

CHAPTER NINE

EMERGING ISSUES

1. RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

A parent is a father or mother who takes care of his/her child/children and others in the household.

Responsible parenthood is the activity of bringing up and looking after the children and other members of the family to be useful citizens of the society.

It is the art of providing care and affection to the members of the household. Parenting requires maturity and wisdom. Parenting normally involves two people (usually the mother and father) or either one of them. In years past, it might have involved any member of extended family. Parenting roles can be assumed by people who do not have their own children e.g. couples who may have adopted a child, older siblings, women who work in orphanages.

Roles of Responsible Parenthood

Some of the responsibilities in parenting include the following:

- (i) Providing the financial needs of the family.
- (ii) Providing for the nutritional needs of the family.

- 1. Providing love, care and affection and encouragement for children to grow and develop into their unique selves.
- 2. Providing health care and nutrition.
- 3. Providing guidance towards responsible adulthood.
- 4. Provision of shelter, clothing and security.
- 5. Protection of the children.
- 6. Parents are responsible for setting down rules and regulations as a guide for their children to follow.
- 7. Providing emotional, social and spiritual needs and proper nurturing that is ensuring their well being physically and psychologically.
- 8. Guiding the children from joining bad associations or bad groups.
- 9. Responsible parents must pay unannounced visits to their children in boarding homes.
- 10. Parents must have time for the children.

Importance of Responsible Parenthood in National Development

- 1. Responsible parenthood contributes to the progress and development of the country crime rate.
- 2. It reduces crime rate in the country.
- 3. It helps to inculcate good moral values and fear of God in the children.
- 4. It makes the children to love their parents and protect their family values.
- 5. It helps children to be responsible and responsive.
- 6. It helps the youth to achieve their goals and ambitions early in life.
- 7. It prepares the children for adult life.
- 8. It promotes good values like hardwork, honesty, contentment, etc.

Parents are the custodians of the next generation. Therefore, parenthood is among the most serious commitments an individual makes to the future and to another human being. It is a promise to devote time, resources and best efforts to the emotional, physical and social development of a child.

It is very important for parents to take good care of child today so that they can enjoy a good rest tomorrow.

1. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The Youth

Definition: One can define youth as young people between the ages of 18 and 25. This is the state in human life when there is vigor, enthusiasm, zeal and activeness, both in appearance and in health.

The youth therefore form the most active and potential manpower needs of the nation. A large, vibrant, energetic and active section of the population belongs to this group. They are expected to replace the old and ageing labour force and take up responsible roles in the transformation and modernization of the economy. But sadly and unfortunately, some of them do not have the basic and requisite skills and the right attitude for development.

Therefore youth empowerment is a necessary programme in national development. The youth needs to be equipped and empowered in order to take up the challenges in nation building.

Youth empowerment is a process whereby young people acquire necessary skills that will enable them contribute their quota, to the development of the society. Youth empowerment is a potent weapon or an instrument for engaging the youths to be self-reliant, focused, and be an agents of change in their community.

An important objectives of youth empowerment is the acquisition of skills and aptitudes required to make them fit into the society they belong to.

These skills are acquired or learned in various educational institutions and vocational skill acquisitions centres and government agencies such as National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Industrial Training Center (ITC) etc which are specially established for the purpose of training and skill development and acquisition.

There are also many Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Institutions which provide technical and financial assistance in the area of skill acquisition.

Youth empowerment therefore involves the acquisition of the following skills:

(i) **Life Coping Skills:** Life coping skills are basic skill required by the individual to develop his or her talent and make him self reliant so that such an individual does not become a burden to himself/herself and to the society.

(ii) **Manipulative Skills:** This involves ability to handle an object skillfully and expertly. This involves learning a skill such as carpentry, printing, hair-dressing, welding, electrical work etc.

(iii) **Intellectual Skills:** This involves a learning process that requires training in skills, values, attitudes, aptitudes and knowledge etc. This is acquired in educational institutions such as universities or polytechnics, etc.

(iv) **Artistic Skills:** This involves talent and natural skill in art.

Importance of Youth Empowerment

(i) It promotes self-reliance among the youths.

(ii) It promotes and encourages national development.

(iii) It gives the youth a purpose and a sense of direction in life.

1. It enables the youth to take personal responsibility.
2. Youth empowerment facilitates the mobilisation of the youth for both economic and political development.
3. It reduces the rate of crime and unemployment in the society.
4. It prepares the youths for their roles as future leaders of their country.
5. It helps to change the attitude and behaviours of young people in a positive manner.

8.3 SELF EMPLOYMENT

Self-employment is working for one's self rather than working for another person, company or organisation. Self-employment is an occupation in which an individual employs himself or herself either in trade or other business.

A self-employed individual is normally highly skilled in a trade or has a niche product or service for his or her community. He is an individual who operates a business or profession on his/her own. This involves earning one's livelihood directly from one's own trade or business rather than as an employee of another person or organisation.

