

YOUTHS AND YAHOO YAHOO PHENOMENON IN NIGERIA: A MORAL RESPONSE

By

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ABSTRACT

It is a common knowledge that countries all over the world are faced with one challenge or the other. Eminent among all is the challenge of insecurity of lives and property. In Nigeria there is a scourge of internet fraudsters known as yahoo yahoo, which have swindled many unsuspecting victims, organizations and governments their hard-earned resources. Amazingly, the teeming population of youths are the major players when it comes to this societal menace. Despite various strategies put in place by the government to curb the activities of these fraudsters, the propagators have sought other avenues to continue to be relevant in their nefarious acts. The crux of this paper is to examine youths and yahoo yahoo phenomenon in Nigeria from a moral standpoint. The study adopted Divine Command Theory. An In-depth interview was used to gather useful data for the work. It was discovered that factors that led to the emergent of youth in yahoo yahoo phenomenon include bad leadership, unemployment, unwholesome desire for wealth and laziness. The work recommends provision of employment opportunities for the teeming youths by the government, the role of parents and religious leaders to focus on moral or ethical values which are inherent in the major religions (Indigenous African religion, Christianity and Islam) were applied in order to ensure a moral rebirth and regeneration among youths in the country.

Keywords: Morality, Nigeria, Yahoo Yahoo. and Youths.

Introduction

The idea of writing this paper was conceived in view of the recurring decimal of internet insecurity in Nigeria, coupled with the failure of all measures taken so far towards curbing it. one cannot but think that the faulty and precarious security system in the county is attributed to collapse of religious moral values. Therefore, this paper discusses youths and yahoo yahoo phenomenon from an ethical perspective.

Many scholarly works have been carried out on this cybercrime Adeniran (2008), Tade & Aliyu, (2011) and Ojedokun & Eraye (2012), focus on religion (subculture) which apprehend a submission that yahoo yahoo is alien to African culture. Scholarly works by Agunbiade and Ayotunde (2011) and Tade (2013) only focused on how religion (cyber spiritualism) has been used by the Yahoo boys to continue to perpetuate their sinister act. Another work by Lawani and Osagie-Obazee (2019) focused on Yahoo plus (laced with spiritualism) has affected human security with emphasis on counselling for safety and security. Also, the works of Akanle and Shadare (2019; 2020) focused on explaining the meaning of Yahoo plus and strategies used by the Yahoo boys and gave reasons on why it has been so difficult to counter cybercrime. Moreso, the work of Iziaka (2020) expounded on the use of African insurance (spiritualism) by the cybercriminals. But as good as these scholarly works are, they have not been able to focus on the revival of moral values as a panacea to the challenges of yahoo yahoo phenomenon among youths in Nigeria. This is the lacuna that this work has filled.

Conceptual Clarification

Who is a youth?

Youth is a period of time that begins when puberty starts, but youth continues longer in some cultures than others. Youth includes puberty but it has also to do with changes in the roles and attitudes that are part of the culture in which the individual lives. Youthful age is a difficult time for both parents and the youths. During this stage, adults are prone to say “I just don’t know what is the matter with them”. One will discover that youths are trying to resolve their problems of finding a self-identity and coping with major life challenges (Oderinde. 1998). Youth is an extension of childhood and thereby presents unique characteristics. A youth is neither a child nor an adult and he has his own unique interests. A teenager or a youth is a person in transition. He is leaving childhood for maturity. There are no two teenagers who are exactly at the same level in their maturation. Besides, this variation in growth, there is an accompanying oscillation and adulthood. A teenager is one whose life patterns are crystallizing. He is assuming a recognizable life form. But he is still capable of being moulded. A teenager looks through the eyes of an idealist.

What is Yahoo Yahoo?

