section 25 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended). 25(1) The following persons are citizens of Nigeria by birth, namely:

- (a) Every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria
- (b) Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.
- (c) Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria. In the constitution, the date of independence means 1st day of October, 1960. It therefore means from this section that a person is a Nigerian citizen by birth if:
  - (i) Both parents are Nigerians
  - (ii) Either parent is a Nigerian
  - (iii) Any or one of the grandparents is a Nigerian.

#### CITIZENSHIP BY REGISTRATION:

Citizen by registration is enshrined in the constitution, section 28 of this 1999 constitution as Amended

(1) A person to whom the provisions of this section apply may be registered as a citizen of Nigeria, if the President is satisfied that

(a) He is a person of good character

(b) He has shown a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria

(c) He has taken the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in the Seventh Schedule to this constitution.

(2) The provisions of this section shall apply to:

(a) any woman who is or has been married to a citizen of Nigeria

(b) every person of full age and capacity born outside Nigeria any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigerian.

In other words, a person can become a Nigerian citizen by registration.

#### CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALIZATION.

The 1999 constitution (as amended) made the provisions in section 28 stating any person who is qualified in accordance with the provisions of this section may apply to the President for the grant of a certificate of naturalization. No person shall be qualified to apply for the grant of a certificate of naturalization, unless he satisfies the President in the following ways based on the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended)

(a) He/she is a person of full age and capacity

(b) He/she is a person of good character

(c) He/she has shown a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria

(d) He/she is, in the opinion of the Governor of the State where he is or proposes to be resident, acceptable to the local community in which he is to live permanently, and has been assimilated into the way of life of Nigerians in that part of the Federation

(e) He is a person who has made or is capable of making useful contribution to the advancement; progress and well-being of Nigeria

(f) He/she has taken the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in the seventh schedule to this constitution.

(g) He/she has, immediately preceding the date of his application, either

(i) resided in Nigeria for a continuous period of fifteen years or

(ii) resided in Nigeria continuously for a period of twelve months, and during the period of twenty years immediately preceding that period of twelve months has resided in Nigeria for periods amounting in the aggregate to not less than fifteen years.

It is clear from this section and safe to interpret it that a person can become a Nigeria citizen by naturalization.

#### ADVANTAGES OF NATURALISED CITIZENSHIP

(a) He/She becomes a legal member of the state.

(b) He/She is entitled to legal protection and access to the Courts of law.

(c) He/She is protected from internal and external invasions.

(d) He/She enjoys civil and social rights that is the right necessary.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF NATURALISED CITIZENSHIP

(a) Such citizen is expected to fulfill certain conditions or pass through certain formalities before he/ she can be classified to be a naturalized citizen.

(b) A naturalized citizen within ten (10) years of registration or a grant of certificate of naturalization is debarred by law from elective or appointive office.

(c) Such citizen must take an oath renouncing their native citizenship, this leading to losing their citizenship in their native country.

(d) This kind of citizenship can be revoked.

#### DUAL CITIZENSHIP AND OR FORFEITURE

The Nigerian Constitution permits a Nigerian to have dual citizenship, so that a Nigerian apart from being a citizen of Nigeria can acquire citizenship of another country. Section 28 of the constitution subject to the other provisions of this section of the constitution, a person shall forfeit forthwith his Nigerian citizenship if, not being a citizen of Nigeria by birth, he acquires or retains the citizenship or nationality of a country, other than Nigeria, of which he is not a citizen by birth.

The Nigeria Constitution allows dual citizenship for a foreigner who is a citizen of another country by birth to also be a citizen of Nigeria, by registration or by naturalization. A citizen by birth can also acquire the citizenship of another country without renouncing his Nigerian citizenship.

A citizen of this country Nigeria by birth never loses his citizenship even when he holds dual citizenship of another country and cannot be disqualified from contesting election into the house of representatives for reasons only that he holds such dual citizenship.

