



Citizenship and Value Systems

What is Citizenship and Why Does it Matter?

Moral value is a matter of conscience. It is the conscience that makes an individual considers the effects of what he\she is planning to do on the other people. In other words, conscience makes you think yourself into the position of other people affected by what you are doing and further, to think whether they would be likely to agree to what you are doing. In this process, the rights of others are considered before any action is taken.

-- Osaat and Omordu

What is Citizenship and Why Does it Matter? Cont'd

- Citizenship is important for developing a strong moral code in individuals, but it's also important for creating a safe, supportive society while protecting democracy.
- Citizenship education involves developing the knowledge, skills and confidence to enable people to make their own decisions and to take responsibility for their own lives and communities.
- Citizenship can also be approached from a global perspective. In addition to being citizens of a specific country, we all are citizens of the world. Global citizenship is "the idea that we are one global community, and therefore our choices and actions may affect people and communities locally, nationally or even internationally"

What constitutes a good value system?

- ☐ Respecting differences
- ☐ Adopting solidarity
- ☐ Democratic attitude
- ☐ Philanthropy and volunteering
- ☐ Personal sacrifice for public gain
- ☐ Sensitivity to natural environment and love of nature
- ☐ History consciousness
- ☐ Self-confidence, independence, peace, equality and self-esteem

Is there a problem with the value system in Nigeria?

Several evidences points to the fact that that leaders of this country are all aware of the Nigerian ethical problems. But what then has been the results so far?

- ❑ The late General Muritala Mohammed's government promulgated the Corrupt Practices Decree in 1975,
- ❑ President Shehu Shagari's Ethical Revolution came up in 1982,
- ❑ General Buhari / late Idiagbon's War Against Indiscipline(WAI) 1984,
- ❑ General Babangida's Mass Mobilization for Social Justice and Economic Recovery(MAMSER) and National Orientation Agency, 1993
- ❑ Late General Abacha's War Against Indiscipline and Corruption(WAI-C), 1994
- ❑ President Obasanjo's Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related
- ❑ Offences(ICPC) 2002, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission(EFCC),2003, etc.

When value systems are embraced by a nation, what happens?

Singapore

The uncompromising stand of its late leader Lee Kwan Yew, to establish truth and honesty as rules of building the nation is the secret why it is one of the few countries that have succeeded in moving from the third to the first world in one generation. Today, Singapore's per capita GDP is higher than that of the United States of America.

Switzerland

This is another country that was made famous and great by the values implanted in the society through the teaching of the famous Protestant pioneer, John Calvin. Switzerland, does not possess a vast amount of natural resources, but it is abundantly wealthy in values, virtues and godly principles. Today, Switzerland is one of the top countries with the highest standards of living in the world.

Japan, Sweden, Austria

Other countries like Japan, Sweden, and Austria are not overly known to be endowed with an abundance of natural wealth. However, because they have developed their wealth of virtues, they live better today than most countries who brag about their virtues of natural wealth.

Rebuilding Nigeria's value system

❑ The reorientation of value system is a conscious development of human resources through ideological appeals, planning, training, productivity and efficiency in achievements through corporate culture

❑ **Parenting** - The family unit is the primary focus of value re-orientation informed by parental roles, goals, values and manners that influence the children social and moral behaviour.

❑ Re-orientation of values has been structured under **parenting**(family unit), **education** and **government**. Others include **economy**, **religion**, **mass media** and **work**.

❑ **Education** - The reorientation process in education system in Nigeria would lead to redemption and salvaging of our national character and image.

Rebuilding Nigeria's value system (Cont'd)

❑ **Government** – The role of government lies critically at the crux of the value rebuilding process

❑ **Religion** – Religious groups should stress the higher values in their teachings and preaching for a collective bargain to the reorientation of Nigeria's value system.

❑ **Mass Media** - The media has viable role to play in enlightening the general public on the overall effect of negative values and need for hard-work, fair play, self employment and law-abiding citizens. These no doubt would go a long way in repositioning the positive values in Nigerians.

"CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME"

"It is safe to say today that honesty, hard work, Godliness have given way to all kinds of manifestations of lawlessness and degeneration in our national life. Our value system have been badly eroded over the years. The long-cherished and time honoured, time-tested virtues of honesty, integrity, hard work, punctuality, good neighbourliness, abhorrence of corruption and patriotism, have given way in the main to dishonesty, indolence, unbridled corruption and widespread impunity."

-- President Muhammadu Buhari

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Thank You