



# OGOJA DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS

## 2023 PHILOSOPHY GRADUANDS

BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY ENUGU



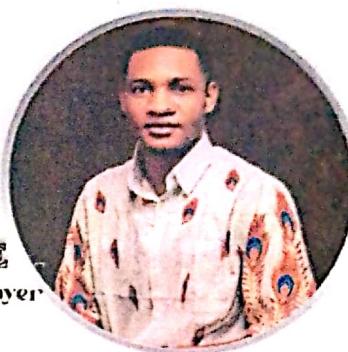
**JOANES**

Life is too short  
to be left out untouched



**MIKE**

The voice of prayer  
is never silent

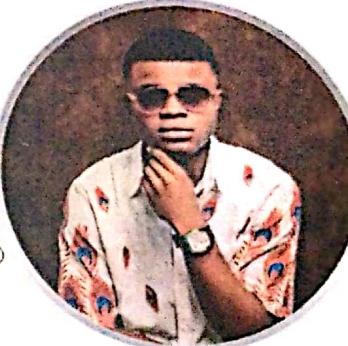


**GODDYSTAR**

In every shackle,  
there is always a way out

**EPISCOPUS MARIO**  
The dignity of man  
through labour

**JOHN BLESSED**  
Yes we can



**ESCRIBANO**

Man is a being with others,  
the design of human beings  
is relationship



**STARCY J**

Live simply so that others can simply,  
live for the best life you live is  
the life lived for others



**OGBAJI**

Wisdom is the principal thing  
and so in all your doings get wisdom

**NAME:**

Chukwuka.

**CLASS:**

Psychology of religion.

**SUBJECT:**

**DATE :**

**40**

**LEAVES**

1. Explain belief system and discuss the process of development of a belief system. List the predictors of faith evolution.
2. Discuss the methods of studying psychology of religion.
3. What is religious prejudice and how can one control its negative effects.
4. Briefly explain the following a) prejudice. b) Stereotype c) tolerance d) adherence.
5. Critically discuss the importance of religious symbols in the development of belief.
- 6.

Explain Belief System and list the predictors of faith evolution.

- Outline -

- Belief System

- Predictors of belief system

Belief System.

Belief system can be defined as the basic and systematic way of understanding people's belief and what people believe in, their way of life and how they practice what they believe, the objects of the environment that influences their belief and relationship with the Supreme Being, and how this relationship with the Supreme Being in turn influences their relationship with their environment and the people living within and outside the environment.

It explains people's ideology about the Supreme Being. It equally describes the importance of the content of people's cultural environment, where individuals or group of individuals exists, the ideologies they tend to represent and how the ideologies are held.

and spread from one person to other people. It entails also how people react to those ideologies as their way of life or religion.

Since belief system concerns people's behaviors and attitudes towards the supreme being and their environment, there is need for an in depth understanding of the processes of the development of belief system from the contents of cultural environment where the individual or group of individuals exists, the ideology they tend to represent and how this ideology is held and spread to other people.

The discussion of belief system connotes religious practices and traditional rites which focus on the background of religious practices. It entails behavioral engagements of individuals or groups geared toward satisfying their religious and other needs.

Issues of faith, how faith, how faith evolves, how faith is maintained, adherence, regulations, identification with significance and of material and non material representation such as religious symbols all play important role in the understanding of belief system.

## PREDICTORS OF FAITH EVOLUTION.

These are factors that bring about the ~~evolution of~~<sup>change</sup> new faiths, that is factors that could lead to the development of new belief system or evolution of faith, they are called "predictors of faith evolution".

They include but not limited to the following.

1. Rigidity and classification of errors.
2. Revolutionary values and Doctrinal Changes.
3. Resentment and dissatisfaction with already existing religious system.
4. Personal desires and interests.
5. Psychological Manipulation and emotional Vulnerability
6. Promise of eradication of suffering
7. Cultural bias and religious instinct / inspiration.  
and revelation.
8. Corruption and pride.
9. Ignorance and
10. Education / Enlightenment

11 Faint Adherences and Activism

12 Economic purposes.

What is religious prejudice and how can one control its negative effects.