With the emergence of these cybercafés in the country, coupled with the availability of more access to e-mail, and, in turn, new avenues for communication, many fraudsters saw a new means to perpetuate their sinister acts. This is just as Oloworekende (2019) had noted when he says: —Veterans of the postal fraud era sensed an opportunity opening for a larger market to direct their scams; and together with newer, younger perpetrators seduced by the promise of quick wealth from email scams, they finessed and upgraded the old Spanish Prisoner trick. The ensuing increase in Nigerian Internet fraud led to "Yahoo" and "Yahoo Yahoo" becoming terms for Internet fraud, while those that conducted these types of fraud became known as "Yahoo boys" (Doppelmayer, 2013), with Yahoo Mail being their major means of action. It is believed that the 419 scheme in Nigeria must have contributed immensely to the rise of Yahoo boys in the country. The advent of the internet only enables the criminals to reach a greater number of exponential clients promptly without any track to be traced at the initial stage. In other words, Yahoo Yahoo evolved from 419 or OBT (obtaining by trick) because of the availability of the Internet.

What is morality?

Moral or morality is derived from the Latin word, ‘mos’, ‘mores’ meaning “custom” or “measure”. As “custom”, it is the type of conduct, habit or manner of living expected by society; and as “measure”, it relates to a standard or guiding rule of life: the belief people have about right or wrong, good or bad; their aspirations for their lives; the virtues they practice and vices they denounce; the responsibilities and obligations they accept; the things they feel entitled to; the standards that govern their senses of fair play and the ideals that shape their sense of what is worthy.

Man is by nature a moral being. This means that in as much as man is created a free and rational being, he is subject to moral law and is morally responsible for all his actions in contrast to animals who are amoral and therefore cannot be held morally responsible for what they do. Moral laws were written on human conscience by nature. Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law which he has not laid on himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment. St. Thomas Aquinas observed: “The natural law is nothing other than the light of understanding placed in us by God; through it we know what we must do and what we must avoid.” God has given his light or law at creation. Conscience is like God’s herald or messenger, it does not command things on its own authority, but commands them as coming from God’s authority. This is why conscience has binding force. Hence, the more a correct conscience prevails, the more do persons and groups turn aside from evil choices and try to be guided by objective standards of moral conduct. The natural law is permanent

throughout the variations of history. Even when it is rejected in its principles, it cannot be destroyed or removed the heart of man.

The fundamental norms of the natural law are discoverable by, and equally applicable to all persons of all cultures, times and places on earth. In fact, one does not need to belong to any faith or religion or be literate to be able to tell the difference between good and evil, right and wrong. All these have been written in human's conscience. Even in countries that are officially atheistic, their laws will reflect norms of fundamental ethics, for example that murder, rape, ritual killing, armed-robbery, theft, telling lies and the likes are wrong, that honesty patriotism, peace and love are good virtues. However, we somehow sense that, in the privacy of our own souls, there is always a perennial battle between good and evil. Especially vulnerable are young people who can be influenced to choose evil instead of good. As a result of these evil influences, some youths in Nigeria are characterized by cultism, ritual killing, kidnapping and most prominently, yahoo yahoo phenomenon.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation adopted for this research is Divine Command Theory which asserts that the standard of right and wrong is the will of law of God. It holds that an action or kind of action is right or wrong if it is commanded or forbidden by God. In other words, what ultimately makes an action right or wrong is its being commanded or forbidden by God. This theory has its root in the world view of philosophers and scholars like Thomas Aquinas, Augustine, William of Ocklam (Omoregbe,1998), and Idowu (1996). The popular opinion held by them is that ethics is rooted in religious beliefs, and that God is the absolute source of all ethical Values. It follows that the standard source of morality is to be identified with God's commandments, violation of moral values which could engender internet insecurity would have been avoided. Hence, in our opinion, religion has a significant role to play in respect of morality and that moral inclination on the part of all and sundry (especially religious people) is a panacea for yahoo yahoo phenomenon among youths in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Phenomenon