Nigerian law does not permit dual citizenship for a foreigner who is not a citizen of another country by birth. Nigerian citizenship required by a foreigner by way of registration, or naturalization may be lost, become void, or forfeited for instance in the following circumstances: if upon attaining the age of 21, or within 12 months of the coming into force of this constitutional provision the person:

- (1) Renounced Nigerian citizenship
- (2) Acquires the citizenship of any other country
- (3) If there is ineffective renunciation of the citizenship of any other country; acquired other than by birth.
- (4) Imprisonment for not less than three years.
- (5) Disloyalty to Nigeria by act or speech and so forth.

#### MERITS OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP

- (a) A dual citizen enjoys the benefits and privileges of the two countries whose citizenship he/ she holds.

#### DEMERITS OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP



(a) A dual citizen may face the dilemma of divided loyalty in the event of conflict between the two countries

(b) A dual citizen owes obligations/allegiance to one rather than two countries.

#### FORFEITURE/DEPRIVATION/WITHDRAWAL AND RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP IN NIGERIA.

This can be found in chapter three, section 30, subsection 1 and 2 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 constitution (as Amended). Simply, a citizen could forfeit or be deprived or withdrawn or renounce his/her citizenship on the following grounds:

- 1) When a registered or naturalized citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of a foreign country;
- 2) Naturalized citizen before seven (7) years of residence is sentenced to prison for three (3) years or more;
- 3) Registered or naturalized citizen is convicted of acts of disloyalty to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- 4) Any citizen of Nigeria of full age makes a declaration in the prescribed manner for the renunciation.

#### CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

Attempting to define civic responsibility can be a daunting task because of fre

quently overlapping paradigms, principles, and understandings. Indeed, the very mention of the term civic responsibility evokes notions of what it means to live in a democracy, in addition to the complementary ideas of citizenship, social responsibility, civic engagement, and community involvement. In constructing a working definition of civic responsibility for this guide, we chose to depict it as an overarching concept that encompasses civic engagement and what it means to be a citizen (Osei, 2019)

## DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENS

### DUTIES OF A CITIZEN.

Duties are those legal things the society is expecting from a citizen to do for the upkeep of the State and for the State to continue to perform her functions to the citizens. On the other hand, Nigerian citizenship obligations are things citizens are expected to willingly perform in line with the 1999 Constitution, Section 24 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as (Amended) The duties of a citizens are provided as follows:

It shall be the duty of every citizen to

- (a) Abide by this constitution, respect its ideals and its institutions, the national flag, the national anthem, the national pledge, and legitimate authorities
- (b) Help to enhance the power, prestige and good name of Nigeria, defend Nigeria and render such national service as may be required
- (c) Respect the dignity of other citizens and the rights and legitimate interests of others and live in unity and harmony and in the spirit of common brotherhood

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(d) Make positive and useful contribution to the advancement, progress and well-being of the community where he resides and the country in general

(e) Render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order

(f) Declare his income honestly to appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly.

Other duties include voting at election, prevention of crime. A citizen enjoys many rights in his country. He/she enjoys full social, economic, political, constitutional, and legal rights and the protection of the law. He/she is entitled to take part in the political process, and vote and be voted for according to law. He/she has right to live in his country make his country his permanent place of residence, seek employment, trade and otherwise legally earn his living. A citizen enjoys all the fundamental rights in the constitution. The rights of a citizen can only be restricted or denied according to law and the constitution. A democratic government, a bill of rights, an independent and impartial judiciary, a free and fearless press, peace and order and a good economy, are necessary factors for the full enjoyment and protection of the rights of a citizen. Finally, any person who alleges that his fundamental rights as guaranteed in the constitution has been, is being, or is likely to be contravened in any part of Nigeria, may apply to a High Court for redress. (Ejere, 2016) **NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AND CONDUCTS:**