## Outline.

- Prejudice
- Religious prejudice
- Factors that contribute to the growth of religious prejudice.
- Agents that curb religious prejudice
- FACTORS that mitigate the Negative effects of religious prejudice.

## PREJUDICE.

Prejudice can be defined as a vagrant opinion without visible means of support. It is a negative pre-judgement of a group and its individual members.

It connotes an antipathy based upon faulty and inflexible generalizations. It involves bias against a person based on the person's perceived group involvement.

As an attitude, prejudice is a feeling, an incli-

nation to act, a belief held towards an individual or a group due to their perceived group involvement.

This attitude is often seen among religious groups as each ingroup members tends to dislike and discriminate against the outgroup members believing that they are ignorant and dangerous. For instance, the human mind very quickly categorizes individuals into social groups, some of which evokes unjustified fears and disgust reactions. Thus, prejudice breeds intolerance.

## RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE

Religious prejudice occurs when religious group members discriminate against other groups based on their belief. It is a negative evaluation of members of a religious group based primarily on their religious group membership rather than on individual behaviour which often lead to discrimination.

Religious prejudices is usually based on little or no facts. It is a defensive reaction which people use to justify things that seem foreign to them on ideological

that may counter their belief system. This is often because people are reluctant to shed their belief system and become open to other ways of life and ideas.

### FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO GROWTH OF RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE.

A variety of factors contribute to the growth and development of both the religiousness and prejudice within an individual person. These include:

1. Biological processes
2. Maturation
3. Socialization & experiences.
4. Group identity
5. Cultural learning styles.

### AGENTS THAT CURB RELIGIOUS PREJUDICES.

1. Contact,
2. Friendship.
3. Corporation

More practically, curbing intolerant feelings

requires a certain degree of emotional awareness and social intelligence. Thus the following:-

Factors that mitigate the negative effect of religious prejudice.

1. Increasing contact between the target and the holder
2. Making positive values and customs against prejudice more conspicuous and obvious.
3. Providing information about the object and areas of prejudice.
4. Reducing stereotype vulnerability.
5. Explanations those aspects of belief that may seem to have devastating effect on the outgroup.
6. Education and reeducation about the in group.
7. Media based interventions on clarifying the misund

orstanding views of the outgroup.

8. Promoting inclusive and pluralistic ideologies.

9. Emphasizing positive common ingroup identities

10. Oppose prejudice-supporting ideologies.

Discuss the methods of studying psychology of religion.

- Introduction.
- Reductionism
- Ideosthetic approach
- Hermeneutic approach
- Quantitative approach
- Qualitative approach.

#### INTRODUCTION.

Psychology of religion is the study of belief in the supernatural being and how it affects the human behaviour in his relationship with divinity and fellow beings. Psychology of religion initially began with the methods of inductive and deductive reasoning. These methods were discovered to be deficient and inaccurate in the study of religion because of their error of over generalization. Hence the following methods have been developed to enhance our knowledge of the psychology of religion.

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## REDUCTIONISM.

This method stems from inductive and deductive reasoning. It was practised by William James as a way of studying psychology of religion.

Reductionism entails the ability of using simpler words to breakdown complex religious ideologies in a way that it can be easily understood by any person, as such making everyone to accept appreciate the concepts of that religion. It also entails the explanation of a topic with the use of variables that are independent of that topic.

Method of reductionism basically involves the ways of reducing complex religious concepts into simpler form and by using variables to arrive at a better logical understanding of that particular aspects of religion.

Philosophers who were engaged in dialectics used deductive or inductive reasoning to understand and explain the ideas and concepts in religion. For instance; the conversion of an individual to a particular religion requires the application of the method of

reductionism so that the religious concepts and ideas can be explained more profoundly to the person and hence easily convince him to leave his own religious belief and embrace a new set of religious belief.

### IDIOTHETIC APPROACH.