Alamu (2021) observes that as banking sectors began to explore the beauty of the internet around 1999, so also the internet fraud started 'hacking' into the net in Nigeria, these internet hackers or scammers are called yahoo boys. These yahoo boys started bombarding few cybercafés. These dubious internet fraudsters became pronounced in Benin city, Edo state in 1999 to be precise, they started to scam people, especially foreigners by duping them of thousands of dollars, Euros, Pound sterling and many others. As time went on, 'Nanny Billing' came into the fore. 'Nanny Billing' is a process whereby those who are willing to do babysitting are sought to through the internet. These yahoo guys used this avenue to dupe their victims through online transaction agents. (Alamu 2021). In addition, online dating, match making and online marriage were included in earnest. These fraudsters used this avenue to swindle white ladies and cajoled them into marriage, all in falsehood. In this regard, the majority of these 'yahoo boys' are easily distinguished by their profligacy, flamboyant lives, wasteful and carefree lives, changing of cars and clubbing.

Studies have revealed some of the avenues explored by these internet fraudsters. At the heart of many frauds is the promise of unrealistically high return on investments. A common get-rich-quick scam is the pyramid scheme. Though, there are many variations of this scam, the usual design is for investors to recruit other investors for which the recruiters receive a commission. 'Chain letters' work in the same way in the same way by asking you to send money to people are the top of a list. The fake promise is that, you will receive thousands of dollars when your name reaches the top, Awake (2004).

In response to internet fraudulent practices, the Communication Decency Act was signed into law in 1996, making it a crime for service providers to transmit indecent material over the internet. Computer fraud and Abuse Act by the United States' Department of Justice are all out to check the abuse of internet use

Wallace (1999). Consequently, the ‘yahoo boys’ began to change strategy by booking for the available cyber café for night use only. This was perhaps done in order to be free from the Nigerian Police. Throughout the night, these fraudsters use different kinds of charms, amulets, ‘hypnotized tortoise’ among others to subdue and hypnotize their victims, (Osuntuyo, Ireiyomi and Aluko, 2021). At times, they impersonate their victims. This rich-quick syndrome by these ‘yahoo boys’ made them come up with different strategies to freely swindle their victims, thus, they are called ‘yahoo maga’, (Alamu 2021).

Of recent, yahoo plus (yahoo +) has emerged in addition to the ‘yahoo boys’. They are also called yahoo o. Whether yahoo plus or yahoo o, these people have resorted to fetishism. In fact, they are easily distinguished today in town by the police, especially with the way they dress, their outlook and modus operandi.

Material and Methods

The study adopted an exploratory design. It made use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through the conduct of in-depth interviews. The in-depth interviews were conducted with 16 purposively selected people, including 6 religious clerics from the three religions (Indigenous religion, Islam and Christianity) in the country. 4 former yahoo boys and 4 ordinary members of the three religions. The secondary data included books, journal articles and the internet. The data collected were analyzed using socio-religious approach.

Results

Factors that led to the emergent of Youths in Yahoo Yahoo

From the in-depth interviews conducted by the researcher, the respondents listed some trends that led to the engagement of youths in yahoo yahoo. and these factors given are thereafter explained together as follows:

Bad Leadership and Governance

Everything rises and falls on leadership and Governance according to one of the interviewees. He sees bad leadership and governance as a set stage for many other evils in the country. When the government of the day is not making life easy for the governed, there is bound to be different uprising and many taking up matters into their own hands. One of such is the yahoo yahoo boys. One of the interviewees, who was a former yahoo boy alluded to the fact that he became a yahoo boy because there is no sector in the country that is working positively. He is of the opinion that even if he had been employed as a civil servant in the country, he would still have become a yahoo boy, as there is “quick money” with being a yahoo boy than working for the government. Another former yahoo boy also states that, politicians taking up different elective positions and amassing wealth for themselves weigh same with the intention and attitude of yahoo practitioners.

It is unarguable to say that bad leadership and governance has left the country vulnerable for many people to do what they live with the knowledge that “anything goes” in the country and with the thought that “everyone is a thief”. Also, (59%) of the respondents agreed to the fact that bad leadership and Governance is one of the major factors that cause Yahoo Yahoo phenomenon in the society.