Self-employment takes a lot of hardwork, dedication, and you must be the kind of person that is well organised, confident, persistent and a self-star.

For a young man or woman, there are two career options. One is wage-employment in which he works in government or non-government organisations at a fixed wage or salary.

The other is self-employment in which an individual employs himself or herself either in trade or business e.g. Tailoring shop to stitch clothes of others.

Self-employment is not the same thing as entrepreneurship. But self-employment promotes enterprenuership. A self-employed person has to be innovative, to be prosperous and must take risks where necessary in his own interest.

Advantages

1. Self-employment offers opportunities for using one's own talents for one's benefit. A self-employed person can use his ability and time in the most profitable manner.
2. Self-employment does not require large resources of capital and facilities.
3. Flexibility is another advantage of self-employment. You are your own boss, that means you make your schedule. You work when you need to and have time off when you need to.
4. There is also freedom from office politics which frustrates an employee.
5. An individual operates a business or profession on his/her own.
6. It requires prudence on financial management.
7. Self-employment comes with financial benefits.

Disadvantages

1. You are going to bear the financial risk.
2. You will occasionally need to work long hours.
3. There will be stress but ultimately it will be in your own terms.
4. Sourcing for money may be difficult.
5. You need a lot of self-discipline.
6. There may be fluctuation when sales and profits are not as good as expected.

7. Working long hours can be detrimental to your personal and family life.**Self-Employment Projects**

1. Tailoring services.
2. Hair dressing and barbing saloon operation.
3. Fashion design.
4. Photography and video coverage.
5. Welding.
6. Mechanic workshop and car repairing services.
7. Business centre operation.
8. Furniture making.
9. Vegetable vending.
10. Medical store etc.

The Need for Self-Employment

1. Employment Opportunities: It is a known fact that the government alone cannot provide employment opportunities to all Nigerians. Therefore there is need for people to be self-employed.
2. Self-employment brings about innovation and creativity. It helps people to discover their talents.
3. It is a way to jump-start the economy. Self-employment provides a platform for economic development in the country i.e. it contributes to the growth of the economy.
4. It can generate enough money for self-employed people

Financial Sources for the Self-employment Projects

The following sources of finance can be identified.

1. **Personal Savings:** Through the individual's own efforts to put some money by either the bank or home until it is enough to start a business.
2. **Loans:** Loans from friends and relatives and institutions such as thrift and co-operative societies.
3. **Loans from Bank:** Loans can be secured from banks or micro-finance banks to start a business.
4. **Ploughed back profits:** Profits that accrue from an initial small capital are reinvested back into the business to expand it.
5. **Government Agencies:** Agencies like National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) etc can provide the initial finance for one's business. They assist people financially to start small scale business.

What makes self-employed scary is what makes it attractive and adventurous. Self-employment is not all bad. Those with persistence, intelligence, marketable skills and entrepreneurial spirit will find that the positives outweigh the negatives.

Self-employment is more likely than salaried work to reward those who work hard and have innovative ideas. If you create a great new product while working for someone else, you will create profits for that company but your salary is not likely to increase much. If you create a new product and start your own business to market it and sell it, the profit goes to you.

Perhaps the best advantage is that those who are self-employed get to make a living doing something they enjoy. That advantage alone might make the disadvantages bearable.

Skill Acquisition Training Centres

There are skill acquisition training centres that offer training to any interested member of the society who desires to be self-employed and empowered.

(i) **National Directorate of Employment (NDE):** This is a government agent that offers skill and technical training to youths so that they can be self-employed.

They also render financial and materials assistance to young graduates who approach them for assistance.

They equally provide working materials or tools to those who have completed their training. They also organise workshops and seminars from time to time to members of the public.

(ii) **National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP):** This is government agency that assists in training unemployed people in skill acquisition. The purpose of the agency is to reduce and eradicate poverty in the country.

It is important to state that reducing poverty requires a focus both on what government needs to do and on what individuals need to do. We need a combination of responsible policies and responsible behaviour.

Starting a Business

1. To get a business started, one could explore his/her talents to find out what he/she can do or produce which will be of use to consumers.
2. Prepare a proposal, write out clearly your ideas, plans and financial projection for the business.
3. Carry out a market survey - by interview, to determine products that customers would be prepared and willing to buy.
4. It is an asset, if you have some training in the business, trade or service you want to offer.
5. Raising the initial capital - Any business requires some financial investment no matter how small. Therefore you need to raise money to start the business.
6. Other things that you have to do is to locate your market, get a space for the business and get necessary materials or equipment for the business.
7. Start the business immediately; do not wait until you have everything. You learn on the job.



Pictures Showing Tailoring Shop, Hair Dressing Shop, Fashion

8.4 NATIONAL SECURITY

In a country, there is need for peaceful co-existence, orderliness, law, tolerance, harmony and understanding among the people and between individuals. Therefore, to maintain law and order in the society, the citizens must be protected and defended from internal and external attack or invasion. This calls for National Security.

National Security is a defence system or arrangement by which people in a country are protected or secured from any internal attack or external aggression. This involves protection of people living a country.