According to Omobala (2013) cited in Ebhomienlen (2017) every society in the

world cares for its tradition, culture and values because in a society without schools, a form of education known as traditional/ informal education goes on. In Nigeria society, traditional values, norms and ethics are supported and encouraged because of their contribution to the growth, renewal and development of the society. It is further believed by some scholars that traditional values, and norms and their transmission are the prevailing practices that were responsible for the survival and growth of a given society before the advent of modernity (Omobala, 2013). In discussing the various values prevalent in Nigeria, we shall expose the concept of negative attitudes and the role they play in enforcing values and Norms in any society. Negative attitudes (Taboos) were found in the early man's effort to explain nature and his own existence, to propitiate fate and invite fortune; to avoid evils he could not understand and to pry into the future. According to Omobala (2013), negative attitudes are deeply rooted in the culture as well as the religious belief of the society. A culture as a sociological construct is a complex phenomenon. It takes times and conscious effort to be able to understand a particular culture.

#### EXAM MALPRACTICE:

According to Okoh and Adie 2016 Examination malpractice is defined as any deliberate act of wrong doing, contrary to the rules of examinations designed to give a candidate an undue advantage. Examination malpractice also known as cheating is the illegal action that students take during their examinations to try to make good grades by cutting corners. Examination malpractice is an act or irregular manner of testing candidates which contravenes the rules and conventions guiding the conduct of examinations. Examination malpractice has d

one a lot of harm to students since many of them have neglected their books with the hope of performing the magic they are used to in every examination. Examination malpractice in Nigerian educational system has been widely discussed and viewed as a major challenge not only to examination bodies but to school administrators, the entire education system, the government and the society at large.

#### FORMS OF EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE:

The following are some identified forms of examinations malpractice: -

**Leakage:** This means that the content of examination or part of it is disclosed prior to taking the examination. Usually, it involves one or more of the following: staff members of the examination authorities, printers, proof readers, and messengers.

**Impersonation:** An individual who is not registered as a candidate for a particular examination takes the place of one that is registered. Usually this involves collusion between the chief examiner and the examination supervisor. It frequently involves tertiary institutions students taking the test for monetary reward or a favour for a girl friend or boyfriend.

**Smuggling of Foreign Materials:** This is perhaps the most common form of malpractice. It relates to the introduction of unauthorized materials (e.g. parts or whole note books, text books, microchips and answers) into the examination hall. Foreign materials are frequently smuggled in pants, shoes, hems and bras or deposited or fixed in the hall prior to the examination or even smuggled in

by the candidates or their aids during the examination.

**Copying:** Copying from another candidate's work with or without permission. **Collusion:** Unauthorized passing of information between candidates usually by exchanging notes or scripts. This is usually facilitated by inadequate spacing between desks and lax supervision. **Marks Malpractice:** Deliberate alteration of marks designed to inflate or deflate a candidate's original mark. This can be initiated by examination officials or candidates (Eze, 2012 & Olanipekun, 2013).

#### CULTISM:

Cultism is the membership and operation of cults. It involves secret activities where the members behave in ways that are not acceptable by society. There are many cults in Nigeria especially in tertiary educational institutions and some secondary schools making life unbearable for those who go about their affairs peacefully. Their operations are secret and the locations in which they hold their meetings are solely known to their members only. Most times, they operate at night. Thesaurus Dictionary further, defined cultism as a religious or religions sect generally considered to be extremist or false, with its followers often living in an unconventional manner under the guardianship of authoritarian and charismatic leader.

#### CONCLUSION:

In this chapter, we have accordingly examined the concept and hypothetical c

circumstance of norms and values, types, forms, differences and similarities citizenship, types of citizenship, rights and privileges of citizenship, limitations to rights of the citizen, duties and obligations of citizens, modes of acquiring citizenship, forfeiture of citizenship, and the significance and benefits of citizenship in Nigeria. Our writing also focused on attitudes and its effect on the development of the society, norms and values and citizenship in Nigeria. Finally, the study of norms, values and citizenship should be taken seriously in Nigeria universities to help in the development of values, forms, skills and inculcate appropriate societal generalization to our children and youths who are the future leaders of our country.

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