Peer Pressure

Yahoo yahoo among youths is enhanced by peer pressure. According to Uwe, Asuquo and Ekuri (2008) and Esire (2016), behaviour that does not conform to the cultural norms or laws of a given society at a particular time and is oftentimes negatively sanctioned, is referred to as crime. Esire (2016) states that criminal behaviour, is sometimes influenced by peer pressure because of lack of proper parental care or upbringing. If their mates are succeeding without being caught and punished, they have a feeling they could

engage in such crimes and get away with it. 52% of the respondents also agreed to the fact that peer pressure is one of the factors that have led to the growth of yahoo yahoo in the country. More so, in an interview conducted with a former yahoo boy, it was made known that peer pressure – the ability to meet up with the way the friends were “enjoying life” brought about his involvement in the act. Another former yahoo boy also notes that he obviously fell for the act when he was cajoled into it by his friends who were already into it and were supposedly doing good.

High Rate of Moral Decadence

Moral decadence is identified as one of the inhibitors that led to the growth of yahoo yahoo phenomenon in the country. Van Den Toren (2013) quoting George Kinoti from Kenya notes that: Moral failure is at the heart of the prevailing socio-economic crises in Africa. Selfishness on the part of the rich western nations and the ruling African elites is largely responsible” Tribalism, corruption, dishonesty, laziness and embezzlement are widespread in African countries. They all contribute significantly to the social and economic problems facing the continent. And they are serious obstacles to development. The above shows that the youths involved in yahoo yahoo are using the laxity in the moral level of the society to continue to perpetuate their sinister act. Akinnaso (2018) was also able to note that,

The ongoing economic challenges in Nigeria have brought other challenges to the fore. There is a pervasive loss of moral compass across the society. This is particularly evident in the people’s participation in various economic activities. True, some are driven by hunger and the struggle for survival, while others are driven by the desire to maximize profit. Yet others are driven by seer greed. Whatever the motivation, the desire to make money is pursued at the expense of morality. It is as if the people have sold their soul to the devil (Akinnaso, 2018). To buttress this assertion, (54%) of the respondents concur to the fact that High rate of moral decadence is one of causes of yahoo yahoo phenomenon among youths in the society.

Unemployment

High rate of unemployment is another factor that is responsible for the prevalence of yahoo yahoo in Nigeria. Unemployment breeds poverty and promotes thuggery, touting, violence, ritual killing and, ultimately, armed robbery. All these social vices constituted security challenges in Nigeria, Alufo (2013). There is no gainsaying that unemployment pervades the nooks and crannies of the country, especially among the youths. This is noticeable in the participation of youths in the various government schemes (like Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, National Poverty Eradication Programme, Sure-P and the most recent N-Power) rolled out over the years to bring to its teeming population. No wonder Alana (2003) opines that there is a large population of unemployed youths. It could be rightly said that the idle minds have become the devil’s workshop. This view is supported by a report published by punch newspaper in 2019. The article made it known that unemployment has translated into insecurity in Nigeria. Ibrahim (2019) in a report published online by the Nigeria Deposit Insurance that people perpetrate a significant proportion of these general crimes in their youthful ages.

Similarly, it is no longer news that higher institutions in the country continue to churn out undergraduates with no corresponding means of employment whatsoever. Recent statistics shows that there are over 20 million unemployed persons in the country (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020; Kazeem, 2020). According to the former Minister of Labour, Dr. Chris Ngige, the Nigeria unemployment rate is 33.5% in 2020 (The Premium Times, 2 May 2019). Yet, the rate at which jobs are provided is not commensurate to the number of labour force in the country. Hence, an individual whose quest is to make a living at all cost end up in illicit activities when there are no meaningful avenues of make up a living or improving their livelihood, Osuntiyi et al (2021). More so, (57%) of the respondents believed unemployment is also a trend that has contributed to the engagement of youths in yahoo yahoo.