National Security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the country through the use of economic, military and political power and the exercise of diplomacy in both internal and external matters.

It is the defence of people from anything that can be an hinderance or disturbance in the search of daily needs and peaceful living as well as defence of the country from anything that can pose as a threat to the peace, progress and unity of the country.

Therefore, the issue of Boko Haram (a terrorist group) and other militant groups must be tackled with seriousness it deserves. Instances of religions riot or crisis, political violence or assassination, ethnic crisis, and sporadic bombing here and there should be urgently addressed.

The Role of Citizens in Maintaining National Security

1. **Vigilance:** Citizens must be vigilant to identify things that can threaten the security of the country and report to the police or appropriate quarters.
2. Citizens must supply information to security agents e.g. Every suspicious movements and actions must be reported.
3. Citizens must cooperate with their rulers.
4. Citizens must be law abiding. Citizens must be law abiding by cooperating with law enforcement agencies e.g. obey the traffic rules and regulations and assist the police in detecting crimes.
5. **Be patriotic.** Citizens must be patriotic. They must love their country. A citizen must show commitment to the defence of the country.

Measures taken to ensure National Security include

1. Using diplomacy to rally allies and isolate threats.
 2. Marshalling economic power to facilitate or compel cooperation.
 3. Maintaining effective armed forces.
 4. Implementing civil defense and emergency preparedness measures (including anti-terrorism legislation).
 5. Ensuring the resilience and development of critical infrastructure.
 6. Using intelligence services to detect and defeat or avoid threats and espionage and to protect classified information.
 7. Using intelligence and counter intelligence services or secret police to protect the nation from internal and external threats.
- Agencies of National Security**

There is no nation without security agencies. Nigeria as a nation has it is

own security agents for maintaining security of the nation.

Some of these agencies are:

1. The military (army, navy, airforce).
2. The police.
3. The customs.
4. The immigration.
5. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).
6. The State Security Service (SSS).
7. Other task forces
 - (a). Environmental Task Force
 - (b). EFCC
 - (c). ICPC

(i) **The Military:** The Nigerian military consists of the army, the navy and the airforce. The Nigerian army is headed by the Chief of Army Staff. The Navy is headed by the Chief of Naval Staff and the Airforce is headed by the Chief of Air Staff.

The functions of military include:

1. To protect the territorial integrity of Nigeria.
2. To protect and defend the country against internal and external aggression.
3. To keep Nigeria united and indivisible country.



A picture of military men

1. **The Police:** The Nigeria Police Force is headed by Inspector General of Police (IGP). The functions of police include the following:
 1. Prevention and detection of crime.
 2. Maintain law and order.
 3. Arrest offenders.
 4. Protect life and property.
 5. Help in the enforcement of law.



Picture of Policemen

1. Paramilitary organisations are Nigeria Prisons Service, Custom Service, Immigration Service and the National Civil Defence Corps. They assist the military and the police in the maintenance of security in the country.
2. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) is an agency charged with the responsibility of controlling drugs and other related offences such as drug pushing, drug trafficking etc.
3. National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). The agency is charged with responsibility of ensuring that food, drugs and other regulated products imported in to the country meet prescribed standards of safety, quality and efficacy.
4. The Environmental Task Force is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the nation's environment.
5. The State Security Service (SSS). This is a secret agency that is charged with the responsible of maintaining peace and order and ensuring that the National Security of the country is not under any threat.
6. The Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) is charged with responsibility of detecting crime of military nature against the security of Nigeria. They also protect and preserve all military classified matters concerning the security of Nigeria both internally and externally.
7. The National Intelligence Agency is in charge of general maintenance of the security of Nigeria outside Nigeria, concerning matters that are not related to military issues.
8. Independent Corrupt Practices and Other related offences commission (ICPC). Independent corrupt practices and other related offences commission was established on September 29, 2000 with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute corrupt people.
9. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission was established in 2002 to fight financial and economic crimes.
10. National Orientation Agency (NOA). The National Orientation Agency is established to enlighten, educate and disseminate information on public issues. It is charged with the responsibility

of promoting national values.

Consequences of Poor Security

1. There will be chaos and anarchy in the country.
2. It will retard the progress and development of the country.
3. It may lead to increase in criminal activities e.g. robbery, cheating, stealing etc.
4. It will not encourage foreign investment.
5. It may lead to war or civil unrest or disturbance.
6. The country may be vulnerable to external attack or aggression.

Exercises

- (i) Explain the meaning of responsible parenthood.
- (ii) State five roles of responsible parenthood.
- (iii) Who is a youth?
- (iv) Explain the meaning of youth empowerment.
- (v) List four importance of youth empowerment.
- (vi) What do you understand by National Security?

1. Mention four roles of citizens in maintaining National Security.
2. List and explain three functions of each of four agencies of National Security.
3. What is Self-Employment?
4. Mention six self employment projects.
5. List three sources of fund in starting a business.
6. State five reasons for self-employment.