Laziness

Many of those involved in the act of yahoo yahoo are often presumed to be lazy. Many have the zeal for wealth without stress. According to one of the interviewees,

“Many people involved in yahoo yahoo are in it because of sheer laziness. Ame ene ejudoo ku mama neke chu kolan (lazy people with hands that cannot be used to work). I cannot imagine a 21st century youth saying he wants to be involved in yahoo yahoo and even to the extent of going to yahoo plus if not for the fact that such a person is lazy.”

Another interviewee noted that,

“Many of those in the act are lazy, that even when you empower them with a means of livelihood, they are sure to continue with the act because it is quick money, which they will spend lavishly.”

The above shows that laziness is a big factor that encourages people to be involved in yahoo yahoo. More so, (53 %) of the respondents responded that Laziness on the path of youth is a major factor that contribute to the trend of yahoo yahoo phenomenon among youths in the society.

Unwholesome Desire for Wealth

It is important to note that a large number of Nigerian youths are not willing to go through the stress of starting from the scratch; they want to get to the pinnacle of success without doing the work that is required. Money is very essential to families and individuals alike. Meanwhile, the excessive desire for wealth is the bone of contention. To buttress this point (60%) of the respondents agreed that unwholesome desire for wealth is one of the factors that enhances yahoo yahoo phenomenon among youths in the society.

Effects of Yahoo Yahoo

Stigmatization: When a person is believed and known to be a yahoo boy, many well-meaning Nigerians usually dissociate themselves from such a person. Many people do not want to have anything to do with them, as they are now believed to be more devilish with the addition of spiritual elements.

Mismanagement of Assets: Since the money they are spending are illicit money that are not labored for, many yahoo boys often mismanage whatever asset they use such as money to purchase. They usually believe they are going to get money to acquire another asset once they come across another victim.

Spiritual Repercussion: Many of the yahoo boys with the use of spiritual elements usually meet their waterloo as a result of failed charms or ineffectiveness of charms. While some will lose their sanity or run mad, some may become useless in life with no remedy or even lose their lives via different mysterious occurrences.

Bad Influence on coming Generation: There is no gainsaying that the influence being wielded by Yahoo Yahoo is nothing but bad and evil influence that encourages laziness at the expense of dignity of labour. This should be discouraged by all means and at all cost.

Encourages Extravagant Lifestyle: The Yahoo boys live extravagant life and hence prodigal with expenditures. Market goods are often made more expensive, as most of them usually spend money lavishly, not minding the prices of goods they are to buy. According to one of the respondents who is also a house agent,

“Once house agents notice that the person coming to them to get an apartment is a Yahoo boy, they tend to increase the cost of the accommodation because they believe the Yahoo boy will pay without thinking twice.”

Corroborating the Above assertion, a former Yahoo boy also opines that we usually pay for whatever is in the market and we even make sure that nobody is able to enter whatsoever market we are buying things from. It is pertinent to note that this action takes place occasionally and not always because the Yahoo boys themselves are often afraid of the security agents.

National Integrity is at stake: When Yahoo boys are on the loose it affects the integrity of the country. Many investors are discouraged from investing in the Country and money meant for social development are usually channeled into combating Yahoo Yahoo. In fact, security agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) with the State Security Service (SSS) and the Nigeria Police have been working around the clock to strengthen the national cyberspace, but their efforts seem to be in vain as crime rate is on the increase. this is largely as a result of corruption within the security agencies (Osuntuyi, et.al, 2021).

Suspicion: Everyone is deemed a “thief”. Everyone is treated as a potential thief who is willing to defraud another person and as such, people are being too careful to deal with their fellow Nigerians. Also, many Nigerians who travel abroad have often been faced with this effect that they have been treated with much disdain due to their nationality. The country’s image has been dented with the scourge of the Yahoo Yahoo phenomenon. As a result of these fraudulent practices, Nigerians in Foreign lands are under close surveillance and they can be arrested for no just cause (Alamu, 2021).

Psychological Effect: Anyone who falls victim to Yahoo Yahoo may end up developing health issues such as Heart attack due to financial loss. Victims can experience different degrees of psychosis also because of financial loss or use of charm by the perpetrator (Osuntoye et.al, 2021). There is also a spill-over effect from the ritual killings committed by some yahoo boys (Umukoro, 2019)

A Moral Response to The Challenges of Yahoo Yahoo Phenomenon in Nigeria

The concern in this section is to examine some religious and moral values viz-a-viz their implications for internet security. In this piece, religious and moral values are actions prescribed for religious adherents to integrate into all aspects of life (Familusi and Oke 2013). They are referred to also as positive principles. They cut across the three major religions practiced in Nigeria. Thus, man must live a moral life because morality is commanded by God as advanced in the Divine Command Theory (Omoregbe 1998). The list of ethical principles in religions is long. However, some that concern yahoo yahoo phenomenon will be discussed.

To start with, Honesty. Honesty is a virtue which everybody (yahoo boys and girls) must imbibe. The wisdom behind the common saying that honesty is the best policy is not immediately evident in Nigeria today. Omoregbe (2004) says that what is immediately evident to the superficial observer is that honesty does not pay, that it is dishonesty that pays. Christianity places much emphasis on honesty and it is indispensable to Christian living. The Bible says:” Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). The New Testament admonishes Christian to “have a good conscience” and to desire to conduct themselves honorably in every way (Heb. 13:18).

Honesty in Islam entails self-discipline, truthfulness and sincerity (Salifu, 2014). The Qur’an metaphorically refers to honesty (truth) as a missile to be hurled at falsehood, thus knocking out its brain (Surah 2:42; 61:2-3). Muslims are enjoined to be honest in words and deeds (Surah 29:15, 30:45). Apart from the virtue of honesty emphasized in the two holy books, the virtue of honesty is not left out in the oral

tradition of the African people. For instance, in the Igala tradition, the value of honesty and truthfulness are emphasized in this manner by Salifu (2021),

*“Ko chochi Ko gecha
Ko chochi Ko gecha
Ene ochochi chene
Kami Ibegwu atoobi”*
Be honest and be truthful
Be honest and be truthful
He who is truthful is the one
Supported by the divinities.

Associated with truth is sincerity. Whoever is sincere will know that yahoo yahoo is a vice which must be eschewed. The righteous are described as inheriting the earth (Qu’ran 21:105) and are promised to be rewarded with fountain in Al-Jannah (paradise) (Qu’ran 76:5-15). We can conclude that this promise will elude cyber criminals (yahoo boys) because they are unrighteous (Akintola, 1993).

Also, we see sanctity of life as one of the moral principles negated by yahoo yahoo phenomenon. Every religion has an account of how man was made, God being the giver of life. Consequently, life is sacred in and can only be taken by the giver - God. According to Christian ethical teachings, human is sacred. God is the author of human life (Genesis 1:27). God gives life to humans and only God can take it. This is buttressed by the biblical saying, “Thou shall not kill,” (Exodus 20:13). Thus, it is ethically wrong to destroy human life through rituals or other means without just cause.

In Islamic ethics, right to life is very important and considered a sacred human right. Therefore, Islamic ethics endeavours to protect it. The human blood sustains life, and nobody dare to shed it. Life is venerated and guarded so much so that no one is allowed to neither cut it short nor threaten it (Appaih-Sekyere, et al, 2018). The Qu’ran says,

“...that if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land – it would be as he killed all mankind, and if anyone saved life, it would be as he saved the life of all mankind...”
(Shah Haneet, 2005).

Likewise, in the oral tradition of Africa, it is clearly obvious that the taken of human life is abhorred. To emphasize how the human life is venerated, the Igala people has this to say, *“Olayi one took le efu ogho ileyidu”* (That in quality and value nothing is to be compared with the human life including money). Therefore, yahoo boys killing and sharing human parts for the sake of wealth and riches have grossly negated the supreme law of the creator and hence are bound to be punished.

Another moral principle that bothers on yahoo yahoo is hard work. Hard work as a virtue must be imbibed by youths who want to be successful in life is a religious obligation. Paul emphasizing the dignity of labour warns the Thessalonians against idleness (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12). In the same vein, he advises Christians not to be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit and serving the Lord (Romans 12:11). In the book of proverbs, a hardworking person is accorded the honour of standing before kings and not mean men (Proverbs 22:29). In Islamic ethics, hard-work is equally encouraged. The Qu’ran asserts that nobody can achieve his objectives without being hard working (Qu’ran 53:30). It upholds the dignity of labour when it says that the noblest among men are the most dutiful (Qu’ran 40:13). Also, in tradition African communities, lazy and indolent people are not respected. Thus, it is believed that success achieved through crooked and fraudulent means is ephemeral (Salifu, 2014).

The principle of contentment. This is the quality or state of being contented. The get-rich-quick syndrome has beclouded our youths sense of reason and from treading the path of honour by being loyal to their parents, organizations and country. For a nation to be great, the leaders of tomorrow (youths) must make faithfulness, honesty and loyalty their everyday affairs (Oke, 2013).

Also, we see love as a prerequisite for harmonious living. It is a fundamental element in religion. The Bible describes it as the fulfilment of the law (I Cor. 13). Love is expressed in hospitality, care, sympathy, empathy and spirit of oneness. It can be said that where there is love, justice will prevail and other vices will be avoided. Love is analogous to the golden rule, which states that “Do unto others what you expect them to unto you”. (Matthew 7:12). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his Sunnah says “*No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself*” (Ayantayo 2009). An Igala adage says, “*Alo li ki na gugbo kia lote*” that is, while felling a tree in the forest, one must think about how it feels. In other words, in whatever we do, we must always be conscious of those who will be affected. Immanuel Kant opines that an action will be adjudged to be good if the actor would want it to be a universal law (Omoregbe, 1998). Despite the quintessence of love; it is a scarce commodity in Nigeria. This is to say that its absence has largely contributed to internet insecurity in Nigeria. Most actions of yahoo boys escalating on a daily basis in recent times in Nigeria, can only be explained in term of lack of love.

Conclusion

As established in the work, the problem of internet insecurity in Nigeria can be blamed on non-adherence to moral values. The country is under a serious siege and the failure of past attempts to curb internet insecurity (yahoo yahoo) does not help the situation. It is for this reason that a revival of moral values is advocated. This is expected to be helpful in a country populated by religious youths like Nigeria, where paradoxically, the Divine Command Theory is not conformed with.

Recommendation

On this note, it is pertinent to recommend a total revival of these values at every level of existence so as to curb the menace.

- The church, mosque, school, family and other agents inculcating morality must be alive to their responsibility by exploiting virtues that can enhance moral sanity among youths.
- The intellectual and moral development of youths has their first roots in the family. Parents should start at an early age, to curb, redirect or sublimate tendencies of children in accordance with social demands, the parents should strive to build in a child a sound foundation on which he/she can build morally as he/she grows up into adulthood. It is also worthy of note that it is unreasonable to expect moral success with our children without submitting ourselves to the laws of morality.
- Government should endeavor to create job opportunities for these teeming youth, so as to lay their hands on profitable and lawful ventures in the society because many of them are not lazy as it is being speculated in some quarters.
- Government should give an interest-free loan to the youths as a way of empowering them.
- The church and other civil organizations should actively alleviate poverty, especially in the provision of food and creation of job.
- The religious organisations should admonish the youths whose poverty is as a result of their laziness or poor work habits, so that they may work harder and become rich. In other words, they must always emphasize the dignity of labour.
- People should be extremely careful on a rich-quick syndrome phenomenon. It is when this beclouds the imagination of some people that they easily fall prey to scammers. Honestly, one should be contented with what one possesses, and be calm not to be rushed or pressured into making a quick decision.

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